



CONNECTIONS FOR HOPE



THE CHILD RESCUE CENTRE



MERCY HOSPITAL



HELPING CHILDREN WORLDWIDE

DECEMBER 2011
WWW.HELPINGCHILDRENWORLDWIDE.ORG

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

Connections for Hope Impact Grew in 2011

By the end of the third quarter of 2011, Connections for Hope had already welcomed more clients than all of 2010. As was predicted, clients of one program often enrolled in another program that benefitted their child or family. In addition to the growth of our client base, we also added programs such as the Job Search Workshop and job coaching, provided by some very dedicated volunteers. These programs help job-seekers prepare for the employment process. Our newest program participant is NOVA Specialty Access, which facilitates access to medical specialists

for low-income and uninsured patients. Our space is limited but our programs continue to grow to serve the needs of our community.

Left: Literacy Council of NoVA celebrated another successful ESL class in December.



We are so grateful for YOU!

To all of our volunteers, partners and supporters, we are eternally in your debt for the many ways you helped improve the lives of children and families affected by poverty this year. You are a blessing!

*From all of us at Helping Children Worldwide,
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*

Mercy Diagnoses, Cures Baby of Typhoid

Suffering from typhoid fever, a 14-month old baby had been treated at another hospital, but the symptoms were not going away. The child was dying from an infection that could not be accurately diagnosed. "There's nothing more we can do," the doctors told the devastated mother. As a last measure, the mother brought the baby to Mercy Hospital. Dr. Tejan admitted her, and ran a culture with sensitivity to determine the actual pathogen and the specific types of medications that would cure her infection. The ability to name a pathogen and understand its antibiotic resistance is a unique clinical service in the region. It turned out that the pathogen infecting the baby was resistant to the medication that had been prescribed. Within a week of getting treatment with the correct antibiotic, the baby was cured of her infection. In Sierra Leone, culture and sensitivity testing have not been clinically available outside of private hospitals for the wealthy or for research purposes. Because of Mercy Hospital's research lab capability, this baby survived.



TEACHING & LEARNING IN SIERRA LEONE ~ by Joy Jones, medical missionary

[Our November team] participated in several training sessions with the nurses, including a fire safety demo, basic handwashing, neonatal resuscitation, compassionate care training and glucometer training. We also learned some things from them--did you know that in the villages of Africa they look for black ants around urine on the ground as a sign of high blood sugar? How about using a water bottle cut in half to blow air into the lungs of a newborn who is not breathing? These folks are amazingly resourceful! They have made do with so little.

A village outreach took us down a dirt road, through several streams, in and out of the jungle to the village of Korbu [where] we were greeted by dancing and singing in the traditional African manner. These folks only see medical professionals a few times a year. We worked all day, testing small children and babies for malaria, evaluating pregnant women and providing realistic nutritional guidelines. We also offered HIV testing and gave out A LOT of medication for malaria, some vitamin C and iron tablets. Thirty five percent of the kids we tested were positive for malaria. Folks, this is a life threatening illness, especially for children! At the end of the day we had cared for forty pregnant women and over one hundred children under the age of five!

We witnessed a mother bring her severely dehydrated, unconscious five month old to Mercy. I was uncertain as to whether or not it was too late for this baby. Miraculously, the child survived after intensive rehydration and medication.

As I have told everyone I have talked to since my return, I will try not to complain about what I don't have.....because I DO have water, shelter, food, medical care and waste management. These things are often not available to those living in Sierra Leone, one of the poorest countries in the world.

Joy Jones demonstrated infant CPR to a nursing student.



CRC Adopts Family-Style Living

The CRC has recently changed from dormitory-style living into six small family groups to better prepare children for life in a family. Integration into family units at the CRC residential centre provides peer (sibling) and adult (parent) relationship building and fosters love and attachment. Significant renovations were required, including the addition of indoor bathrooms, walls, doors and moving lots of furniture. Each family group now has sleeping rooms for the children and a separate sleeping room for the supervising adult. Each family has two aunts to take care of them. The families eat together, play together and do chores together. All of the CRC staff, including the five new aunts, attended a week of orientation and training led by CRC Director Jimmy Lamboi and Patty and Allen Morell.

The children and staff are very excited about their "new" families! They are enjoying the new space, the family style meals and the time with their families. A huge thank you to Allen and Patty Morell for assisting with this transition!



Jeremiah Family enjoys dinner together.

Community Leaders Attend C4H Breakfast with Congressman Frank Wolf

Congressman Frank Wolf hosted a breakfast at Connections for Hope on Friday, October 28th. There were over 25 businesses represented as well as many local elected representatives. All guests enjoyed a tour and were challenged to help us reach a \$50,000 match to support Connections for Hope. To date \$48,850 has been raised. If you would like to help us reach the matching goal, please go to www.helpingchildrenworldwide.org and make a donation today. In the comment section please include "Connections for Hope \$50,000 Match."



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CRC Transitional Home Makes Progress

The new vision of the CRC is to welcome children who are at risk or survivors of forced labor or trafficking. An interim care home is needed to provide a safe space for the child to adjust, allowing her or him to receive personalized attention and care. When the child is ready, she or he will be transitioned into the appropriate Child Rescue Centre program.

The CRC Task Force has found a good home about 10 minutes away from the CRC. The homeowner, Eleanor, has been trained along with the CRC staff in how to work with children who have been victims of child labor. She has a designated room in her home that will provide the space needed for 2-3 children at a time. Renovations on the designated room in her home have begun.



Renovations have begun on an interim home for child victims of labor or trafficking. The home is about 10 minutes from the CRC.

Mercy Breakfast Reaches Area Doctors and Medical Professionals

More than 30 doctors and medical professionals from the metro DC area attended an informative breakfast event at the Tower Club in Tysons Corner on November 8th. Keynote speaker Dr. Jim Scott spoke to the need for good medical care in underdeveloped areas of Africa like Bo, Sierra Leone. An 8 minute video of Dr. Tejan, chief medical officer of Mercy, provided the audience an inside look at the hospital. The video is available on the front page of our website.

HCW board members presented the new vision for Mercy Hospital, which includes achievement of a measurable decrease in the infant and maternal mortality rates in Sierra Leone. The larger plan is to transform Mercy Hospital into a world class center of medical excellence, supported by intensive community outreach, a new surgical and radiology center, health worker training, and research in maternal and child health.

HCW Board Member Kim McKinnish To Receive Nonprofit Honor

Kim McKinnish, who serves as Treasurer on the HCW Board of Directors, will be honored as the "2012 Nonprofit CFO Transformational Leader" at the annual luncheon sponsored by the Chronicle of Philanthropy and area corporations. Each year the awards recognize CFOs who have leadership positions in nonprofits and the important role they serve in supporting the executive directors of these organizations. Congratulations Kim and thank you for your service!



Kim McKinnish, HCW Board member and treasurer.

YEAR END GIVING: Two weeks left 'til we ring in the New Year--there's still time to donate to Helping Children Worldwide in 2011. To give online, go to www.helpingchildrenworldwide.org and click on the green "Donate" button. You can also mail your donation to our office at Helping Children Worldwide, 13525 Dulles Technology Drive, Ste 103, Herndon, VA 20171. And don't forget to ask your employer about matching donations!

Thank you for your generous support!

In observance of Christmas and New Years, our office will be closed on the following days:

- Friday, December 23rd
- Monday, December 26th
- Monday, January 2nd

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!