



CONNECTIONS FOR HOPE



THE CHILD RESCUE CENTRE



MERCY HOSPITAL



HELPING CHILDREN WORLDWIDE

MAY 2010  
WWW.HELPINGCHILDRENWORLDWIDE.COM

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

## Connections for Hope Opens After 5 Years of Planning

On Monday, March 15 Connections for Hope officially opened (see picture top right) with over 100 people celebrating the event. Connections for Hope is a non-profit center started by Helping Children Worldwide which houses six non-profit agencies and one county agency, all working in a collaborative way to provide multiple services to families and individuals in need in our community. The groups are working to maximize opportunities to provide services in a more efficient and effective way, while providing easier access to services for the clients.

Congressman Frank Wolf spoke to the gathering, along with Sharon Bulova, Chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Cathy Hudgins, Supervisor of the Hunter Mill District. Todd Stottlemeyer, Executive Vice President of INOVA Health Systems and Chair of the HCW Board was master of ceremonies for the festivities. Partnering organizations include the Fairfax Falls Church Community Services Board (mental health and substance abuse services), Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic, Just Neighbors Immigration Legal Services, the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia (ESOL training), Reston Interfaith (homelessness and foreclosure prevention) and Vecino Unidos (homework assistance.) For more information about the center contact Sarah Newman, 703-793-9521.



*Red Hot & Blue in Herndon, VA graciously provided lunch for all who attended the opening event.*

## For Children In Sierra Leone, Education is a Gift

The literacy rate in Sierra Leone is 35% and girls have a lower rate than boys. Education is critical to stabilizing individual lives and improving conditions within the country. Below are observations from Lindsay Williams, a recent volunteer who visited a 4th grade class in a private school which CRC children attend.

“I couldn’t believe that these children were learning so much with barely any educational tools to learn with. In the United States schools spend millions of dollars a year to make sure there are copy machines, laptops, paper, textbooks, posters, smart boards, etc. Even though the children have the barest of essentials to learn with, it blows me away when I see how excited the children are here about learning and receiving an education. They truly feel privileged that they are receiving an education.”

If you support the CRC with financial donations, you support this education. Your donor dollars help make a huge difference in the lives of these children.

## Connections for Hope Partners Work with Deloitte

Since the center's opening, the partners of Connections for Hope have been working toward an integrated services model that would provide multiple services for clients of all of the partner organizations. To facilitate this integration, Deloitte has offered to provide an IMPACT Day of training in June. Using their vast experience in the corporate world, representatives from Deloitte will work with Connections for Hope partners to maximize shared resource opportunities. They will also help the organizations break down the silo approach to operations in order to better support a more integrated approach, while maintaining the integrity of each program's mission. This is an extraordinary non-profit training opportunity and one for which the partners are most grateful.



### Upcoming Events at HCW

- Saturday, May 8, 5:30pm - African Program Celebration Dinner at Galilee UMC, Sterling, VA
- Sunday, May 16, 1:30-5:00pm - African Program Partnership Meeting at Discovery UMC, Richmond, VA
- Friday, June 11 - Deloitte Impact Day at Connections for Hope
- Monday, September 13 - CRC Benefit Golf Tournament

Go to [www.helpingchildrenworldwide.org/events](http://www.helpingchildrenworldwide.org/events) or call 703-793-9521 for more information.

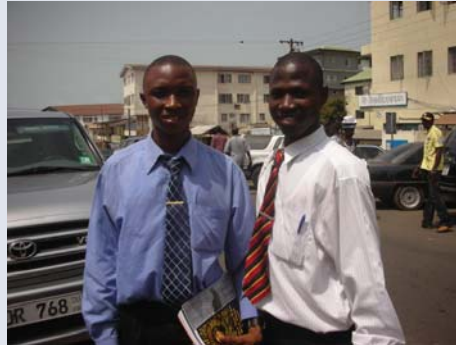


Dine at the Red Hot & Blue in Herndon, VA and ask for 10% of your bill to be donated to Connections for Hope!



## Yusef Tejan – A CRC Youth's Dedication to His Education

Yusef is a CRC student in his second year of medical school. In December, after the university closed for Winter Break, Yusef went back to Bo. On Dec. 23rd he went to the laboratory at Mercy Hospital to assist and practice with the lab technicians. He learned how to do blood tests. He learned how to keep records. When



Yusef Tejan (right) attends medical school in Freetown with fellow CRC youth Aruna Stevens.

most of the students were simply on vacation, Yusef wanted to continue to learn. Mercy Hospital offered him a practical experience, with very special learning time with Mercy's physician Dr. Tejan and the lab technicians. The December team from the U.S. brought him

important medical textbooks that he could not get in Sierra Leone. Except for Christmas day, young Yusef Tejan was at Mercy Hospital. This self-motivation and self-discipline will serve him well as he trains to become a doctor. In a country with less than 200 doctors for 5.5 million people, he will make an important contribution to his fellow Sierra Leoneans. Those who support the CRC and Mercy Hospital support Yusef and others who receive medical education and provide medical care in their community.

## Mercy Hospital – Quality Medical Care Strives to Improve Health Standards

These are on-the-ground observations from Kate Meehan, a HCW Intern that spent 6 months working with Mercy Hospital: "I came to Sierra Leone, in part, because of the heart wrenching statistics that describe the health situation of the country, specifically maternal and infant mortality. In the few short months I've been here, I've heard many sobering stories that sadden me; there are countless barriers to receiving quality healthcare, most prominently a lack of infrastructure and able practitioners. I've heard just as many inspirational stories of people, local and foreign, who are determined to try and change the situation facing this country...so many of the health issues crippling Sierra Leone could be prevented, or stemmed, with education. The staff at Mercy Hospital are part of an integral population of people who aim to achieve a higher standard of care within the city of Bo, and the country overall."

Mercy Hospital continues to see thousands of patients a year, regardless of their ability to pay. Health statistics in the area of malaria, HIV/AIDS and maternal and child health are improved because of the work that Mercy Hospital does in the Bo community.