



## CONNECTIONS FOR HOPE



## THE CHILD RESCUE CENTRE



## MERCY HOSPITAL



**HELPING CHILDREN WORLDWIDE**

**SEPTEMBER 2010**  
**WWW.HELPINGCHILDRENWORLDWIDE.ORG**

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

## Parenting Program for Spanish Speakers Back by Popular Demand

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) has teamed with Reston Interfaith to provide the "ACT Against Violence: Parents Raising Safe Kids" parenting education program for Spanish speakers at Connections for Hope.

After the first ACT program held this summer, there were 30 people on the wait list. Acknowledging the importance of this training, CSB's Prevention office will provide the classroom instruction and Reston Interfaith will provide the much needed child care. Because of the collaborative environment that Connections for Hope provides for its partnering organizations, the second class will be made available to a very underserved population in our community. In the photo above right, instructor Luz Zuleta is pictured with her students at their graduation celebration.



*Free high quality child care is an important component of the ACT Parenting Class.*

## Ganda Bassie Goes To College

In 2002, the first team from the U.S. went to visit the Child Rescue Centre (CRC). The war had just ended and the guns had just been laid down. The team had a doctor, a psychiatrist, a nurse and three very willing helpers. The children had experienced such incredible trauma from the war, and the psychiatrist was there to begin the process of addressing this trauma. As the team was leaving, a little boy put a note in the hand of the doctor. "My name is Ganda Bassie. Please don't forget my name."

"Please don't forget my name," the note read. From that time until now we have not forgotten Ganda Bassie. Last week Ganda was accepted into a 3-year diploma program at the University of Makeni in Developmental Studies. The Child Rescue Centre is transforming lives, turning war-affected children into well-adjusted, well-educated young adults who will be able to contribute in meaningful ways to rebuilding their country. The CRC and its supporters have given Ganda the opportunity to attend university. We definitely will not forget his name.

*A little boy put a note in the hand of the doctor. "My name is Ganda Bassie. Please don't forget my name."*



*Ganda Bassie (right) with his friend Ibrahim Dandaji.*

## Now you can give to HCW through the Combined Federal Campaign

Do you work for the government or the military? Now you can donate to the work of Helping Children Worldwide through the Combined Federal Campaign giving program by choosing **CFC #44370**.





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## CRC Golf Tournament Does More than Raise Funds for the Child Rescue Centre

This year's 9th Annual CRC Benefit Golf Tournament was a resounding success thanks to the efforts of many volunteers, sponsors and golfers. It was a beautiful day and the tournament raised significant funds to operate the Child Rescue Centre. This year, Ibrahim Dandaji, a resident of the CRC, had an opportunity to share with the golfers how important their support has been. He spoke from the heart as he told the golfers:



*Ibrahim Dandaji addressed the golfers at the banquet as golf committee co-chair Steve Salvatore looks on.*

"Because you have helped us, we have big dreams. And part of those dreams is to help other people as you have helped us. The CRC children have started a program to help people in our community. We are building a house for a woman who cannot afford a good home for her family. In the rainy season the home she had before would wash out. So we, the CRC children, raised some money to build her a new home. We did the labor and you can see it in

the pictures. We have done this because of your example to us. Because you have given to us, so we also need to give to others."

The CRC not only provides the necessities of life, but it develops compassion in the children so that even those who have been so poor have learned to give back to their community. Thank you to all who have given to the CRC and set the example for the children, who now look for ways they too can give back.



*CRC children building a new home for a needy family in their community.*

## *HCW Board Member Receives Northrop Grumman Excellence in Volunteerism Award*

Chris Welker, Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of HCW, and one of its founding members, received Northrop Grumman's Excellence in Volunteerism Award, which was given to only 10 people in the entire company for their outstanding service to the community. Out of 350 nominations, Chris was one of the winning 10. Chris has given tirelessly to HCW since its beginning, and he has been involved in numerous community activities. As a result of this honor, HCW was given a \$5,000 donation from the company. We are most appreciative of Chris' donation of time and expertise, and to Northrop Grumman for their corporate citizenship and their support for volunteerism in the community.

## Mercy Hospital's Pilot Mobile Prenatal Program

Mercy Hospital has established a pilot Mobile Prenatal Program in an effort to bridge a gap in maternal and child health care in Sierra Leone. This mobile prenatal program will offer prenatal screenings, maternal and child health education, delivery of layette kits to pregnant

women who deliver at Mercy Hospital and will provide insecticide-treated bed nets to those who haven't received them.

*Did you know?  
One in eight women die giving birth in Sierra Leone.*

Sierra Leone has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world. One in eight women die during childbirth. Sierra Leone

also has one of the highest child mortality rates in the world; one in five children will die before their fifth birthday. In April 2010 the Sierra Leone government announced a bold plan to provide care to pregnant women and children free of charge at all government hospitals.

Unfortunately, nearly 2/3 of the population in Sierra Leone lives in rural villages, far from the government facilities. Mercy Hospital seeks to bridge this gap by establishing the Mobile Prenatal Program which brings free prenatal care to villages more than 5 miles from the nearest government hospital. Building on its existing hospital-based prenatal program, which provides care to nearby pregnant women regardless of ability to pay, this mobile outreach will touch hundreds of outlying families.



*Dr. Edries Tejan holds a baby he delivered at Mercy Hospital.*

The Mobile Prenatal Program is the newest component of a strong and growing community health initiative provided by Mercy Hospital to address significant health care needs in and around the Bo community. The financial support given to Mercy Hospital saves lives. We thank those who give so generously so that people in one of the poorest corners of the world can have life and hope.

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## Student Photo Exhibit Opens October 30th @ Connections for Hope

Founded in 2004, the "Through Students' Eyes" (TSE) project has worked with over 400 high school and middle school youth worldwide to address three questions through photographs and written reflections: **What is the purpose of school? What helps you succeed in school? What gets in the way of your school success?** TSE was started by veteran teachers, activists, photographers, and teacher educators in response to the consistently high dropout rates common in most urban



centers in the United States. The photo and essay exhibit representing the work of students in Cleveland, Northern Virginia and Sierra Leone will be on display at Connections for Hope starting October 30th for three months. Children from our Child Rescue Centre in Bo, Sierra Leone participated in the program and their work will be on display. Connections for Hope is pleased to be able to make available the stories that this exhibit brings to the Northern Virginia community. **Please join us Saturday, October 30th, from 1-5pm for the exhibit opening.**