

AFRICAN PROGRAMS PARTNERSHIP



THE CHILD
RESCUE CENTRE



MERCY
HOSPITAL



HELPING
CHILDREN
WORLDWIDE

AUGUST 2010
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Providing HOPE to impoverished children, their families, and their communities.

Family Reunification In Sierra Leone

The Ministry of Social Welfare in Sierra Leone issued a mandate that all youth over the age of 18 residing in an orphanage be reunified within the community and are not permitted to remain at an orphanage. As the Child Rescue Centre children come of age, HCW is committed to providing opportunities for further education in both Vocational Schools and at the University level. Our continued support comes at a critical time in their development. Education and a safe home environment provide the stability and skills that these youths need to become leaders within the community and create positive change for the future.

This year, there are a large number of residents (19) who will transition out of the CRC. Eight of those residents have completed secondary school and will be pursuing higher education. The civil war completely disrupted the country's educational system, and therefore, eleven of the residents who will turn 18 are still enrolled in secondary school. The African Programs Division of HCW, CRC Supervisory Committee, and the CRC staff are actively involved in creating a thoughtful transition plan for all CRC graduates to ensure their continued success.

The CRC staff completed an extensive assessment of the potential home environments evaluating many factors, including safety, family interaction, and proximity to school. The youth have gone on visitations with potential families and have reported their findings to the CRC Director.

All major life changes trigger an emotional response. CRC Trauma and Behavioral Specialist George Ceesay held numerous counseling sessions to help all children cope with the transition and reduce anxiety. Younger children participated in therapy sessions to express their feelings about the departure of their older siblings. Older children eagerly participated in seminars on life skills, financial management, integration into a new environment, and constructive family interactions. These resilient youth are prepared to meet this new life challenge, and will receive continued support from HCW.

Once the transition has occurred, the homes will be re-evaluated frequently to ensure that the youths are in the best possible environment. Educational seminars and support services for caregivers and youth will be ongoing, and the youth will be welcome to visit the CRC at any time. Mercy Hospital will continue to provide free medical care.

This transition creates additional expenses to provide the youth with basic supplies such as mattresses, bed nets, desks, and transportation to school. HCW is actively seeking additional sources of funding to support these young leaders.

CRC Residents aged 18 and older will be reunified within the community.





SPOTLIGHT ON OUR CHAIRS

Dr. Cynthia Horner, Chair of the Mercy Hospital Program

After her first visit to Sierra Leone, Dr. Cynthia Horner had one consuming thought: "We left behind crowds of children...I can't leave them there untouched". She has labored to bring needed improvement to the health and welfare of these children through the Mercy Hospital programs. Over the years she has worked tirelessly to establish, supply, and develop this now well-respected medical facility in the Bo area. Before Mercy was established, Cynthia was the first chair of the CRC Partnership of Churches.

Dr. Cynthia, a Duke and Medical College of Virginia graduate, is a well known family medical doctor in the Virginia area, specializing in primary care pediatrics, women's health and travel medicine. She credits her husband, Doug (involved with the CRC and Mercy Hospital since his first trip there in 2004), and their two daughters, Nicole and Grace, for their tremendous support in her work with African Programs.

Dr. Cynthia sums up her work: "God has been so faithful to me by allowing me to join with some amazing people in helping our extended family in Bo. It soothes my soul to be able to do something about suffering; I truly feel blessed to be able to encounter Him in this ministry."



*Past and present chairs, left to right:
Dr. Cynthia Horner, Patty Morell and Ginny Wagner*

Ginny Wagner, Chair of the African Programs Partnership

Following in the large footsteps of Patty Morell, Ginny Wagner has moved into the CRC leadership of the Child Rescue Centre Programs and African Programs Partnership. Ginny and her husband Paul have been actively involved with the CRC and its programs. Ginny has been busy with CRC transitions under Helping Children Worldwide, the selection of a new CRC Director, spending lengthy time working at the CRC to help with that transition. If you thought Patty had enormous energy, you need to get to know Ginny. She is like an automated juggler that never stops!

SUCCESS STORY

Mohamed: A Life Saved & Changed Because of You

After more than a year of disability, Mercy Hospital staff member Mohamed underwent a successful skin graft surgery about 8 weeks ago, a surgery performed by a visiting Spanish surgeon at a mission hospital in the Northern provinces of the country. Mohamed is thriving, his graft remains healthy and Mohamed is looking forward to returning to work.

Mohamed had a terrible motor bike accident in May 2009. His journey for healing is remarkable in many ways. Despite improvements in the health care delivery system, there remain significant challenges of accessing appropriate care, even when funding is available. This was all made possible by the valiant efforts of the staff at Mercy Hospital, compassionate donors of funding, medical supplies and expertise and the excellent care of his surgeon.



Nurses Cyndi Cooke and Josephine Amara, Mohamed and PA Jessica Mills.

So many people have played a critical role in his care and Mohamed would like to express his deep and heartfelt gratitude for all that you have done. In a phone call to Dr. Cynthia Horner, Mohamed said, "Please tell my donors, my supporters, all those who prayed for me, those who sent money, those who sent medications and dressings, those who sent me letters and those who cared for me when I was in the hospital that I am very, very grateful for their support and their care, their love and their thinking of me. Cynthia, without them I would be dead today and I was suffering very, very much. The pain was very, very bad and I could not work. But because of my donors and supporters I am alive today and I am so grateful for their support. Please tell them all of this for me Cynthia; I want them to know how much they have done for me".

BOOK DRIVE BENEFITS THE CRC & MERCY HOSPITAL

Kathleen Cutler, from Floris UMC, is heading up a book drive to benefit the CRC library, its staff and Mercy's staff and patients. For more details please visit www.helpingchildrenworldwide.org. You may also call the African Programs Director, Jennifer Hamilton at 703-793-9521 or email the book drive coordinator Kathleen Cutler at kathleen.h.cutler@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **CRC Benefit Golf Tournament:** Monday, September 13th at noon, Hidden Creek Country Club, Reston. For more information, please call us at 703-793-9521, or visit us on the web at: www.helpingchildrenworldwide.org/events
- **African Programs Quarterly Partners Meeting:** Sunday, September 19th from 2PM-4PM. The primary host site will be Galilee UMC in Sterling, other sites will join the conference via Webex. For other sites, please call African Programs Director Jennifer Hamilton at 703-793-9521.