

Mission

Destinations...

Armenia

Cambodia

Chile

China

Dominican Republic

Ecuador

Ethiopia

Gambia

Haiti

Honduras

India

Laos

Mexico

Myanmar

Nicaragua

Nepal

Panama

Peru

Sierra Leone

Tibet

Ukraine

Zambia



CHILDREN'S LIFELINE

FALL 2012

WWW.CHILDRENS-LIFELINE.ORG



Check out our NEW Website

Children's Lifeline has a new website UP and LIVE! Please take the time to view the new site (www.childrens-lifeline.org). You can follow missions to distant lands and see the beautiful children cared for so generously by our mission leaders and the dedicated volunteers.

All missions are cross-referenced and you can read in detail about the missions' focus. There are several search bars that will help you navigate throughout the destination site.

A Google world map allows you to travel vicariously to see where the missions take place and view photos of our host hospitals. Our "Contact" page gives you a way to stay in touch through email and sign up for receiving electronic newsletters. On our "Get Involved" page you will find several ways to support the organization. Under the "News" link, current and past newsletters are available.



We are looking forward to your visit...

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Holiday Letter 2012

Dear friends;

When I think about this year and the holiday season, the word "thankful" comes to mind. Although the year saw many challenges, I am thankful that Children's Lifeline was able to continue its work because of all of you who have supported us over the past thirty years.

I would like to share with you some highlights from 2012 and our plans for 2013.

Our 6th Annual Day at the Races was a success – with a sold out house. The Del Mar Thoroughbred Club named the first race in honor of Children's Lifeline. Everyone including Lifeline benefited from this event. A special thank you goes to my friend, Marion Ross, our spokesperson and supporter. Marion attended the Day at the Races in Del Mar and was in the winner's circle at the conclusion of the Children's Lifeline race. It is an honor to call her our friend. Please read more about this event inside.

Additionally, we have completed our new website www.childrens-lifeline.org and invite you to visit. Our staff has worked very hard on this project. Now you can find more details of Lifeline's work and follow the missions more closely.

One of our new mission leaders is Dr. Ulrika Green who specializes in Cardiac Electrophysiology. The team will implant pacemakers and perform cardiac ablation procedures in India. She will be accompanied by fellow doctors from University of California San Diego Cardiovascular Center: Kirk Peterson M.D., Victor Pretorius, M.D., Gregory Feld, M.D., as well as Dr. Uma Srivatsa from UC Davis. Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Science located in Bengaluru, India will be hosting the team. The pacemaker equipment is being donated through the generosity of Medtronic with the assistance of Jay Hendrickson. Our spring newsletter will describe more about this program, its development and results.

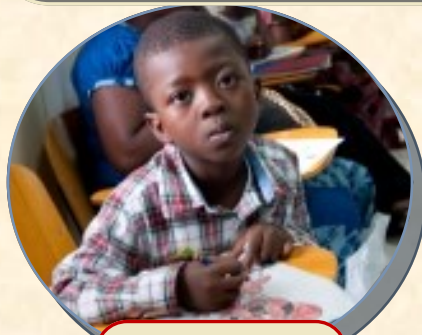
The best summary of this year is that we helped over 2,098 children and were in 15 countries performing thousands of evaluations and procedures. We are also thankful to the doctors and their teams who donate their time and are always enthusiastic, caring, and dedicated. In 2013 please continue to support them and the many children around the world

The staff and I wish all of you a healthy holiday season and a great New Year. We hope to see you in the New Year. Again – thank you on behalf of the children for making this possible.

Sincerely,

Salah Hassanein

JETHRO'S STORY



JETHRO BEFORE

Just before the team from Boston Children's Hospital, an affiliate of Harvard University, left for Ghana in October of this year, Children's Lifeline received a plea from a child's father:

"Please accept my congratulations for the many lives you have saved this far. I have just been informed 2 days ago by my wife who lives in Cape Coast, Ghana with my 2 sons that the elder son (Jethro) who is 6 years old has been diagnosed with Tetralogy of Fallot and this will have to be fixed through open heart surgery. Honestly, we cannot afford to pay for this surgery and would be grateful if you could come to our aid and help us."

A three-way dialogue commenced between Jethro's father, our Lifeline office and the mission leader, Dr. Francis Fynn-Thompson. Lifeline confirmed with Dr. Fynn-Thompson that the child would be evaluated for surgery in Kumasi, about a three hour bus ride from Cape Coast.

Jethro's condition was updated through Susan Mullins, a lifeline team member who emailed: "Our team has decided that Jethro is a good candidate for surgery and will be our first case in the morning." Jethro was diagnosed with Valvar Pulmonary Defect (VSD). Later she wrote: "Jethro had a successful surgery and is doing well." The surgery consisted of putting a Dacron patch over a hole between the left and right ventricle of his heart.

Shortly after the team returned, Lifeline received the following heartfelt message from Jethro's mother: "I am just writing to once again say thank you to you all for the wonderful job done last week. Thank you for allowing yourselves to be used by God to save the lives of our little ones. We really appreciate your good works and it is our prayer that you all shall be healthy and strong to continue this marvelous work. Jethro is doing very well and recovering steadily. Still coloring some of the pictures and telling his brother about you guys. Our simple message is 'THANK YOU' for everything. Our daddy also sends his regards to you." Her thank you extends to all of you who support Lifeline's work. Jethro is just one of many children who are given lifesaving surgery through your caring generosity.

To read more about our Ghana Mission, see page 4



JETHRO AFTER

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BACK

GHANA



Annually, Children's Lifeline funds medical missions to Ghana. Dr. Francis Fynn-Thompson of Boston Children's Hospital has led the cardiac mission since 2007. The host hospital is Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital located in Kumasi, Ghana's second largest city. The overall mission is composed of three teams: surgical, clinical and intensive care.

Over the past five years, 88 children have received heart surgery and hundreds of lives have been changed.

This year, 100 children were evaluated and 16 received cardiac surgery; the patients ranged in age from 2 months to 22 years. Before the team departed for the US, they decorated a room with streamers and balloons for a good-bye party. The young patients formed a procession into the room as if they were on the red carpet – all dressed in their best. Final pictures were taken so all could see their progress with only a few days of care. The children were greeted by Dr. Fynn-Thompson and the team. Each child was given a gift. Jethro received a purple soccer ball. Spontaneous singing erupted and everyone danced. Tears flowed and hugs were abundant.

Dr. Robert Hamilton from Pacific Ocean Pediatrics recently returned from his first mission to Kyrgyzstan after a friend of his, Cornelia Hewitt, told him about two orphanages with children in dire need of medical attention. The scope of the mission was to assess and provide good will. Kyrgyzstan, located on the western border of China, is a former Soviet country of 5 million people. It is a poor country landlocked with beautiful mountains and a large plain.

KYRGYZSTAN



Dr. Hamilton assembled a team of two doctors and three nurses for the mission. They visited the two orphanages, Belavodskya and Tokmok, where they examined and evaluated 400 children in a week. His staff delivered a gift to each child which brought many smiles. The orphaned children had been dropped off by parents who could not care for them. Most of the children have developmental problems; some are paraplegia or quadriplegia, and a large number of children have cerebral palsy. Dr.

Hamilton was moved by the plight of the children and the staff at the orphanages and is planning a return trip.

Thank you Dr. Hamilton

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ECUADOR



A team of neonatologists, neonatal nurses and respiratory therapists from Johns Hopkins University, Frederick Memorial Hospital and Holy Cross Hospital participated in the 2012 neonatology mission to Ecuador. Led by Dr. Fabio Olarte, the physicians visited two hospitals "Hospital Obstetrico Enrique Sotomayor" and "Hospital de Ninos Roberto Gilbert" in Guayaquil. During the visit the team took part in the neonatology day of the Third International Symposium: "Updates in Perinatal Medicine" presenting lectures on the care of the premature infant of less than 32 weeks gestation, control of ventilation, treatment of respiratory distress, use of total body cooling for treatment of perinatal asphyxia and infant development. Through the week the team gave workshops in the use of different modalities for assisted ventilation, after neonatal resuscitation. The doctors also made rounds with the local neonatologists and participated in the care of the 92 neonates hospitalized in the six Neonatal Intensive Care Units of both hospitals. The mission nurses presented nursing care simulations in the care of Obstetric Emergencies, Neonatal Resuscitation, Infection Control and Care for Premature Infants. Over four hundred nurses attended the educational simulations. Commemorating the 10th annual mission, Dr. Olarte, his team and Lifeline were honored with a plaque

"representing the gratitude of the newborns that benefited with their efforts."



"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, interfere with what I can do."

THE GAMBIA



During April of this year, Children's Lifeline teamed up with Lighthouse Medical Missions for a clinical mission to The Gambia. The team assembled a temporary clinic for mission services. Over the course of five days, Dr. Robert Hamilton and his team evaluated and treated

829 children. The children's ages ranged from 1 month to 17 years. Medical conditions, confronted by the team, included: pneumonia, malaria, bronchitis and bacterial infections. Of the 829 children, over 40% were diagnosed with parasites and worms and treated accordingly. The high incidence derives from poor sanitation and non-potable water.



This year, Children's Lifeline partnered with CardoStart and Dr. Aubyn Marath for another mission to Peru. The 2012 volunteer medical team included members from four countries and 8 different US states.

The team returned to Honorio Delgado Regional Hospital in Arequipa to further develop a cardiac surgical program. The hospital is equipped with only three ICU beds and two ORs. The mission also had the active participation of the Hospital del Nino from Lima, whose surgeon Eneida Melgar and a nursing team joined the mission.

After intense pediatric cardiological evaluations by two echo-trained cardiologists and the surgical team, 10 children were chosen, out of approximately 100 screened, for surgery. All of the children recovered satisfactorily.

The mission also included an educational aspect. Daily didactic and practical bedside training of the Peruvian ICU nursing staff was conducted. Lectures including basic life support skills were also presented.

Additionally, four days were spent at a local daycare center, which cares for the poorest of the poor children in Arequipa. They have more than 120 children in their care. The team dispensed 22,000 vitamins fortified with iron to the under-nourished children, enough for a 6 month supply for each child. The team also provided primary medical care to 206 children.

By all measures, the Peru mission exemplifies Lifeline's goals of healing and teaching.



PERU

PANAMA

A multinational mission group led by Dr. Womack traveled to Panama in October 2012. The group

included two pediatric cardiologists from Nicaragua and Costa Rica and two from Panama. The goal was to establish regional cooperation between the three countries. Each small country benefits from working with their neighbors, sharing medical experiences and expertise.

In the past ten years, Dr. Womack has performed approximately 300 catheterizations in Panama. This mission added 22 heart interventions to the growing list of children treated.

The highlight was a five-day old baby that was born with virtual atresia of the pulmonary valve (the valve had only a pinhole opening). The baby was dependent on a fetal vessel kept open by continuous medicine until Dr. Womack was able to permanently dilate the valve. The valve was dilated successfully. In his mission follow up report Dr. Womack stated: "In this case, the procedure was frankly lifesaving for the baby. He would have died without it. There were plenty of important cases but none more than this one. Thanks to you, Salah, and the benefactors of Children's Lifeline, for helping so much!"



From April through October of this year, the tri-partite network of Lifeline, American Airlines and Mercy Hospital

YUCATAN

of Des Moines addressed the cardiac needs of 25 children. The children ranged in age from 19 months to 17 years. Every February, a team from Mercy Hospital conducts a clinical screening mission to the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico. The mission screens approximately 600 children for cardiac defects. The annual assessment typically identifies 25 to 30 children for corrective heart surgery. Children's Lifeline coordinates and sponsors the travel of the children and a parent to Mercy Hospital, where they are received and treated by Dr. Thomas Becker, program director for the Yucatan Project. Air transportation to the United States is, arranged by Lifeline through the American Airlines "Miles for Kids" program. Mercy Hospital and its staff donate their time and expertise to treat the impoverished children of the Yucatan.



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but I can do something, and I will not let what I cannot do

~Edward Everett Hale



DAY AT THE RACES

On Sunday, August 12, 2012, Children's Lifeline celebrated its 6th Annual Day at the Races at Del Mar Thoroughbred Club. Chairman Salah Hassanein and co-chairs Fiona Tudor and Lori DeMaria greeted the 115 guests. The event helps to support our medical missions, providing surgical and clinical treatment to children in dire need around the world.

The view from the private skybox was the perfect spot to hear the announcer bellow, "The first race of the day is for Children's Lifeline - celebrating their 30th Anniversary!" And with that, the horses took off and the guests applauded. Our spokesperson Marion Ross joined the winners' circle and the crowd cheered when she was recognized as "Mrs. C" from "Happy Days."

Live and silent auction items, as well as gift bags, were donated by very generous supporters. A special "thank you" to the co-chairs, the auction chair, the committee, and the guests who made this fundraiser a success. The event was fun, the food was fantastic and the charity was the true winner. Win or lose it was the place to be!

Please plan to join us in August of 2013 for Lifeline's next Day at the Races



CONGRATULATIONS DR. WOMACK

Cardiologist Michael S. Womack, a longtime Lifeline mission leader received the highest decoration in Panama for someone who is not a head of state. During the opening of the 2012 Central America and Caribbean Cardiology Congress, the Panama Minister of Health, Franklin Vergara, decorated Dr. Womack with the Order of Vasco Nunez de Balboa, in the degree of 'Grand Cross'.

In his speech, Vergara highlighted the work of Dr. Womack, whose mission has been to treat children who are born with congenital heart problems.

Lifeline's host hospital where Dr. Womack has visited for ten years is Hospital del Niño. The families of the children treated have limited financial resources.

Dr. Womack was the first surgeon to perform an intervention of the left arc of the heart in Panama. He is actively involved in the organization and projects which teach Panamanian pediatric cardiologists in basic diagnostic techniques for interventional catheterization. The non-invasive method can pre-empt open heart surgery which allows the children to return home earlier.

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Regarding his award Dr. Womack wrote: "This is taken as a sign that the host country appreciated what we have done, and when I say "we" I also mean Children's Lifeline, very much."

To read more on Panama, see page 5

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Please help us continue to serve over thousands of children annually by giving generously. Visit our website at www.childrens-lifeline.org or call 858.509.9445. Your continued support will enable Lifeline to send volunteer doctors and medical staff to developing countries. Your gift will provide lifesaving surgical and clinical interventions to sick children around the world.

BOARD MEMBERS

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Frederick Friedman, Vice-Chairman
Luis A. da Silva
Jim T. Demetriades
Penny Docherty
Peter Farrell
Nesa Hassanein
Lauren Ina
Jeff Mann
Teddy Solomon
Susan Sullivan
Clark Woods

MISSION STATEMENT

Children's Lifeline provides medical teams and surgical assistance to underprivileged children in developing countries. Multidisciplinary voluntary missions in partnership with local hospitals are vital for these countries to achieve independence and be self sustaining.

LIFELIENE STAFF

Valorie Ashley
Director of Development
[*Valorie@childrens-lifeline.org*](mailto:Valorie@childrens-lifeline.org)
Leilani Cortez
Mission Director
[*Leilani@childrens-lifeline.org*](mailto:Leilani@childrens-lifeline.org)
Roland G. Hassanein
Acting Executive Director
[*Roland@childrens-lifeline.org*](mailto:Roland@childrens-lifeline.org)

CONTRIBUTORS

Karla Gomez
Elisa Parker

WELCOME "TED"



We are pleased to announce that Ted (T.G.) Solomon was recently elected to the Board of Directors of Children's Lifeline International. Ted is a pioneer in the motion picture industry, Chairman and CEO of Gulf States Theaters, past president of the National Association of Theater Owners and an active participant in local and regional theater owners associations. His love of theaters began in 1927 in a family owned silent movie house. Ted made his name as owner and architect of over 700 theaters. In 1974 he was recognized as one of the Ten Outstanding Men of New Orleans. In the same year, he was also named New Orleans "Man of the Year" for his efforts at raising the awareness of Crohn's Disease. We are proud to welcome Ted (T.G.) Solomon to the Lifeline board.





Children's Lifeline

514 Via de la Valle

Suite 207

Solana Beach, CA 92075

Children's Lifeline Missions Schedule

Second half of our 2012 schedule

COUNTRY	LEAD DOCTOR	HOME HOSPITAL / AFFILIATIONS	HOST HOSPITAL	DATE
Mexico	Stephen Mooradian	Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines	Hospital de la Amistad, Merida, Yucatan	July
Peru	Mariano Brizzio/Aubyn Marath	CardioStart / Oregon Health & Science Univ.	Regional Hospital Honorio Delgado	September
Ecuador	Fabio Olarte	Frederick Memorial Hospital / Johns Hopkins	Hospital Gineco - Obstetrics Enrique Sotomayor	September
Uganda	Aubyn Marath	Oregon Health & Science Univ. / CardioStart	Mulago National Referral Hospital	September
Ecuador	Fabio Olarte	Frederick Memorial Hospital / Johns Hopkins	Hospital Gineco - Obstetrics Enrique Sotomayor	October
Mexico	Thomas Becker	Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines	Hospital Manual Campos, Campeche, Yucatan	October
Sierra Leone	Robert Hamilton	Pacific Ocean Pediatrics / Lighthouse	The Door Church, Kabala	October
Ghana	Francis Fynn-Thompson	Children's Hospital Boston/Harvard University	Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital	October
Ecuador	Brian Clark	Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital	Hospital de Ninos Roberto Gilbert Elizalde	November
Ecuador	John Meyers	Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital	Hospital de Ninos Roberto Gilbert Elizalde	November
Panama	Michael Womack	Oregon Health and Science University	Hospital de Nino de Panama	November
Myanmar	Marna Geisler	St. Johns Hospital of Santa Monica	Myanmar Compassion Project Clinic	December

Future 2013 Missions

COUNTRY	LEAD DOCTOR	HOME HOSPITAL / AFFILIATIONS	HOST HOSPITAL	DATE
Cambodia	Paul Grossfeld	University of California San Diego	Angkor Hospital for Children	January
Dominican Rep.	Robert Ross	Children's Hospital of Michigan	Cedimat	February
Dominican Rep.	Daniel Turner	Children's Hospital of Michigan	Cedmat	February
Mexico	Thomas Becker	Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines	Hospital Manual Campos, Campeche, Yucatan	March
India	Riki Green	University of California San Diego	Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Hiher Medical Science	March



"To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world"

~Heather Cortez

For more information and ways to help, please contact us!

Tel: 858-509-9445 Fax: 858-509-0708

Email: info@childrens-lifeline.org

Tax ID # 77-0620629 www.childrens-lifeline.org

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