

# Serving the Underserved



## Haleh Badkoobehi

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*I want to improve the conditions of children around the world.*

I was born in the U.S. to Iranian parents who did not return to Iran following the revolution. My childhood was far from perfect but I grew up with rights and opportunities denied to my extended family in Iran. From this inequality, my desire to work for children's rights was born.

In high school, I volunteered at Sharp Children's Hospital in San Diego. At U.C., Berkeley, I developed a health education and art therapy program for homeless children living at a Berkeley shelter.

After college, *I worked with Cambodian orphans, many of whom had lost limbs*, at a Buddhist commune and at Angkor Hospital for children. I then spent a year doing research at U.C., San Diego on the neuropathology of HIV/AIDS and have published the findings.

While at Albany Medical College, I did research at UCLA and Johns Hopkins, where I am currently a graduate student working toward an MPH in the "Health in Crisis" concentration. I am continuing my field work in South Africa and Azerbaijan to assess the feasibility of establishing an international pediatric orthopaedic outreach organization for children.

I intend to pursue a residency in pediatric orthopaedic surgery.

*I hope to influence policy in overcoming barriers to children's health care worldwide as well as in trauma heavy U.S. inner cities.*

