

AFRICAN PROGRAMS PARTNERSHIP



THE CHILD RESCUE CENTRE



MERCY HOSPITAL



HELPING CHILDREN WORLDWIDE

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

Tribute to Lucia Yanker, CRC Girls' Mother

There are people in our lives whom we truly enjoy being around. They are naturally upbeat all the time; they think of others first; and have a way of making companions feel special. Lucia Yanker, the CRC Girls' Mother, who passed away on Thanksgiving Day 2010, was one of those rare people. To sum up her personality in one word, it is LOVE. Lucia was filled with love and she shared it freely and abundantly. She demonstrated daily that she genuinely loved the CRC children. How fortunate the CRC was to have found Lucia! She came to the CRC in 2006 at a critical time, soon after the first girls' Mother, Marian Kayonga, passed away after a long illness. Lucia brought the CRC healing, stability and joy.

It was inspiring to watch Lucia in action, whether she knew she was being observed or not. Her demeanor never changed. She was a gentle, soft spoken encourager, who prayed aloud with emotion and passion. Lucia loved Jesus. She did not need to wear a bracelet around her wrist with the reminder, WWJD? She made it a habit to live the way that Jesus would want her to. She was one of Jesus' greatest ambassadors.



Lucia was in place as the girls' mother when 29 new pikins (small children) were brought into the CRC Family. She instinctively knew what to do to make them feel safe, loved and secure. It was common for the little girls to sleep on mattresses on the floor of Mother Lucia's bedroom, so that she would be close by if they needed her. She was like the Pied Piper. When the

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HCW Representatives Meet with US Ambassador to Sierra Leone

Representing Helping Children Worldwide, Doug Horner, Allen Morell and Patty Morell met with the newly appointed U.S. Ambassador to Sierra Leone, Michael Owen, when they were there in November. He expressed great interest in the work that we are doing in Bo, and here are some of the highlights of their conversation:

- A Mercy Ship is coming to SL in February 2011 for 11 months. It will be based in Freetown, but will go to every district in the country. They will try to go to hospitals and also provide training.
- The Peace Corps welcomed 37 volunteers to Sierra Leone this year, primarily teaching secondary school. This is the first group of volunteers to Sierra Leone since 1994, when the program was closed. There are no volunteers in Bo, but many outside of Bo in the villages.
- Maternal health in Sierra Leone continues to be the worst in the world. Ambassador Owen shared that there are only 112 doctors in the entire country, and only 52 are licensed to practice medicine.
- Ambassador Owen offered to help publicize the CRC and Mercy Hospital. The press tends to follow the Ambassador wherever he goes, so he is happy to bring the press with him when he visits Bo.
- Ambassador Owen will make every effort to come to Bo while the HCW Board of Directors are visiting Sierra Leone in March 2011.

A strong relationship with the U.S. Embassy in Sierra Leone is important to the work that we are doing. We are very grateful to Doug, Patty and Allen for making this connection.



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pikins were not in school, there were always several of them following Lucia around the CRC campus, laughing, singing and skipping. These are children who came from tragic backgrounds and circumstances, who were transformed by Lucia's nurturing and unconditional love. Lucia worked long hours, but one wouldn't know that by the constant smile on her face. She had to be encouraged to take days off because she didn't want to leave her beloved children.

Lucia was also present on 23 October 2010, when 19 CRC youth were reunified into the community of Bo. She instinctively knew what to do to make them feel loved and reassured that they would intentionally remain connected to the CRC, their home for the past ten years. She helped with the transition by accompanying every single student to their new home. She shared tears of both change and joy with each of the students and their new family members. At the CRC Graduation and service of Thanksgiving the next day for 30 CRC graduates, Lucia was the proudest person there.

Lucia was also indeed very much an elegant lady. She was beautiful inside and out, always dressed in one of her colorful African lappas. She commanded respect without ever raising her voice. Lucia was a thoughtful teacher and counselor. She never wasted time. Often Lucia was found in her sitting room surrounded by children in front of a blackboard as she taught them new skills. Lucia and her flock were daily visitors to the CRC Peace Hut where she told Bible stories and more importantly taught the children how to apply Bible lessons in real life. She always made the most of the time she had with the girls and boys, whether they were waiting for the school bus, mealtime or for church to begin.

Lucia loved when missionaries came to the CRC. She made them feel so welcome (like family), and that they were terribly missed between visits. She was generous with her hugs and her appreciation.

What an incredible legacy Lucia has left behind for the CRC children, staff, her own family and anyone who was fortunate to spend time with her. She modeled what is most important in life and how we should treat one another at all times. We will miss everything about her.

~Patty Morell, former Chairperson of the Child Rescue Centre Partnership

A Special Thank You & Farewell to Linda Reinhard, African Programs Administrator

We would like to say a special thank you and farewell to Linda Reinhard, our dear friend and long time administrator for the African Programs Partnership. After three years of working with HCW and the African Programs Partnership, Linda has decided to take advantage of a wonderful new opportunity--to take care of her grandbaby, Aydan.

Linda will be co-leading the December UMVIM team, on her second mission trip to the Child Rescue Centre. She plans to stay actively involved with the African Programs Partnership, as the entire Reinhard family avidly supports the CRC and Mercy Hospital.



Linda Reinhard, African Programs administrator

Medical Team Impacts Malaria, Prenatal Health and Dental Hygiene

Last month, an UMVIM medical team visited the CRC and Mercy Hospital. As part of community outreach, the team worked with Mercy Hospital staff to hold malaria testing and prenatal clinics in a village near Bo. The malaria clinic focused on children five years old and younger, and provided immediate treatment for those with malaria. At the prenatal clinic, hospital staff and the US team tested expectant mothers for malaria and HIV, measured fetal growth and allowed the moms-to-be to hear the fetal heart tones. Home births are very common in Sierra Leone. The outreach was intended to encourage at-risk moms to deliver at Mercy Hospital.



At the hospital, the team held clinics for nurses and nursing students on proper hand washing techniques. Posters printed in both English and Krio reinforced the information that was taught. These "walls-that-teach" emphasize the importance of nutrition, mosquito nets, and hand washing.

When the team heard that there are only six dentists in all of Sierra Leone, they gave the team dentist Rob the nickname "007." Rob pulled almost 300 teeth, much to the relief of the 100 patients now free from pain. At the dental clinic, the team applied fluoride varnish to the teeth of the CRC children, including those in residence, in the Foster Care Program and in the Child Support Program. They gave each child a toothbrushing kit.



The team vaccinated approximately 200 children against MMR, hepatitis A, and polio.

African Programs Volunteer Opportunity

We are looking for a volunteer who would come into the HCW office one day each week (Thursday or Friday) for 5-6 hours to perform some administrative work. This volunteer would be responsible for:

- Responding to emails and phone calls from Partnership leaders, UMVIM team leaders, missionaries and potential missionaries.
- Maintaining UMVIM teams' databases with pertinent information and review and follow-up with team members on missing or incomplete forms.
- Preparing documentation and handouts for UMVIM team meetings.

This volunteer will work on a day when the other AP Administrator, Cynthia Grant, is not in the office, to ensure that phones and administrative tasks are covered. If you would like to learn more about this volunteer position, please contact Jennifer Hamilton, African Programs Director, 703-793-9521 or jenniferhamilton@helpingchildrenworldwide.org.