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Fall 2011 Issue

A Letter from the President...

Dear Friends;

As we were putting this edition of our newsletter together, I realized that it is a turning point for Children's Lifeline as it represents the Past, the Present, and the Future for us.

The Past has been an incredible journey with twenty eight years as Variety Children's Lifeline during which time we helped 55,000 children and their families, saving lives and training thousands of doctors in specialized medical areas. VCL was the beginning of the journey and now the next phase begins for Children's Lifeline.

The Present confronts us with a changing world and an international community facing overpopulation, water shortages and contamination, lack of medical care, food and nutrition shortages, homelessness, and unemployment. How we respond to these issues and how we can continue to make an impact is our Future.

Children's Lifeline Future includes currently adding a new prominent board member. Jeffrey Mann who, in working with our accomplished current board members, will bring us forward for an even more dynamic impact worldwide.

Our steps for the Future are to widen the scope of Lifeline. We realize that variety of disciplines increases as our arc of operation widens with the inclusion of additional countries in plight and the number of candidates needing increased help. This, of necessity, requires additional funds, manpower, infrastructure and support in every way: equipment, medical supplies, staff, and volunteers. The possible inclusion of other countries to spearhead our objectives may be another course to consider.

I am pleased to inform you that, on the one hand, we are planning to broaden the scope of our missions by adding areas that will not substantially increase overhead but will increase the scope of our services. One effort will be led by Dr. Ulrika Green of UCSD to place cardiac inserts in patients when needed. Dr. Green will be the guiding force for the implementation of this segment.

On the other hand, we are planning to include the installation of water systems, if needed, while we are carrying out our medical missions. As always, we welcome your input and support and how you have helped us accomplish all that we have done and to help us move forward.

All the best,

Salah Hassanein

*To the world you may be one person but to
one person you may be the world...*

Heather Cortez

Our 2010 - 2011 Lifeline Mission Highlights



It was a challenge trying to get the 15 out of 19 children together.



Dr. Paul & Susan Grossfeld with the Angkor doctors, mother and patient.

“The Cambodia Story” Children’s Lifeline

Rady Children’s Hospital / University California of San Diego

Dr. Paul Grossfeld and his wife, Susan, were going on vacation to Thailand in 2005. Susan had always wanted to see the temples in Cambodia and wanted to surprise her husband with the side trip. She started researching and came upon the name of a hospital not far from the temples – the Angkor Hospital for Children which holds 50 beds. After contacting them, she arranged for a surprise visit for her and her husband. Susan told Paul she had a side trip planned and when he asked what he should take, she replied a stethoscope.

That visit began an annual trip for the Grossfelds and their team. With 2 pediatricians at Angkor who did not have cardiac training, and a list of 400 children who needed help, the Grossfelds returned the following year with a team to perform PDA surgery. In the process of 5 years of trips, the doctors at Angkor have been trained in PDA surgery and have performed over 200 lifesaving surgeries themselves since 2009. In all, 99 children have been helped directly and there is always a list of waiting patients. Previously, the fatality rate was 10% with no option for any lifesaving surgery.

In January of 2011, the team concentrated on over 300 children identified with tetralogy of Fallot which is a congenital heart defect resulting in low oxygenization of blood. This condition causes a blue appearance and can include a heart murmur, difficulty in feeding, failure to thrive, and low energy. While the lack of cardiopulmonary bypass equipment prevents them from performing a definitive repair, a palliative shunt inserted improves the quality of life and life expectancy.

A particularly touching story stood out this year and highlights the importance of performing the shunt surgery for tetralogy of Fallot. A young 13 year old female patient with this condition could only walk 5 meters without tiring so she had to stop going to school. She could not walk or bike the distance. She and her family were summoned by the doctor at the hospital and were told, “You are not one of my highest priorities for surgery with the American doctors but I believe very strongly that girls in Cambodia should get an education. I want you to promise me that if you are selected for surgery that you will go back to school.” She and her family promised and she was selected. On January 25th, she had the surgery with outstanding results. She returned to school.



Blue Hand—Children with Heart Defects



Kong Sokunkanha rests comfortably the morning after her surgery.



September - Ecuador: Frederick Memorial Hospital / John Hopkins University Hospital

Dr. Fabio Olarte from Frederick Memorial Hospital in Maryland led the neonatology mission to Guayaquil Ecuador visiting a maternity hospital and a children's hospital. The team included Dr. Marilee Allen, Dr. Estelle Gauda, and Dr. Cristofal from Johns Hopkins University Hospital along with 4 NICU nurses: Pamela Bell of Lilyana Valdivia-Hursey, Janice Beekman of Frederick Memorial Hospital, Michele Drapeau of Holy Cross Hospital in Maryland, and Cristian Olarte as the interpreter. The goal was of mutual educational enrichment of physicians and nurses to improve neonatal care of high risk infants. The team made rounds and discussed about 50 cases of infants in the intensive care units. The nurses also demonstrated workshops in nursing skills and were part of lectures during the Neonatology Day at 6th International Congress with attendance over 200.



September - Ukraine: Smiles International Foundation / Tri-City Medical Center

In September of 2010 Smiles International and Dr. Jeffrey Moses returned to the Ukraine and the town of Dnepropetrovsk for the mission's 8th biannual trip. Over 24 under-privileged and orphaned children were consulted and surgical treatment was planned for 12 with a total of 28 procedures performed. Previously, in 2007 and 2008 Children's Lifeline had donated equipment which used to help perform cranio-maxillofacial procedures which was put into use on the return of the doctors to Mech-

nikov Medical Center. Additional equipment was donated by Boston University for this mission by Dr. Pushkar Mehra for further reconstructive surgeries. The value of this mission in surgical procedures performed included anesthesia sessions and the value of donated equipment was approximately \$95,000 in U.S. dollars.

October - Sierra Leone: Lighthouse Medical Missions

Dr. Robert Hamilton of Pacific Ocean Pediatrics and Lighthouse Medical Ministries journeyed for their 2nd time in 2010 to Lungi, Sierra Leone to conduct a clinical mission. In this region, most children never see a doctor except when doctors and other medical personnel conduct missions here. This is an area of Africa largely underserved by trained medical personnel. While there, they treated 580 children in just 5 days for various maladies. The majority of cases are caused from the water they drink along with very common illnesses, such as colds and respiratory infections and pneumonia.

October - Ghana: Children's Hospital Boston / Harvard Medical School

Dr. Francis Fynn-Thompson of the Children's Hospital of Boston and Harvard Medical School led a pediatric cardiac mission to Ghana in October of 2010. He and Dr. Ravi Thiagavajan were able to operate on 19 children in just 6 days. Unfortunately, they were not able to help everyone they evaluate. Many families journeyed days and miles for the chance to have their children seen by a specialist. We hope to be able to continue this mission as it is clearly evident that further mission work is needed in this part of the world.



November - Ecuador: Penn State Children's Hospital

Dr. John Myers and Dr. Brian Clark of the Penn State Children's Hospital returned to Guayaquil, Ecuador and the Hospital de Nino's in November to conduct back to back

pediatric cardiology missions. The first week was spent performing evaluations and catheter procedures and the second week was to perform any surgeries needed. They evaluated 144 children and performed over 200 echocardiograms. Twenty eight children, varying in ages from 1 month of age to age 16, received open heart surgery. The total number of children that were managed during this mission was 229. One of the goals of this mission has always been to continue to teach and train and once again the volunteers absorbed a vast amount of knowledge in a short amount of time. Some of the latest procedures and techniques for treating pediatric heart disease and in post operative care were presented. A truly successful mission and one we hope to continue.



December - India: Smiles International Foundation / Tri-City Medical Center

Children's Lifeline continued its partnership with Dr. Jeffrey Moses of Smiles International in December of 2010 and went to the Andhra Pradesh state of India and the small village of Mori Podu. At the Subamma Christian Hospital they consulted 21 patients and, of those, 16 received surgical treatment for severe facial deformities. A total of 32 craniofacial surgical procedures were performed for a total value of over \$80,000 in U.S. dollars. An additional \$25,000 value was also given to this impoverished area in the form of medical supplies and equipment along with education. While there, the doctors conducted over 20 hours of accredited surgical training to 11 of the hospital's surgical specialists and staff in "Cleft and Craniofacial Surgical Technique, Barrier Infection Control Techniques, Mission Surgical Team Management and Field Anesthesia Techniques".

"There is no happiness in having or in getting, but only in giving"

Unknown

February Dominican Republic: Children's Hospital of Michigan

Dr. Robert Ross and Dr. Daniel Turner returned to the Dominican Republic for their 8th mission. They consulted on 33 cases and performed 11 catheter procedures and operated on 8 patients. As with most of our missions, the emphasis was on teaching and imparting as much knowledge to the medical teams in the host country. This mission proved that and the plan is for the cardiac teams to continue to perform procedures they are most comfortable handling. This has enabled them to have an almost 100% success rate and to leave the more complicated cases to the visiting mission team. Drs. Ross and Turner are hopeful that in time all the units of the hospital will be able to handle more complex cases and work as a team to be self sustaining and self sufficient.



April - West Africa #1: Lighthouse Medical Missions

Dr. Robert Hamilton of Pacific Ocean Pediatrics, in conjunction with CLI, traveled to 3 West African nations to bring clinical care to some truly underserved regions. In Benin they treated approximately 400 adults and 350 children; in Burkina Faso, 730 adults and 520 children; and in Sierra Leone they treated over 800 adults and 600 children. They gave basic medical and clinical care to many who had never seen a doctor or who have only had access to very limited health-care. They treated everything from skin rashes, colds and infections to water borne diseases. Our hope in future missions is to be able to help bring potable water to these regions to help eradicate some of these conditions altogether through our Water for Africa project.

"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



April - West Africa #2: Lighthouse Medical Missions

Dr. Robert Hamilton of Pacific Ocean Pediatrics and Dr. Kevin White of Surfside Pediatrics traveled back to 3 West African countries to provide clinical care to these severely underserved regions. They established makeshift clinics in Ougadougou, Burkina Faso, Conotonou, Benin and Freetown, Sierra Leone. While there, they treated approximately 1400 children in these various regions and about 1500 adults as well. They treated a myriad of maladies and water borne diseases and they plan on traveling again to this region of Africa as the need is so great for basic clinical care. It is truly amazing that within a two week period they were able to bring relief and positively affect so many lives.



July- Yucatan: Mercy Medical / American Airlines

In 2011, we have planned with Mercy Medical Center and Dr. Stephen Mooradian along with American Airlines to bring 25 children (5 of the children are featured below) to Des Moines, Iowa to receive life saving cardiac procedures to correct genital defects. Doctors from Mercy travel to the Yucatan and evaluate children from the area using makeshift clinics and coordinate their care so that the children are able to travel to the United States for their surgery. Dr. Becker and staff from Mercy Hospital generously donate all their healthcare services, along with lodging and food for the child's guardian. Sometimes the child's stay can be as long as 3 weeks before they are able to return home.



September 2010 - August 2011

Number of Children Treated	6027
Total Number of Missions	23
Total Number of Volunteers	260
Number of Lead Doctors	17
Number of Medical Institutions Represented	14