

PEDIATRIC PLASTIC SURGERIES

Lifeline has teamed up with Plásticos Foundation of Huntington Beach, California, to send teams of plastic surgeons to Ecuador and Guatemala. The goal of these missions is to correct birth defects, congenital malformations and traumatic disfigurements in indigent children. Many of these children have lived in shame, embarrassed of their disfigurements, but with corrective surgery they should be able to live more normal functioning lives.

Lifeline has agreed to initially finance three missions to emanate from Hoag Hospital in Newport Beach and to be headed by Dr. Larry Nichter, President and CEO of Plásticos Foundation. The first trip to Ecuador is scheduled for August 2006.



Indian father with son after successful heart surgery.

HOPE FOR HEARTS IN INDIA

By Lauren Ina, Lifeline Volunteer from NCB

Every year, more than 10,000 Indian children with heart disease fall through the cracks in Delhi. Heart disease goes untreated and, in most cases, undiagnosed because there are very few doctors and very few places with subspecialties in pediatric cardiology, especially for those families at the lowest strata of society.

In November 2005, Dr. Devyani Chowdhury, a pediatric cardiologist, led a team from Schneider Children's Hospital, NY, on a second Lifeline mission to St. Stephen's Hospital in Delhi, India.

"What we see here is neglected and poorly managed advanced congenital heart disease," said Dr. Sheel Vatsia, a Lifeline surgeon who operated on the children at St. Stephen's Hospital. "As a result, the children are very sick and many of them if not treated at this point could have morbidity and mortality in the future."

Currently, the waiting list for open heart surgery is five years, the waiting list just for an exam is eight months. Most newborns born with heart disease don't even get diagnosed.

"Physicians in India are excellent, but when it comes to super specialized fields like pediatric cardiology and open heart surgery, the resources are very limited," said Dr. Dipak Kholwadwala, Lifeline team member and interventional cardiologist.

The children entered the hospital dirty, dusty and tired. Several families saw a notice in the newspaper that the Lifeline doctors were coming to Delhi and traveled over 1,000 miles by train just for a chance to have their child examined. Many families struggle just to scrape together five rupees for basic needs. For the sake of comparison, 45 rupees equals one dollar. The cost of paying for a heart surgery in India at a private hospital would be well over \$3,000 US dollars.

A total of 121 cases were completed: 14 surgeries, 8 catheterizations, 41 echocardiograms and 80 evaluations. In March 2005, the first mission completed 56 cases: 14 surgeries, 17 catheterizations, 56 echocardiograms and 25 evaluations.

"When you see these parents, you know that this is a once in a lifetime chance for them. If their children are not [cared for] they're going to die. That's pretty much what it is," said Dr. Chowdhury.

THANK YOU FROM A LIFELINE SURGERY RECIPIENT

Lifeline recently received an unexpected and very inspiring email from one of our former patients. David Hayford, of Ghana, West Africa, received pediatric cardiac surgery through Variety Children's Lifeline in 1992 at the Children's Hospital at Penn State Hershey Medical Center. He was 12 years old at the time and needed surgery to repair his heart valves which had become damaged as a result of rheumatic fever. The surgery was performed by a team of doctors headed by Dr. John Myers who continues to be a Lifeline doctor and currently heads our pediatric cardiac missions to Ecuador.

David is anxious to help the poor children in Ghana who need heart surgery and would like them to benefit from Lifeline as he did. Coincidentally, Lifeline was recently contacted by a Children's Hospital Boston pediatric cardiac surgeon, Dr. Francis Fynn-Thompson, who is interested in leading a Lifeline mission to his native country, Ghana. Lifeline is presently doing the preliminary planning for a Lifeline / Children's Hospital Boston pediatric cardiac surgical mission to Ghana.

"I owe my life to bringing back the smiles on the sick ones at the cardio-unit, a dream that will come to reality very soon, an ambition that will flourish because [Lifeline] contributed in this wonderful miracle in my life." - David Hayford

PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGICAL MISSIONS

The Lifeline/University of California, San Diego (UCSD) Neurosurgical Missions now encompass 3 countries: La Paz, Bolivia; Lima, Peru; and Kiev, Ukraine.

The second Lima, Peru, Mission was completed November 2005, led by Dr. Michael Levy at the Maria Auxiliadora Hospital.

The La Paz, Bolivia, Mission, completed in December 2005, led by Dr. Peter Nakaji from Barrow Neurological Institute, evaluated 16 children and performed six operations as well as provided 2 lectures to host physicians and surgeons at the Instituto de Salud de los Niños.

On May 17, 2006, the Lifeline/UCSD Mission, led by Dr. Michael Levy, departed for the inaugural Kiev mission. These surgeries will take place at the Institute of Neurosurgery in Kiev, the referral center for all pediatric medicine and surgery within Ukraine. The Chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery for the Ukraine Ministry of Public Health and all of Ukraine is Professor Juri Orlov who practices at the Institute of Neurosurgery in Kiev and leads a department of 6 pediatric neurosurgeons. Dr. Joseph McCarthy and Dr. Court Cutting of New York University Medical Center have agreed to lead the craniofacial Lifeline mission to Kiev, slated for the fall of 2006.

PEDIATRIC CRANIOFACIAL MISSIONS

Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine - Due to the diligence of Lifeline friend and Ukraine missionary, Carolyn McMurtry, 20 orphaned children will receive their needed craniofacial surgery at the Dnepropetrovsk Regional Clinical Hospital. In May 2006, the Lifeline mission team, led by Dr. Jeffery Moses of the Pacific Clinical Research Foundation, traveled to Dnepropetrovsk. We are awaiting the full report of this mission.

TIBET - BEIJING 2006

May marks the medical screening phase for congenital heart disease in children of Na Qu and Amodo, Tibet, followed by July surgeries in Beijing, another screening team will travel to Tibet in August, followed by the surgical team in October. Lifeline continues to partner with SEAPC on this project.

MISSION STATEMENT

Variety Children's Lifeline provides medical and surgical assistance to underprivileged children in developing countries, primarily in pediatric cardiac surgery and newborn intensive care. Multidisciplinary voluntary missions and/or partnerships with local hospitals are the key to our goal for these countries to achieve independence in their ability to provide appropriate medical care to their children. Variety Children's Lifeline brings children requiring highly technical care to appropriate facilities in the United States or elsewhere.

LIFELINE CORRESPONDENT HOSPITALS

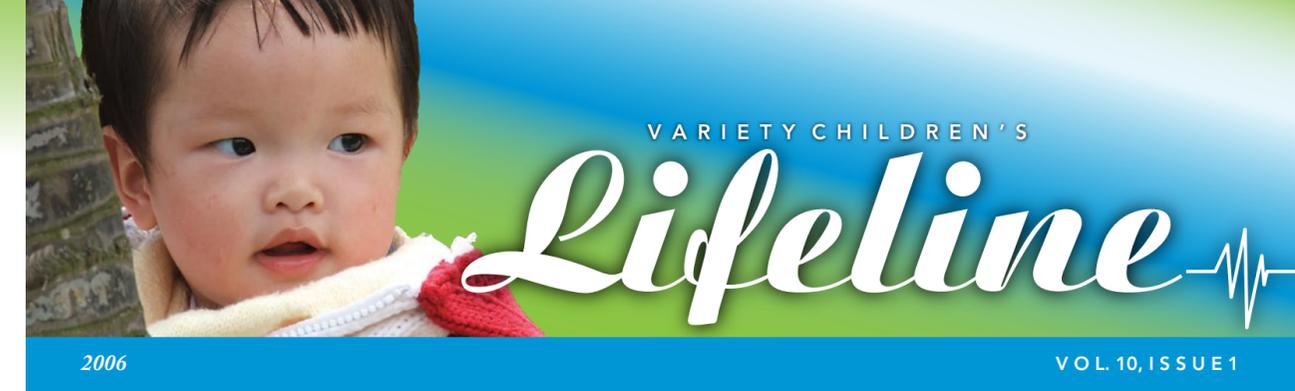
CORE HOSPITAL / UNIVERSITY	CORRESPONDENT COUNTRY / HOSPITAL
Asociacion Del Corazon Infantil	Guatemala, S.A.
Brooklyn Medical Center	General Hospital, Port au Prince, Haiti
Children's Hospital of Michigan (Detroit)	Clinica Corazones Unidos, Dominican Republic
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (Co-sponsored with SEAPC)	Peoples Hospital, Lhasa, Tibet
Corazon A Corazon Hospital	Anzhen Hospital, Beijing, China
Doernbecher's Children's Hospital (Portland)	Bucaramanga, Colombia
Duke University Medical Center (Raleigh)	Hospital del Niño, Panama
The E. Wolfson Medical Center, Israel Save a Child's Heart (Co-sponsored with Variety, Israel)	Heodra Hospital Escuela, Nicaragua
Pacific Clinical Research Foundation	Jordan, Ethiopia, China, Iraq, Egypt, Somalia, Palestinian Authority, Nigeria, Congo, Eritrea
Imperial College of Science, London (Co-sponsored with Chain of Hope, London)	Zanzibar, Russia, Ghana, Sri Lanka, Kenya
Mercy Hospital (San Diego)	Mozambique, Jamaica
Mercy Medical Center (Des Moines)	Dnepropetrovsk Regional Clinical Hospital
North Shore University Hospital, NY (Cornell)	Egypt, Morocco, Mauritius,
Schneider Children's Hospital, NY	Mozambique, Jamaica
Penn State Hershey Medical Center	Hospital O'Horan, Yucatan, Mexico
Penn State Hershey Medical Center	Instituto Del Corazon, Colombia
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Barbados	Caribbean, Jamaica, Trinidad, Guyana
University of California San Diego	St. Stephen's Hospital, New Delhi, India
University of California San Diego	Hospital Pediatrico, Ecuador
University of California San Diego	Hospital Gineco-Obstetrico & Children's Hospital, Guayaquil, Ecuador
University of California San Diego	Caribbean, St. Lucia, Guyana
University of California San Diego	Hospital Roberto del Rio, Santiago, Chile
University of California San Diego	Maria Auxiliadora Hospital, Lima, Peru
UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center	Hospital del Niño, La Paz, Bolivia
	Institute of Neurosurgery, Kiev, Ukraine
	Worcester, Massachusetts

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2006 SIR JAMES CARRERAS AWARD RECIPIENT
PROFESSOR SIR MAGDI YACOB

Sir Magdi Yacoub was born on November 16, 1935, in Egypt and studied medicine at Cairo University. In 1962, he moved to England and took the post of Surgical Officer and then Surgical Registrar at the London Chest Hospital. The following year he became Senior Surgical Registrar at the National Heart Hospital and Brompton Hospital. In 1968, Professor Yacoub spent a year in the United States at the University of Chicago Medical School as an Instructor and Assistant Professor. When he returned, he took up the position of Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon at Harefield Hospital in London until 1992. Under his leadership, Harefield Hospital became the country's leading transplant center, performing over 200 heart transplants a year. In 1986, Professor Yacoub was appointed the first British Heart Foundation Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the National Heart & Lung Institute at the Imperial College School of Medicine and he remains in this position to the present day. Professor Yacoub continues his research as Founder and Director of Research at The Magdi Yacoub Institute, formerly Harefield Research Foundation.



2 Jamaican patients return to say thank you to Prof. Yacoub.

Professor Yacoub is a pioneer in the field of heart and lung transplantation and one of the world's leading cardiac surgeons. He has performed more transplants than any other surgeon. He has specialized in working with children with congenital heart malformations and has successfully performed corrective heart surgery on babies during their first day of life.

In addition to his extraordinary achievements in the world of medicine and science as well as his continued research and teaching, Professor Yacoub still has been able to offer his talents as a great humanitarian, performing life-saving operations on unfortunate children all around the world.

Professor Yacoub is the Founder Patron of Chain of Hope, a non-profit organization, also dedicated to providing corrective surgery and treatment to underprivileged children suffering from life-threatening cardiac disease. Lifeline has partnered with Chain of Hope on several missions, sending co-sponsored pediatric cardiac missions to Mozambique, Jamaica and Panama. Lifeline and Chain of Hope have also agreed to conduct shared missions to Kenya, Morocco and Mauritius.

Lifeline is proud to present Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub our prestigious Sir James Carreras Award at the Lifeline Dinner during the 2006 Variety International Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.

History of the Sir James Carreras Award

The Sir James Carreras Award was originally established in 1986 and funded by Jarvis Astaire, Past President of Variety International, the Children's Charity. This Award is meant to recognize those physicians whose dedication and skill in the field of pediatrics is noteworthy. This award honors the name of Sir James Carreras MBE, who served Variety International with great distinction as one of its past international presidents.

This award is presented annually to the physician who has achieved notable accomplishments in the field of pediatric medicine during the previous year. A prize of \$10,000 accompanies the award, now funded by Variety Children's Lifeline.



Foot surgery recipient in Vietnam via Lifeline Australia.



Smiling after successful heart surgery in India.



Relieved mother with child after surgery.

Editorial from Salah M. Hassanein

Dear Lifeliners, donors and supporters,

We were very busy in the year 2005 as you can see from our last two newsletters. That was yesterday. The following is an update for the year 2006 and our game plan for the future.

The progress we have made, the support we have enlisted, the frugality of our budget and the increased volunteerism have enabled us to enlarge the scope of our Lifeline programs.

Besides an increase in our pediatric cardiac surgical missions, we have also expanded our pediatric neurosurgical program and our craniofacial program (including dental) and are in the process of creating a pediatric rehabilitative medicine program for children with such conditions as cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, spina bifida and certain spinal cord injuries. In addition, we are continuing our neonatal missions.

We are adding to the countries we service or adding additional missions to:

- Ukraine (craniofacial / dental & neurosurgical)
- Bolivia (neurosurgical)
- Chile (pediatric rehabilitative medicine)
- Ecuador (pediatric plastic surgeries)
- Guatemala (pediatric plastic surgeries)
- Cambodia (pediatric cardiac surgeries)
- Mexico (craniofacial surgeries)
- Nigeria (Prevention of Mother-to-Child-Transmission of HIV/AIDS)

We are creating a new pediatric cardiac surgical program in New Delhi, India, to serve as a hub so that we can extend our services to children from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Nepal and neighboring countries. This hub will be similar to the one we have in Guatemala.

We are fortunate to have our Lifeline affiliate programs operating currently in Australia, New Zealand and the Middle East, thanks to Penny Docherty, Emily Edwards, Wayne Adsett, Peter Drummond and Ory Slonim. And this year we are launching Lifeline Canada under the leadership of Will Webster and Jon Stettner.

This is what we are planning or have accomplished. This is what we have to offer.

Lifeline would like to thank our Board of Directors, as well as our Executive Director, Rebecca Palmer, our Assistant Director, Julie Mossa, our generous donors and our indispensable medical team members.

With their help, Lifeline will continue to grow and serve the disadvantaged children around the globe that otherwise might be overlooked.

Yours sincerely,

Salah M. Hassanein
Chairman



Lifeline Neurosurgeons examine brain scans of child in Bolivia.



LIFELINE NEW ZEALAND MEDICAL MISSIONS TO THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Update from Wayne Adsett & Peter Drummond, Lifeline New Zealand Co-Chairmen

Lifeline New Zealand's continued work in the South Pacific has recently included medical missions to Tonga (November 2005) and Fiji (February 2006) plus provided medical assistance to numerous children.

In Tonga, Dr. Percy Pease, with the assistance of local medical staff, spent one week operating and treating 21 local children with life saving operations and corrective surgeries for cleft pallet, bladder, bowel, tongue-tie and more which will ensure they have a more promising future.

The Fijian mission (in Savu Savu) was a joint effort with the Beeve Foundation from Los Angeles, a first for Lifeline NZ. The mission involved a number of eye surgeons from Los Angeles, eye specialists and nurses from New Zealand and Australia. They operated on 20 children over a 10-day period.

The next activity in Fiji will be a golf fundraising campaign in June with Jaguar New Zealand and the Sheraton Hotel Fiji. ♡

LIFELINE MIDDLE EAST

Update from Ory Slonim, Lifeline Middle East Co-Chairman

Lifeline in the Middle East is continuing the Joint Venture with Variety Israel and Save a Child's Heart at East Wolfson Medical Center in Israel, saving the lives of many children who come from the Middle East, the Palestinian Authority, Iraq, Jordan, Ethiopia, East Europe, Russia, and Moldavia, among others.

The uniqueness of this Joint Venture, for Variety Lifeline and Variety Israel, is having this exciting project in the middle of the conflict in this part of the world, and, despite it, assisting so many children coming from countries which are part of this conflict. This is what Variety International and Lifeline are about!! ♡



Romanian child who received heart surgery in Israel.



"These feet were made for walking" - This Vietnamese child received corrective surgery for club feet through VCLA.

LIFELINE AUSTRALIA

Update from Penny Docherty, Lifeline Australia Co-Chair

It is a very exciting time for Variety Children's Lifeline, Australia (VCLA). We are growing rapidly, working right now in Lebanon, East Timor, and Vietnam and we are about to commence assistance with surgical intervention in Afghanistan.

Lifeline is looking forward to working with a new organization known as Anak Anak in Bali. Anak Anak has been the result of hard work by a number of caring Australian and Indonesian volunteers who saw the desperate need for medical services for the children in the 38 orphanages in Bali. VCLA will assist with funds for life threatening conditions, vaccination programs and interventions.

VCLA also funded the transport of two tons of medication and equipment to Bali for the valuable work being carried out by Dr. David Marsh and his wife Clair from the Victoria Tent of Variety during the previous 6 months. ♡

LIFELINE CANADA

The Lifeline Affiliate Program is now branching into Canada. Variety Children's Lifeline Canada (VCLC) will be headed by Will Webster and Jon Stettner. Will and Jon have met with Dr. Robert Armstrong at the Children's Hospital in Vancouver, B.C., who has experience in leading medical missions to China and has expressed interest in the country of Uganda for VCLC Missions. ♡

UMASS MEMORIAL CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER

Lifeline and Variety of New England continue their partnership in sponsoring therapy treatments and consultations for over 250 children each year at the Pediatric Disorder Clinic by contributing \$50,000. ♡



MISSIONS TO CAMBODIA

In August 2006, Lifeline will launch a new pediatric cardiac mission to Siem Reap, Cambodia, at the Angkor Hospital for Children (AHC). The Lifeline / University of California, San Diego (UCSD) team will be led by Dr. Paul Grossfeld, cardiologist, Dr. Jolene Kriett, surgeon, Dr. Michael Madani, assistant surgeon, along with an anesthesiologist, respiratory therapist and 2 pediatric intensive care nurses. Angkor Hospital is an independent teaching hospital and serves as the pediatric department for Siem Reap's Provincial Hospital and also treats children from neighboring provinces. ♡

NIGERIA: "PREVENTION OF MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION HIV/AIDS PROJECT"

On Mother's Day, in collaboration with Dr. Moji Adeyeye, Lifeline launched Phase One of the project for mass screening of 10,000 people for AIDS and HIV at the Baptist Hospital in Ogbomoso, Nigeria. From those screened, the prevalence of HIV/AIDS is 5%, and of these, 40%, or 200, are child-bearing women. These 200 women testing positive for AIDS/HIV selected for our pilot project will receive treatment from months 6 to 9 of their pregnancy, receive a Caesarean section delivery and the baby will be treated immediately after birth with pediatric anti-retroviral drugs to avoid mother to child transmission and to live HIV free.

Lifeline purchased a Guava flow-cytometer, the instrument needed for monitoring blood levels of mothers and children while receiving the needed anti-retroviral medications.

Lifeline has committed \$150,000 to the two phases of the project which include screening/testing, monitoring and treatment of the women and children.

Dr. Adeyeye is a Fulbright scholar and Professor of Pharmaceutics and Pharmaceutical Technology at Duquesne



Nigerian Children Orphaned by AIDS

University. She founded "Drugs for AIDS and HIV Patients" (DAHP). Dr. Adeyeye returned to her native country, Nigeria, on the faculty of the University of Lagos, Department of Pharmaceutics and Pharmaceutical Technology.

Lifeline sent NBC volunteers, Lauren Ina and Ann Shannon, to film a documentary of this pilot project with DAHP and the Baptist Medical Center in Ogbomoso, Nigeria. ♡

PEDIATRIC REHABILITATIVE MEDICINE

In the theme of adding other medical disciplines beyond our pediatric cardiac focus, Lifeline is currently in the process of creating a Pediatric Rehabilitative Medicine Program. This program will be headed by Dr. Heakyung Kim of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The program will focus on children with complex medical conditions due to neurological disorders. These conditions include cerebral palsy, brain injury, pediatric stroke, encephalitis, brain tumor, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury and spina bifida. These children have been traditionally neglected in developing countries because of the complexity of care and lack of knowledge and resources. The team will treat these children by providing them with rehabilitative care through advanced therapy approaches to improve their quality of life.

We are planning our first Pediatric Rehabilitative Medicine Mission to Chile in July of this year. Dr. Kim has done previous pediatric rehabilitative work in Nepal and Lifeline is also considering Nepal as a future destination for this program. ♡

DISASTER RELIEF UPDATE

Last year, we embarked on the installation of water treatment systems in Sri Lanka and Indonesia after the devastating Tsunami. We raised over \$1 million and the donors were recognized with plaques installed on each individual system. After installing 49 systems in Sri Lanka and 10 in Indonesia, Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana and Mississippi. We diverted our attention to the Gulf Coast and installed 25 units in Louisiana and Mississippi. These 84 units have catered to approximately 420,000 people. The units from Louisiana and Mississippi have been refurbished and will be redeployed to Sri Lanka, Indonesia or where primarily needed. From the total funds raised, we have \$200,000 remaining for future emergencies.

Lifeline also teamed up with The Sports Authority, raising \$63,000 through an Employee Contribution Campaign, and Lifeline distributed the funds to Katrina victims.

A thank you note from a Katrina victim: "When New Orleans flooded in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, I lost my home, all of my possessions, and my job. At first I felt devastated, but I have refused to give up. I am working to rebuild my life, and your generous gift will help me in my efforts. I sincerely appreciate your thoughtfulness." -Alyssa St. Cyr-Williams & Family ♡