

AFRICAN PROGRAMS PARTNERSHIP



THE CHILD
RESCUE CENTRE



MERCY
HOSPITAL



HELPING
CHILDREN
WORLDWIDE

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

JUNE 2010
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Reunification of CRC Youth

The Sierra Leone Ministry of Social Welfare, a branch of the Sierra Leone government, has determined that all youth 18 years and older may not remain in residential living facilities, but should be reunited with relatives in their communities. In partnership with the United Methodist Conference of Sierra Leone, we feel it is important to operate our ministries within the framework of the national laws of Sierra Leone; therefore, the management of the Child Rescue Centre and the HCW African Programs Partnership are working together to ensure that the CRC youth will be placed in loving, Christian homes that are within close proximity to the CRC. These homes are being selected by a team of CRC senior staff who are visiting the homes to ensure safe, appropriate environments for our youth. The 19 CRC students who will be reunified into these homes will continue their education, and they will have scheduled weekly social and spiritual time with their CRC family on the CRC grounds. They will also continue to receive free health care from Mercy Hospital. Finally, the CRC staff will provide ongoing monitoring and follow up with these students to ensure they are healthy, emotionally well, and adjusting appropriately to the transition. This follow up will continue until the youth are living independent adult lives. Members of the HCW African Programs Partnership have met with each of the CRC youth to ensure that they fully understand the unfailing love and support of the Partnership and to reassure them that this love will never end. Rather, this transition offers an opportunity to help the youth connect with their local "families" in a deeper way, while retaining their deep bond with the CRC and the Partnership. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Jennifer Hamilton, African Programs Director at 703-793-9521 or by email at jenniferhamilton@helpingchildrenworldwide.org.

Through A Missioner's Eyes

Karen Hall is an OBGYN nursing supervisor who went to Sierra Leone with the UMVIM Team in May. Here is a small snapshot of her experience working at Mercy Hospital. *"While we were there THREE healthy babies were born. I was blessed enough to make it to one of the deliveries. It was at night and the only light we had was kerosene lamps and a flashlight. [While Mercy has power available 24/7, the nursing staff has made it clear they prefer to use lanterns for their routine deliveries at night.] Each day we saw forty women. Each mother received a Layette Kit which included a blanket, diaper, pins, and a onesie. The purpose of the Layette Kit project was to encourage women to come to Mercy Hospital for prenatal care and to deliver their babies. I was passionate about this project before going over to Sierra Leone since the country has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world. Now*



that I am home and have connected with these beautiful women/mothers in Sierra Leone, I am even more passionate. These women want the same things that we do in America, the best for their babies. There is much work to do. We were able to touch one hundred and twenty women during this one trip. I am looking forward to returning, hopefully in 2012."

Karen Hall with a new mother at Mercy Hospital.

Volunteer Spotlight

Mercy Hospital and the Child Rescue Centre are blessed to have a long-term missionary serving with them this summer! Anna Rediger, a senior in Nursing at Virginia Commonwealth University, has dedicated ten weeks to intern at Mercy and the CRC. Each morning, Anna begins her day on teaching rounds at Mercy Hospital with Dr. Tejan. She is working on a rotational basis through the different hospital departments, including the men's and women's wards, children's ward, and labor and delivery unit. In the afternoons and evenings, Anna often spends time studying with the CRC children --especially working with those who will sit for national exams this summer. She is also collaborating with the CRC staff to implement a number of projects, including age-appropriate Bible studies for children and internships in the Bo community.

Recently, Anna was invited to participate in celebrations for The Day of the African Child (June 16th.) The festivities held at the Child Rescue Centre included children from all of the CRC programs --Residential, Child Support, and Foster Care--and were presided over by Bishop John Yambasu. If you'd like to hear more about Anna's time in Sierra Leone, please follow her blog at: <http://africanprograms.org/blog>.



Anna Rediger with Faidu Vandi-Koi, a youth in the CRC residential program.

Your Donor Dollars at Work

We are a unique organization and with that comes many opportunities and challenges. Helping Children Worldwide has the ability to reach donors and volunteers in both the faith community and business community to benefit the children and people in Sierra Leone. African Programs is a division of Helping Children Worldwide and it directly benefits from the work we are doing to expand the awareness and support of the organization. African Programs consists of two programs in Bo, Sierra Leone: the Child Rescue Centre and Mercy Hospital. The African Programs Partnership supports these programs through donations, volunteers, management, and programmatic activities. Helping Children Worldwide also has a local program called Connections for Hope. African Programs and Connections for Hope are distinctly separate divisions, with distinctly separate funding, but each division benefits from the success of Helping Children Worldwide as a whole. Please contact Sarah Newman, Executive Director, at 703-793-9521 if you have any questions.



"The Walls that Teach"

When you walk into almost any US school, the walls of the classes are usually covered in wonderful posters covering subjects from math, spelling, colors, to famous people and historical events. Until recently, many of the walls in the buildings at the Child Rescue Centre were blank, but the Education Committee has launched a new program to fill the walls and minds at the CRC! They are now in need of new or gently used posters in every subject at every grade level.

It is not surprising that using the walls of a building to teach the students is a highly successful strategy to help visually stimulate children's minds, reinforce learning concepts, and spark their interest in new subjects or ideas.

If you have items you would like to donate, please contact Dr. Laura Horvath at: dochorvath@gmail.com.

Layette Kits Delivered to Mercy



Newborn baby that was delivered at Mercy Hospital.

120 New Mother Layette Kits were taken over with the May team to Mercy Hospital for the first Prenatal Screening Day. The kits were a huge success and the mothers were very thankful for their gifts. We will be sending over another 40 New Mother Layette Kits with the summer teams. Thank you to everyone who was touched by this project and contributed their time and items for the kits! A special thank you to the Ark Preschool of Sterling Virginia who took this on as their 2010 mission project and collected 20 New Mother Layette Kits.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO JUNIPER NETWORKS

FOUNDATION: Helping Children Worldwide would like to thank Juniper Networks Foundation for their recent grant of \$20,000 to fund school fees and supplies for CRC children (grades 1-senior secondary.) We would also like to thank Rob Murray, an employee of Juniper Networks, for bringing this opportunity to our attention and helping shepherd the proposal through the process. This funding will assist in paying for educational costs for the 2010-2011 school year.

HELPING CHILDREN WORLDWIDE
13525 DULLES TECHNOLOGY DRIVE, SUITE 103
HERNDON, VA 20171
WWW.HELPINGCHILDRENWORLDWIDE.ORG
703-793-9521

