

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

-Unknown

Lifeline

WINTER 2009

*An open letter to the late
Walter H. Dunn
Our Director and Friend*

November 2009

Dear Walter:

It behooves me, who has known you for so many decades, to publicly thank you for all the lifetime contributions you made to our Lifeline program and Variety Clubs all over the world.

You have been compassionate, understanding, a good listener and a great help to all of us. Many of us must attribute the success of our charities to your helping hand which was always available to us. I do not remember any particular time when you did not proffer your generosity without hesitation. You were the home for the frustrated, the ear for those who needed to be heard, the comforting voice for those in search of solace, you were the anchor for many of us and the future for many others.

We have lost in you a very dear friend indeed and you shall be remembered by all of us with the greatest respect, admiration and affection.



Walter H. Dunn

Yours very sincerely,

Your friend,



Salah M. Hassanein

Chain of Hope Opens First Heart Center in Southern Egypt

Construction of the Aswan Heart Center is complete. Led by Sir Magdi Yacoub, the Lifeline / Chain of Hope team performed the first open heart surgery at the new medical center this year. The team provided heart surgeries to 16 infants and children. These were the first open heart surgeries in all of Southern Egypt! Aswan is one of the driest places in the world, surviving six-year increments without rainfall. Many of the homes are not even roofed. Dry hot weather leads to an increased risk of heart

disease. With its wonderful history and obvious need, Aswan was the perfect location to serve the population of Southern Egypt and neighboring countries.

Chain of Hope has been working in conjunction with VCL and other non-profit organizations for several years to make this new heart hospital a reality. The Chain of Hope donated nearly \$1 million worth of equipment to furnish the facility. The hospital will officially open with 24 beds and two heart surgeons. Noninvasive surgical techniques will be utilized when possible. The hospital's main purpose is to serve people with little or no access to this type of medical care. Importantly, the heart hospital will also be a state of the art clinic and research center. Research will focus on regenerative therapy and tissue engineering of the heart muscle. Not only will this heart center serve the people of Egypt, the most populous country in the Middle East and the second most populated country on the African continent, but will serve patients from the entire region.



SEAPC opens First Cath Lab in Tibet

The South East Asia Prayer Center (SEAPC) began the "Touching Hearts in Tibet" project in 2000. After nine years of hard work and dedication, the SEAPC was able to build the first Catheterization Lab in Tibet. The lab was funded in large part by the Chinese government, but was also aided by Lifeline and other non-profits worldwide. The lab is located at the People's Regional Hospital of T.A.R. in Lhasa. It is the first heart related medical facility to be built in all of Tibet. Now simple heart procedures can be performed on a daily basis within Tibet. Prior to the creation of the lab, Tibetan children had to travel to the Anzhen Hospital in Beijing, China for surgery.



Throughout the course of the project, the SEAPC provided intensive training to two Tibetan pediatricians, 1 echo radiologist, 1 catheterization lab specialist, and 2 pediatric ICU nurses. This small group is now the most specialized cardiac team in the country. What an outcome! What a success! This is sustainable development in action.



A thank you to Mr. Matthew Geppert of the SEAPC, and to the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, whose doctors have been instrumental in making this new Cath Lab a reality. Special thanks to Dr. Bradley Keller and Dr. William Neches, longtime Lifeline mission leaders to Tibet.

Sierra Leone

*Pacific Ocean Pediatrics /
Lighthouse Medical Missions*

April 2-11, 2009

Led by Santa Monica pediatrician Dr. Robert Hamilton, the Lighthouse Medical Missions / Lifeline team traveled once again to one of the world's poorest countries, Sierra Leone, providing clinical services to over 2,500 children and their families in the cities of Makeni and Kenema. In a nation where there is only one doctor for every 65,000 people, one can only imagine the need. Patients with bullets still encased in their skin from the civil war swarmed the clinic; others with severe skin disease due to a lack of safe drinking water, with protruding ulcers, severe anemia, malnourishment, deformities due to exposure to fire and toxic spills, lacerations, dysentery, Malaria, worms... Many children die from just the common cold.



The Los Angeles team has been traveling to Sierra Leone for 7 years. This year, the team was invited by Sierra Leone's President Koroma, who personally met

with Dr. Hamilton to commend the team's work. But, this was not the only special recognition received - the entire mission was documented by renowned Entertainment Tonight journalist Mark Steines, who was accompanied by actress Patricia Heaton. Heaton celebrated the dedication of a school in Kenema, which she offered as the headquarters for the clinical team.

Mexico

*Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines /
AA Miles for Kids in Need*

April, June, July, August & September 2009

For more than ten years the Mercy group has provided heart surgery to children from the Yucatan. This year, Lifeline brought 28 children to the United States for surgery, despite the H1N1 Flu epidemic, which presented many obstacles and delayed several of the trips.

Panama

*Doernbecher Children's Hospital /
Oregon Health and Science University*

March 21-28, 2009 & August 1-15, 2009

Dr. Michael S. Womack, Fellow of the American College of Cardiology and Assistant Clinical Professor at Oregon Health and Science University has been traveling to the Hospital del Niño de Panama for 8 years. During his most recent mission, he performed a total of 32 pediatric cardiac interventions and one adult cardiac intervention. Dr. Womack was accompanied by Dr. Sheree Lynch from Honduras, who was trained by Dr. Womack in echogram techniques. She returned to Honduras with many new skills. Additionally, local cardiologists from Panama assisted in all of the procedures.

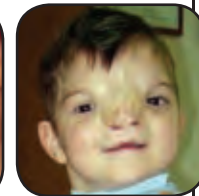


Ukraine

*Tri-City Medical Center /
Smiles International Foundation*

May 13-24, 2009

In conjunction with Lifeline, Dr. Jeffrey Moses of Smiles International Foundation, San Diego has been leading missions to the Mechnikov Central Regional Hospital in the Ukraine since 2007. During their most recent mission, over 100 orphans



were consulted and screened as potential corrective surgery candidates. Of them, 21 children were chosen for immediate surgery. Fifty-two procedures were performed on the 21 children over the course of one week! The child in the photo is Maxim. Maxim was introduced to the group in 2007. He was the most difficult case the team had ever seen. After three years of surgeries, Maxim can now smile and is beginning to look like his friends! Next year the team will bring Maxim's eyes closer together. In a few more years evidence of Maxim's deformity will be

completely unnoticeable. Our sincere thanks go to Dr. Pushkar Mehra of Boston University who donated an advanced rigid bone fixation plating system worth \$22,000. Boston University will pick up and continue the good work of the Lifeline / Smiles team in the coming years.

Haiti
The Brooklyn Hospital Center
May 11-14, 2009

After stuffing their suitcases with medical supplies and equipment, Dr. Patrick Leblanc and Dr. Louisdon Pierre set off for Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. The average Haitian earns \$3.50 per day and has little access to adequate healthcare. Conducting 20 hours of bedside rounds,



training of the nurses and the residents, discussions, care plans and adaptive knowledge workshops, the two neonatologists certainly made an impact. Among Lifeline's donations was one Angiocath machine which provides images of the heart, as well as a one year inventory of basic medical supplies, such as tape, needles, tubes and alcohol prep pads.

Ecuador
Frederick Memorial Hospital /
Johns Hopkins Medical Center /
Georgetown University
April 13-20, 2009 & Sep 26-Oct 3, 2009

Led by Dr. Fabio Olarte, the neonatal team performed their seventh and eighth missions to the Enrique C. Sotomayor Maternity Hospital and the Roberto Gilbert Children's Hospital in Guayaquil, Ecuador. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Kabir Abubakar of Georgetown University Children's Hospital has joined the mission. Dr. Abubakar lectured local



Disaster
St. Jude Hospital
Project Cure / Sustainable

On September 8, 2009, St. Jude Hospital on the island of St. Lucia. St. Jude is the only government run General Hospital on the island. When the private health care system were cared for at St. Jude Hospital, the equipment was incinerated. A temporary emergency center was set up in a stadium. Neighboring hospitals and clinics loaned equipment to St. Jude without permanent essentials, it was virtually impossible to perform surgery. For example there was only one partially working anesthesia machine. The Children's Lifeline donated a permanent anesthesia machine. The mission ended in November.

A thank you to Mr. Dale Gray at Sustainable Outreach Solutions and the Rotary Club for their efforts in aiding the reconstruction of St. Jude Hospital worth of equipment.

physicians on Noninvasive Ventilation Techniques and Pulmonary Hypertension. Dr. Olarte also conducted lectures on Pulmonary Hypotension and Neonatal Shock. Between the two site visits in April and September, the team treated and addressed the cases of over 100 newborns, most of which were in the High Risk Follow-up Clinics. Particular complications included Diaphragmatic Hernias, Giant and Subglotic Hemangioma, Thrombosis, Respiratory Distress and Chronic Lung Disease. Every year the team returns to donate their time, expertise and knowledge to the Guayaquil hospitals.

Mozambique
Chain of Hope, London
June 23-30, 2009

Conducted by Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub, Chain of Hope and Lifeline performed their 12th mission to the Maputo Heart Institute of Mozambique this year. The team provided heart surgery to 21 patients, two of whom traveled from Angola and Malawi. This is no easy trek, requiring days of land travel.



Response

ital, St. Lucia

able Outreach Solutions

St. Lucia was completely destroyed due to a devastating fire. St.

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a (SOS), Project Cure, Plasticos Foundation, and the Gros Islet
Jude. Together the organizations have donated over \$150,000

The majority of Mozambique's population lives below the poverty line. The average income is around \$2.50 a day. Fortunately, most citizens live within 10 Kilometers of a health center and care is government funded. Unfortunately, the access and affordability is not always utilized. This is because traditional healing still plays a large role in Mozambique. Traditional Healers and Witch Doctors are the most common "physicians" one sees in time of sickness and emergency. While traditional healers do provide remedies for certain ailments, they are not trained physicians. There is an effort among visiting international medical teams to encourage modern medical practices.

China

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

June 11-15, 2009

Variety Children's Lifeline undertook its first assessment mission to China to explore the possibility of aiding children with Cerebral Palsy and other similar disabilities. Dr. Heakyung Kim of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia has been leading missions with Lifeline since 2006. Dr. Kim uses Botox and a phenol treatment in disabled children to help with spasticity management. Dr. Kim has already secured a

large donation of Botox to be shipped from the United States. In 2010 Lifeline hopes to conduct a mission to the Shanghai Children's Hospital, as well as Beijing University to bring Dr. Kim's knowledge to bear.

Armenia

Armenian Missionary Association of America

July 30 - August 9, 2009

Lifeline performed its first mission to Armenia this year! Longtime Lifeline volunteer Dr. Albert Phillips, Clinical Professor of the University of Southern California School of Medicine, has yearned for years to help the families of his origin country, Armenia. The team set off for Spitak and Stepanavan, both northern rural impoverished cities, and both victims of the 1988 earthquake. Neither city has recovered in full. Both have very little access to healthcare. Among the main ailments the team treated were diabetes and hypertension. 600 patients were seen in all, including 146 children, who were treated by Lifeline Pediatrician Dr. Robert Hamilton. Great teamwork!



Gambia

*Pacific Ocean Pediatrics /
Lighthouse Medical Mission Teams*

October 7-16, 2009

The Gambia is the smallest country in Africa, yet its need is tremendously great. There is only one doctor for every 9,000 people. The average income is \$3.50 a day. The Lighthouse team, led by Dr. Robert Hamilton, conducted their first mission to the Gambia in 1998. They returned to the Gambia in 2006, 2007 and again in 2009 through



the support of Variety Children's Lifeline. The team set up a temporary clinic at a preschool in Tanjeh. This was their hospital for ten days, where more than 800 children were given medical care for the first time. The young girl in the photo has a 105.3 degree fever due to a Malaria infection. Skin diseases such as scabies, dermatitis, lesions, cysts, postular rashes, juvenile plantardermatosis, larva migrans, and even acute sarcoma were all found to be common in the Gambia. Unrepaired umbilical hernias were so frequent that they were accepted as the norm. One baby could not nurse because he had become 'tongue tied' due to dehydration. A simple cut was given and the child was back to feeding the next day. The baby would have died had this simple procedure not been performed. Basic procedures and medications are life saving in the Gambia.

*Ghana
Children's Hospital Boston /
Harvard Medical School*

October 10-25, 2009

Led by Dr. Francis Fynn-Thompson, Pediatric Cardiologist at the Children's Hospital Boston and native Ghanaian, the Lifeline / Children's team operated on 14

patients. This was the most patients in one Ghana mission yet! To date the team has provided open heart surgeries to 44 children in Ghana and evaluated hundreds more. Each year the team faces challenges, among them are electrical shortages, no air conditioning, extreme

poverty, lack of sanitation, lack of drinking water, and a shortage of supplies (including oxygen). The average Ghanaian makes \$6.50 a day. This is more than in many African countries, but still puts the country high on the international poverty scale. Hypertension, or high blood pressure, is the number one cause of death in Ghana. Hypertension often leads to stroke, heart failure and heart attacks. Heart surgery is very expensive, and in a country where there are very few heart surgeons it is near impossible to find treatment for such diseases. Some children wait years to be helped by the Boston team.



Mexico

*Tri-City Medical Center, CA /
Smiles International Foundation*

July 9-12, 2009 & November 13-15, 2009

Dr. Moses has conducted Lifeline missions to Tecate, Mexico since 2005. Lifeline's partner, the Rotary Club of Tecate, identified 58 children for possible surgery this year. Twenty-five of these children received immediate reconstructive surgery. In total, 68 procedures were performed on these 25 children.



The combined value of these surgeries, if they were to be performed in the United States, would cost nearly \$150,000! Lifeline and Smiles donate all services and incur all costs for the patients.

Vietnam

*Oregon Health & Science University /
CardioStart International*

October 31-November 14, 2009

The Lifeline / CardioStart team undertook their first mission to Vietnam this year. Led by Dr. Aubyn Marath, 10 children and 5 adults received successful open heart surgery. For the first time in the history of Vietnam, a homograft valve was placed in the heart of a 21-year old young man at the Viet Duc Hospital by local surgeons and the CardioStart / Lifeline team. A thank you to CryoLife of Kennesaw, GA, USA who generously donated 2 pulmonary homograft



valves from human donors in the US to make these transplants a reality. One month prior to the mission, Lifeline and other organizations donated a 20 ft. container of medical supplies to the Viet Duc Hospital.

2009 Highlights

- VCL expects to help 6,000 children by the end of 2009.
- VCL has 35 missions, or One Mission Every 10 Days in 2009.
- VCL added two new countries to its list in 2009: Laos and Armenia.

60 Countries Visited Since 1982...

Armenia	Kenya
Barbados	Laos
Bolivia	Liberia
Burundi	Madagascar
Cambodia	Mauritius
Chile	Mexico
China	Morocco
Columbia	Mozambique
Congo, Republic of	Myanmar
Costa Rica	Nepal
Dominican Republic	Nicaragua
East Timor	Nigeria
Ecuador	Palestine
Egypt	Panama
Ethiopia	Papua New Guinea
Eritrea	Peru
Fiji	Russia
Gambia	Rwanda
Ghana	Sierra Leone
Grenada	Somalia
Guatemala	Sri Lanka
Guyana	St. Lucia
Haiti	Tanzania
Honduras	Tibet
India	Tonga
Indonesia	Trinidad & Tobago
Iraq	Ukraine
Israel	Venezuela
Jamaica	Vietnam
Jordan	Zambia

VCL Donates Shipping For 2 EKG Machines and 1 Echo Machine, Angkor Hospital for Children, Cambodia

The medical team from Rady Children's Hospital and the University of California, San Diego will conduct their fourth cardiac mission to the Angkor Hospital for Children in December. This year the team received a gracious donation of 2 Electrocardiography (EKG) machines and 1 Portable Echocardiogram machine from the Children's Heart Center, Las Vegas. Lifeline readily paid for the shipping of these much needed devices. They arrived safely and await the team's arrival in Cambodia.



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2009 Mission Schedule

Country	Home Hospital / Organization	Host Hospital	Discipline	Doctor	Date
Laos	Plasticos Foundation	Mittadhab Hospital	Cranio-Maxillofacial	Larry Nichter	Jan-09
Ethiopia	The Chain of Hope	Tikur Anbessa Black Lion University Hospital	Pediatric Cardiac	Sir Magdi Yacoub	Jan-09
Panama	Doernbecher Children's Hospital	Hospital del Niño, Panama City	Pediatric Cardiac	Seshadri Balaji	Jan-09
Dom. Rep.	Children's Hospital of Michigan	CEDIMAT	Pediatric Cardiac	Daniel Turner	Jan-09
Dom. Rep.	Children's Hospital of Michigan	CEDIMAT	Pediatric Cardiac	Robert Ross	Feb-09
Panama	Doernbecher Children's Hospital	Hospital del Niño de Panama	Pediatric Cardiac	Michael Womack	Mar-09
Sierra Leone	Pacific Ocean Pediatrics / Lighthouse	Temporary Clinic / The Door Church	Clinical	Robert Hamilton	Apr-09
Sierra Leone	Surfside Pediatrics / Lighthouse	Temporary Clinic / The Door Church	Clinical	Kevin White	Apr-09
Egypt	The Chain of Hope	Abu Eresh Children's Hospital	Pediatric Cardiac	Sir Magdi Yacoub	Apr-09
Mexico	Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines	Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines	Pediatric Cardiac	Thomas Becker	Apr-09
Ecuador	Frederick Memorial / Johns Hopkins	Hospital Gineco-Obstetrico Enrique Sotomayor	Neonatal	Fabio Olarte	Apr-09
Haiti	Brooklyn Hospital	General Hospital	Neonatal	Patrick Leblanc	May-09
Ukraine	Smiles International Foundation	Mechnikov Central Regional Hospital	Cranio-Maxillofacial	Jeffrey Moses	May-09
Tibet/China	Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh / SEAPC	Peoples Regional Hospital of Lhasa	Clinical & Cardiac	Bradley Keller	May-09
Mexico	Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines	Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines	Pediatric Cardiac	Thomas Becker	May-09
China	The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia	Peking University, Beijing	Rehabilitative Medicine	Heakyung Kim	May-09
Mozambique	Chain of Hope, London / Lifeline	Maputo Heart Institute	Pediatric Cardiac	Sir Magdi Yacoub	Jun-09
Mexico	Smiles International Foundation	Red Cross Hospital, Tecate	Cranio-Maxillofacial	Jeffrey Moses	Jul-09
Mexico	Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines	Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines	Pediatric Cardiac	Thomas Becker	Jul-09
Armenia	Armenian Missionary Assoc. of America	AMAA Social Service Center, Stepanavan	Clinical	Albert Phillips	Jul-09
Mexico	Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines	Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines	Pediatric Cardiac	Thomas Becker	Jul-09
Panama	Doernbecher Children's Hospital	Hospital del Niño de Panama	Pediatric Cardiac	Michael Womack	Aug-09
Mexico	Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines	Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines	Pediatric Cardiac	Thomas Becker	Aug-09
Mexico	Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines	Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines	Pediatric Cardiac	Thomas Becker	Sep-09
Ecuador	Frederick Memorial / Johns Hopkins	Hospital Gineco-Obstetrico Enrique Sotomayor	Neonatal	Fabio Olarte	Sep-09
Gambia	Pacific Ocean Pediatrics / Lighthouse	Door Church, Banjul	Clinical	Robert Hamilton	Oct-09
Ghana	Children's Hospital Boston	Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital	Pediatric Cardiac	Francis Fynn-Thompson	Oct-09
Mexico	Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines	Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines	Pediatric Cardiac	Thomas Becker	Oct-09
Vietnam	Oregon Health and Science University	Viet Duc Hospital, Hanoi	Pediatric Cardiac	Aubyn Marath	Oct-09
Nepal	The Brooklyn Hospital Center	Child Health Institute	Pediatric Cardiac	Patrick Leblanc	Oct-09
Ecuador	Hershey Penn State Children's Hospital	Hospital de Niños Roberto Gilbert Elizalde	Pediatric Cardiac	John Myers	Nov-09
Mexico	Smiles International Foundation	Hospital de Salud en Cielo Azul, Tecate	Cranio-Maxillofacial	Jeffrey Moses	Nov-09
Ecuador	Hershey Penn State Children's Hospital	Hospital de Niños Roberto Gilbert Elizalde	Pediatric Cardiac	Brian Clark	Nov-09
Myanmar	Strategic Partners Among Nations	Pathein Regional Facility	Clinical	Marna Geisler	Nov-09
Cambodia	Rady Children's Hospital / UCSD	Angkor Hospital for Children	Pediatric Cardiac	Paul Grossfeld	Dec-09

MISSION STATEMENT
Variety Children's Lifeline provides medical assistance to underprivileged children in developing countries, primarily in the discipline of pediatric cardiac surgery, and also in the areas of reconstructive surgery, neonatal care, rehabilitation, brain and spine surgery and clinical care.



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THANK YOU TO AMERICAN AIRLINES

Lifeline wishes to thank American Airlines for their support through the Miles for Kids in Need program, which provides air travel for children requiring surgery. We ask that Lifeline members show favor to American Airlines when traveling.

Thank you to Vicky Voll at Travel Leaders / Voll Travel Management for over 25 years of unwavering and dedicated service.

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