



CHILD'S OP IS A 'WIN TWIN'



Lorenzo Ciniglio

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Sib surgeons' gift

EXCLUSIVE

By ERIN CALABRESE

Of the million revelers basking in the fun in Times Square last night, a young Afghani boy might be the luckiest.

Khatibullah Farqirzada, who ushered in his 8th birthday along with the new year at the stroke of midnight, will undergo surgery this month to correct a potentially life-threatening birth defect — thanks to twin surgeons who embarked on a harrowing journey to fulfill their promise to him.

"I'm happy. It's the first time I've seen something like this," the boy said as he surveyed the festive scene at the Crossroads of the World at midnight.

Said his dad, Shafi: "My hope is my son [has] a new year and a new life."

Doctors Vince and Vance Moss, U.S. Army reservists who went to Afghanistan on their own last year, met the boy in the village of Paghman.

The doctors, who live on the Upper East Side and practice in Lakewood, N.J., performed the first stage of urinary constructive surgery on Khatibullah but were forced to evacuate due to security concerns before they could finish the work.

Vance Moss said that was heartbreaking.

"There was a little boy out there and a father... I'll never forget the look on his face," he said. "I'm sure every day that we were gone, he was waiting for that call."

The brothers spent the next 10 months and thousands of dollars to get the boy and his dad to Is-

lamabad, where they obtained visas for the U.S.

And on Thursday, the youngster and his dad stepped off a plane at Kennedy Airport.

"They care so much about us," Shafi Farqirzada marveled.

"We are not their relatives. They are not from the same country that we are.

They are not from the same religion, but they are so kind. They are... the angels of our dreams."

Vince Moss said the boy's type of deformation is prevalent in the family's area of Afghanistan. It is also a stigma in the eyes of Afghani society.

It can be deadly, causing kidney infections that can

eventually lead to renal failure. The doctors will be joined in the operating room by two surgeons from Westchester Medical Center. The hospital has agreed not to charge the family.

"I hope that 2007 is a year of happiness for everyone in the world," Shafi said.

erin.calabrese@nypost.com



Christopher Sadowski

DOCTOR, DOCTOR! Khatibullah Farqirzada with twin docs Vance (top, left) and Vance Moss, and in Times Square today with dad Shafi and Vance.