

AFRICAN PROGRAMS PARTNERSHIP



THE CHILD RESCUE CENTRE



MERCY HOSPITAL



HELPING CHILDREN WORLDWIDE

AUGUST 2011
WWW.HELPINGCHILDRENWORLDWIDE.ORG

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

FEED A CHILD CAMPAIGN TACKLES CHILD MALNUTRITION

Mary Beth Sams, HCW African Programs Director

It's no accident that the top priority of the UN Millennium Development Goals is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. 852 million people, mainly in the developing world, are still chronically or acutely malnourished. Sub-Saharan Africa has 204 million hungry people and is the only region of the world where hunger is increasing.



Hunger is both a cause and an effect of poverty. It holds back economic growth and limits progress in reducing poverty. Hunger reduction has to be a major part of development, since little progress in reducing poverty can be made as long as large numbers of those people are hungry.

Children are hungry for many reasons: poverty, low food production, poor sanitation, natural disasters, and political power struggles all play a part. Adequate nutrition begins in the home, where gender discrimination and traditional practices can limit the food intake of women and children.

Many women become mothers at a young age, are unable to space their births appropriately,

FEED A CHILD, continued on page 2

AUGUST IS NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION MONTH

Jeanette Mabie, LPN, BS-HCM

Remember when we had an increase in incidence of swine flu in the United States and then a swine flu vaccine shortage? People stood in lines for hours to receive the vaccine and others were turned away because they were not in a high risk category.

Can you imagine if you took your child to the doctor for routine immunizations such as MMR (measles, mumps and rubella), Hepatitis B, Polio or Tetanus and the doctor told you that the vaccine simply was unavailable? Sadly, for some countries, that scenario is a reality. That truly breaks my heart. As a nurse, I know that vaccines save lives.

I have been so blessed over the years to work with the children of the Child Rescue Center in Bo, Sierra Leone through United Methodist Volunteers in Mission. Because of generous donations, I have had the privilege of administering each one of the vaccines aforementioned as routine vaccinations to the children of the CRC. Most recently, polio vaccine and MMR were given, when I was there in March of this year. I was so excited to hear that the vaccines were available for me to give during the trip and it was truly a privilege to give that gift.

Jeanette Mabie vaccinated children at the CRC, right.





FEED A CHILD, cont'd from page 1

and lack awareness of good nutrition and child nurturing practices. They often become anemic during pregnancy due to iron deficiency, increasing the risk of low birth weight in their babies and perpetuating the vicious cycle of malnutrition.

When you feed a child, he has a better chance of staying healthy. Good nutrition, coupled with safe water and good sanitation, is vital for maintaining a strong, healthy body. A hungry child has a weakened immune system, which makes him more susceptible to malaria, tuberculosis, influenza, and other diseases.

When you feed a child, she has a better chance of succeeding in school. If her stomach isn't growling, she can pay attention to her teachers and ultimately have a greater chance of moving on to higher education.

That's why we're launching the "Feed A Child" campaign on September 1st. Feeding a child is more than just a nice thing to do, it is crucial to a child's future and essential for a child's development into an active, productive adult. Feed A Child, and may God increase your harvest of righteousness!

Mercy's Nutrition Program Rescues Malnourished Children

Liz Verrechia, nursing student

The first time I met Dr Tejan [he had just] received his new stethoscope from Dr Horner. He was overwhelmed with happiness from such a gift...moments later, as he was using that piece of equipment that caused him such joy, he became visibly upset at a mother whose small boy, 8 months old, was on the verge of death. James was his name, and he was so sick, from malaria as well as malnourishment. Everyone was scared he would not make it, especially Dr Tejan.

Every day, I went to Mercy Hospital to see little James and offer his mother words of encouragement. I watched James as he suffered and over the course of the two weeks I was there, I watched him grow. He was getting stronger before my very eyes, and it was a gift to see (he even let me hold him our last day). Sister Taiwo and the nutrition program brought this little boy back to life through their hard work and dedication. They were not going to give up on James and his mother. I feel very blessed to have seen the transformation in James and to have seen it unfold due to the great care that the doctors and nurses at Mercy Hospital provide for each patient."

"FEED A CHILD" LAUNCHES SEPT 1ST

You can help fight childhood malnutrition by supporting the "Feed A Child" campaign. Feed a Child runs from Sept. 1st through Oct 31st and supports the nutrition programs of CRC and Mercy Hospital. The goal is to raise \$24,000 in order to receive a one-for-one matching donation, for a total of \$48,000! Here's how you can get involved:

- Follow #feedachild on twitter
- "Like" us on facebook.
- Share with friends and family
- Great to promote at college and high school groups!
- Don't forget to buy a t-shirt and sunglasses!

Go to www.crowdrise.com/feedachild for more information.



Woodlake UMC Youth Hold "Soccer 4 Sierra Leone" to Support CRC

Jennifer Rose, W.O.W. Leader

The Wonders of Worship (W.O.W.) is a ministry of Woodlake UMC for 4th & 5th graders. We meet on Tuesday nights during the school year for Christian fellowship and fun.

In search of meaningful mission projects that would appeal to tweens, my co-leader, Michael Berkley, came across Austin Gutwein's Hoops of Hope, which we decided to tweak a bit--instead of shooting baskets, we could kick soccer goals. We felt our mission event should benefit an organization that was close to WUMC's heart, so the CRC was a natural choice. We promoted the event throughout the year, using 1 Timothy 4:12 as our scriptural inspiration: "Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you teach, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity."

Soccer 4 Sierra Leone took place on May 10th on the WUMC soccer fields. Several weeks prior, we had encouraged the children to obtain pledges from family members and friends. Twenty-three 4th & 5th graders kicked 809 soccer goals that evening and raised over \$1200 for the Child Rescue Center. At the end of the evening, we celebrated our success with cupcakes!



Woodlake UMC's W.O.W. group celebrates the success of "Soccer 4 Sierra Leone" event.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **AP Quarterly Partnership Meetings will be held** on September 25th from 2-4 PM at St. Matthews UMC in Richmond and December 4th from 2-4 PM, location tbd.
- **Awakening Music Festival**, Middleburg, VA, Sept 23rd & 24th features TobyMac, Switchfoot, Thousand Foot Crutch, Hawk Nelson. HCW is an event sponsor. www.AwakeningFest.com.
- **10th Annual Child Rescue Centre Benefit Golf Tournament**, Mon Sept 26th at 1757 Golf Club, Dulles VA. Sponsor registration: www.helpingchildrenworldwide.org
- **Go for Bo Fun Run** to benefit the Child Rescue Centre & Mercy Hospital, Saturday, Oct 15th at Ebenezer UMC in Stafford. Register at active.com, search "Go for Bo."