

2014 Mission Destinations...

Cambodia

Dominican Republic

Ecuador

Gambia

Ghana

Guatemala

Guinea-Bissau

Haiti

Honduras

India

Mexico

Myanmar

Nepal

Panama

Peru

Philippines

Sierra Leone

Uganda



CHILDREN'S LIFELINE INT'L[®]

Spring 2014

WWW.CHILDRENS-LIFELINE.ORG



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring 2014



Dear Friends of Lifeline:

Our first annual Lifeline Gala will take place on May 10, 2014 at the beautiful U.S. Grant Hotel in San Diego in their magnificent Presidential Ballroom. This will be a spectacular event!

Our 7th annual "Day at the Races" at the Del Mar Racetrack was a resounding success. Ticket sales, silent and live auctions and donations made this a profitable and fun-filled "Day at the Races."

You are aware that the doctors and nurses all donate their own time and expertise, including the surgeries that are performed. They are true heroes! The money that you so generously donate pays for the travel of these doctors and nurses, the medical equipment, medications, after surgery care, etc.

In keeping with our motto: "heal and teach", in 2013, our cardiac, clinical and cranial facial teams: traveled to 16 countries, completed 26 missions, treated 3500 children and trained 460 doctors and/or medical personnel.

Often we are asked why we do what we do in other countries rather than in this country. One answer is that heart surgeries performed on a child in the United States could cost in excess of \$ 100,000 while in the countries where we do the same type of heart surgery, it costs us \$2000. That is 50 children to 1 whose lives are able to be saved.

Thank you so much for your generosity and please know – to the world you may be just one person but to one child you can be the world!!

Sincerely,

Salah M. Hassanein

Check us out...on the WEB

In the fall of 2012 Children's Lifeline initiated a fresh, new website. The majority of visitors have been from the U.S. and Canada. Numerous visitors from other countries have also viewed the site including Japan, Germany, Australia, United Kingdom, and India. The interactive Google world map allows you to see where the missions take place and identifies the local host hospitals. Our "Contact" page gives you a way to stay in touch through email. Please sign up for receiving electronic newsletters. Under the "News" link, current and past newsletters are available. On our "Get Involved" page, there are several ways you can support Lifeline. If you have not visited, please accept this as an invitation to stop by.

(www.childrens-lifeline.org)

We are anticipating your visit...

Cover Image, Ecuador 2013 Mission Leader, Fabio Olarte, M.D. wrote, "Doctor Marilee Allen, a professor of Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University and a member of the Children's Lifeline Neonatology visit (September, 2013) to Guayaquil Ecuador and Dr. Reina Mayorga, a local neonatologist, evaluated together this premature infant recovering from an acute illness at the Hospital Enrique Sotomayor's NICU. The importance of developmental care and of the skin to skin care of the newborn was reviewed and was concluded beneficial for the immediate recovery and the assistance in the growth of the critically ill neonate."

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ECUADOR

“We are all so extremely grateful for Lifeline’s continued commitment to improve the quality of medical care to the neo-nates and their families here.” After returning from his team’s 12th consecutive mission to Ecuador, Dr. Fabio Olarte, the mission’s lead doctor went on to say, “Thanks to Lifeline’s support, our multi-disciplinary Neonatology group from Johns Hopkins University and Frederick Memorial Hospital was able to share our knowledge in the care of these critically ill newborns.”

There were 11 team members who participated in this year’s mission where they conducted workshops in Pre-Natal Care, instruction on “Safe Sleep” and “Prevention of Shaking Baby Syndrome.” 400 nurses, nurse students, and residents attended. In addition, the Lifeline team helped establish a Hypothermia Program for the care of asphyxiated newborns. The group also took part in the “4th International Congress of Obstetrics-Gynecology, Neonatology and Anesthesia.” Lifeline’s presenters gave lectures during the “Neonatology Day” on many topics, including, the Developmental Care of the newborn, Red Cell Transfusions and Infection Control.

THE GAMBIA / GUINEA-BISSAU

Children’s Lifeline’s Missions are either clinical, surgical, training, craniofacial, cardiac care, neonatal and teaching or a combination. These Missions to the two countries in West Africa, The Gambia and Guinea- Bissau was a sorely needed clinical Mission.

Twice a year, Children’s Lifeline partners with Dr. Robert Hamilton from Pacific Ocean Pediatrics and Lighthouse Medical Missions to evaluate and treat 100’s of children, some of whom are dying from malaria, pneumonia, bronchitis. They all ranged in age from a five months to 18 years of age. Most all of the children have parasites, worms, intense pain, fever, vomiting, bacterial infections and much more. On this particular mission, 377 children were treated and given medication, vitamins, hygiene kits, anti-biotics, etc. and taught at home care.

Making a difference...one child at a time!!





Neonatal course in Haiti



This Mission to Haiti was a Neonatal mission. Dr. Patrick Leblanc and Dr. Lousidon Pierre of Brooklyn Hospital Center in conjunction with University Hospital of Haiti and Latter Day Saints Church, led this Haitian Mission.

Drs. Pierre and Leblanc taught courses in “Helping Babies Breathe.” The courses were taught in the capital city of Port-au-Prince and again in the smaller town of Leogane. These courses prepare birth attendants to better care for newborns and to decrease the neonatal mortality in Haiti. At the end of the course, the participants received equipment with “hands on” instruction and those participants, in turn, went on to demonstrate to other birth attendants.

In addition, Nasal Cpap Kits were distributed to two hospitals: Maternity of Petion- Ville and Hospital General of Port-au-Prince. This simple system is designed to treat infants born with Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS) and other respiratory ailments of newborns that are major causes of mortality in infants, but especially premature infants.

In just two days, several infants were placed on the system and are doing very well.

HONDURAS

“Despite torrential rains, this was a busy and eventful trip providing healthcare to 2000 patients in just 5 days... 65% of those were infants, children and newborns,” writes Dr. P. Tatachar who led this successful Neonatal Mission to Honduras

For this mission, Children’s Lifeline partnered with AMIGA, and their Helping Babies Breathe Project. AMIGA is an educationally based, non-profit organization whose initiative was organized by a group of pediatricians in New York from the American Academy of Pediatrics. AMIGA’s purpose is to address the extremely high infant, neonatal and maternal mortality rate worldwide—primarily in poor, rural, remote and mountainous areas where there is limited access to hospitals, no skilled providers and no access to any kind of obstetric or/and neonatal care. Their goals are the same Children’s Lifeline’s goals---to heal, teach and train.

Workshops were conducted by Dr. Helen Kornblum, Sr. Raquel Ortez and Dr. Marco Tulio who have, over the past ten years, provided basic health care to thousands of impoverished people in Honduras. The workshops were enthusiastically attended by (among others) midwives from many different provinces, nursing students with their supervisors, AND a local gentleman who has been delivering babies for over 30 years!

Dr. Tatacher wrote, “Thanks to the generosity of Children’s Lifeline International, we were able to go forward with this project and raise sufficient funds and provide training kits and manuals, etc.”



MEXICO

“Severe failure to thrive... Congestive heart failure... often with, dangerous respiratory problems, growth delay, extreme fatigue, shortness of breath... ” These were the diagnoses of so many, many of the very sick children who were evaluated by doctors from Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines Iowa. 19 of those children were accepted for surgery and were eventually transported with a parent or guardian (courtesy of the American Airlines’ Miles for Kids program) to Des Moines. Their ages ranged from nine months to fourteen years. Some children were in the hospital for as long as two months. All of the children had surgery and one of the children, Isabela, who is 15 months old had a pacemaker implanted. All the heart surgeries were performed by and donated by Dr. John S. Lozier and his staff. Every single one of these children survived and had an “excellent outcome.”



Nepal Mission 2013



Darwin J. Moo Junco
Surgical repair of Pulmonary Atresia and VSD



Jeisa M. Tello Uicab
Surgical repair of VSD



Karla M. Gomez May
Surgical repair of Tetralogy of Fallot



Anderson Lopez-Bolanos - Catheter-based embolization of PDA / VSD was confirmed to be hemodynamically insignificant and left untreated

NEPAL

For the second time, Children’s Lifeline partnered with Pediatric Universal Life- Saving Effort (PULSE) a New York based non- profit organization for another mission to Nepal.

There are no pediatric critical care specialists in Nepal. Therefore, the course that is taught, “Fundamentals of Pediatric Critical Care Support” (PFCCS) is a powerful tool to engage, educate and establish intensive care substitutes until a formal training program can be established. In this joint mission with Children’s Lifeline, twenty seven candidates were certified in PFCCS. Dr. Leblanc reported that he treated 52 neonatal babies and 23 nurses were certified.

A Pediatric Critical Care Symposium was conducted under the auspices of Kathmandu Medical College Teaching Hospital and Pediatricians from Nepal Pediatric Association. At the convention, four Lifeline Pediatric Intensivists lectured, Dr. Patrick Leblanc, Dr. Arsenia Asuncion, Dr. Adebayo Adeyinka and Dr. Louisdon Pierre who is PULSE president and chief of Pediatric Critical Care at The Brooklyn Hospital Center. Dr. Pierre wrote, “We also conducted three Mechanical Ventilation Skill stations at the Tribhuvan Teaching Hospital and received a very warm welcome there in the functional ICU.” A productive and constructive Mission, indeed.

PERU

Under the direction of Dr. Mariano Brizzio, CardioStart International in partnership with Children's Lifeline International recently completed their 11th Cardiac Surgical and Clinical Mission to Arequipa, Peru. A team of 28 volunteers from five different countries joined together at Honorio Delgado Hospital for the common purpose of saving lives. This mission was particularly challenging because the team struggled with a lack of disposables, which were held up for days at customs. However, this experienced crew made due in difficult circumstances.

CardioStart and Children's Lifeline believe in training and education as a part of every mission. This was demonstrated in this Mission to Peru with educational sessions that included: Alarm Fatigue in Critical Care, Arterial Blood Gas Analysis, (hands on) Basic Life Support/ CPR and Reading Chest x-rays. Formal lectures were provided, as well at the School of Nursing in Arequipa and were well attended.

Not all of the mission work took place in the hospital. The Outreach team took their Heart Care Program into the community. They began at APROBIF Day Care Center which cares for 150 of the very poorest children in the area. Three days were spent there; primary care was given to 207 children and 83 parents and caregivers of the children with many of the patients diagnosed and referred outside for care. Local physicians working as social workers coordinated to ensure direct connection to health care systems. In addition, to supplement their nutrition, 7,000 vitamins were distributed to the parents for their children's care, enough for at least 6 months.

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Panama Mission 2013



PANAMA

Pediatric Cardiologist, Michael S. Womack, who has been a Lifeline Mission leader for many years writes that "we are up to 324 catheterizations on these children in Panama, and over 60 catheterizations for the entire project. These were all mostly sponsored by Children's Lifeline."

There is a regional pediatric cardiology team initiative in play and it continues to grow. This team includes members from Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and soon Guatemala. Dr. Womack says, "This really multiplies the benefit of every case that we do across borders in the region and has created a lot more self-sufficiency in the region." That, of course, is the overriding objective of Children's Lifeline!

In 2012, Dr. Womack received the highest Panamanian decoration that anyone, other than a head of state, can receive. At that time he expressed that this award is an acknowledgment that Panama and the other host countries truly appreciate what Children's Lifeline and they have done and are continuing to do.



Peru 2013



Peru Mission 2013



PERU *continued*

The outreach team continued its campaign to prevent Rheumatic Heart Disease by distributing cards written in Spanish to learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of Strep Throat and Rheumatic Fever in hopes of early treatment of Strep will decrease the number of young patients who need valve replacements because of this disease.

Additionally, at local schools, "Institucion Educativa," physical exams and assistance were given to all their children. Several of the children were identified as having significant cardiac murmurs, were given echocardiograms at no charge and referred the program's Cardiologist.

For this mission, the surgeon from the USA, Dr. Mariano Brizzio was joined by surgeon, Dr. Alejandro Crespo de Hubsch from Spain. The Physician Assistants were; Elaine Kletsman and Sheena Bhatt, from New Jersey and New York, respectively and the anesthesiologist was, Dr. Jeffrey Levine from New York

An extremely successful partnership and Mission, indeed.

VIETNAM

CardioStart, International with Dr. Aubyn Marath partnered with Children's Lifeline, International for a two week mission to Hue, Viet Nam, a city in northern Viet Nam on the bank of the Song Huong-Perfume River. This is the city where the beautiful and impressive Imperial Palace is located. Our teams were able to work in one of the biggest and best equipped hospitals in Viet Nam - Hue Central Hospital. In 2009, it was, in fact, nominated as a "super hospital." Although pediatric cardiology is being carried out at Hue Central Hospital, the local team under the direction of Professor Phu, requested more advanced training skills in specific areas, including: Pacemaker implantation, Cardiopulmonary resuscitation, Cardio logical planning and diagnosis, anesthesia techniques and safety issues, advanced nursing intensive care protocol as well as certain surgical techniques. These were much more than training sessions... seventeen cases were accomplished through the cooperative association of the two teams with the Vietnamese team taking the lead in most of the surgical scenarios, with guidance, as needed. "CardioStart gratefully acknowledges the generous support and contribution of time, financial and expertise from Children's Lifeline International."



Vietnam Mission 2013



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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 become self sustaining.

"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something, and I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do."

~Edward Everett Hale

CHILDREN'S LIFELINE INTERNATIONAL[®]

MISSION SCHEDULE

Second Half of 2013

COUNTRY	LEAD DOCTOR	HOME HOSPITAL / AFFILIATIONS	HOST HOSPITAL	DATE
Ecuador	Fabio Olarte	Frederick Memorial Hospital/ John Hopkins	The Enrique C. Sotomayer Gynecologic Hospital	Aug
Mexico	John Lozier	Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines	Hospital de la Amistad, Merida, Yucatan	Aug
Cambodia	Larry Nichter	Plasticos Foundation	Angkor Hospital for Children, Semi Rep, Cambodia	Sep
Mexico	John Lozier	Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines	Hospital de la Amistad, Merida, Yucatan	Sep
Sierra Leone	Kevin White	Surfside Pediatrics	Surfside Setup Clinic	Oct
Panama	Michael Womack	Oregon Health and Science University	Hospital de Nino de Panama	Oct
Ghana	Francis Fynn-Thompson	Children's Hospital of Boston	Komfo Anokye Hospital	Oct
Vietnam	Aubyn Marath	CardioStart International	CanTho Reginol Hospital	Nov
Ecuador	Brian Clark	Hershey Penn State Children's Hospital	Hospital de Ninos Roberto Gilbert Elizalde	Nov
Ecuador	John Myers	Hershey Penn State Children's Hospital	Hospital de Ninos Roberto Gilbert Elizalde	Nov
Haiti	Luis Pierre / Patrick Leblanc	Brooklyn Hospital Center	University Hospital of Haiti, Port-au-Prince	Dec
Myanmar	Marna Geisler	St. Johns Hospital of Santa Monica	S.A.V.E.	Dec



"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!

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