

NEWS

CHILD HEALTH FOUNDATION

...saving the greatest number of children's lives at the lowest possible cost

Issue #2 2012

Melinda Gates Visits the Centre



Our partner in health, icddr, in Bangladesh, received a special visit from Melinda Gates of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation earlier this year. She toured the hospital, met with scientists and traveled to field sites. The visit provided her with an opportunity to see the wide range of interconnected health challenges and solutions related to child and maternal health.

The Centre has worked closely with the Gates Foundation since 2001 when they received the first ever Gates Award for Global Health for their research work with Oral Rehydration Therapy. Today they are key partners.

Overcoming Malnutrition

The **Organization for Research, Extension and Training Agriculture (ORETA)**, Uganda, which received a 2010 Small Grant to empower the community to reduce malnutrition by encouraging breastfeeding and producing micronutrient-rich foods, has sent their final report.



In their interim report they reported that they found many pregnant woman and lactating mothers did not know what to feed their children in order to prevent malnutrition. Thus they held a training program to teach breastfeeding, and the inclusion of green leafy vegetables, rich in iron and vitamin A, in their children's diets.

Now they report that they have introduced the feeding of orange-fleshed sweet potato varieties, high in Vitamin A and locally available and in household gardens, and thus reduced the incidence of Vitamin A deficiency. As a result, the severity of infectious diseases in under five year-old children and morbidity and mortality of pregnant women has been reduced, the rate of hospitalizations has been reduced, an increase in savings has been noticed in household expenses. We are pleased with these results.

Full reports of all the projects are available upon request

Administrative Director Retires

Rosario Davison has held a role in the Child Health Foundation office for 18 years and now wishes to take her leave to spend more time with family. At the most recent board meeting she was lauded for her excellent handling of the financial matters, the ordering and shipment of supplies, as well as all the general management of the Foundation affairs. She turned over her duties to Jonathan Sack, pictured below and we are very sorry to see her go.



Dr. W. Greenough, long time board member presents Rosario with an award commemorating her long service.

Jonathan has been spending time with Rosario the past couple months learning the routine, but began officially on July 1st.



His experience includes owning and managing a sporting goods store, gathering and assessing information for a state government real estate division, and Real Estate buying and selling.

The foundation is pleased to have Jonathan in our office and, yes, he is the son of Director Dr. R. Bradley Sack.

Teaching with Film and Marches

In their interim report the **BVDA** in Rwanda, tell us that they have implemented a program to provide community sustainable information regarding water related disease prevention methods. They have produced a documentary film * which they are using to reach over 350,000 people. They have recruited 50 volunteers and given them 2 days of training. They also held marches—six per month with 3200 youth participating with posters. Photo is of a volunteer instructing a mother whom he has visited in her home.



We are impressed with their work and look forward to their final report.

* See the film on our website. Click on *Globe and Rwanda*



Esther Lazarson

Miss Lazarson of New York City has been our Bangladesh hero since 2002, funding a project (EPRC*) that supplies clean water to thousands of people. Here is a bit of her “autobiography” in verse:

I am nearly eighty-nine
And I’m feeling well,
And whenever my sleep is deep
I wake up looking swell.

I always thought pure water was
Birthright, necessity,
But then I learned that for some
folks
It is rare luxury.

And so I give what I don’t need
To Bangladesh and to Peru,
And I’m happy some have better
living
Because of what I do.

And I admire and I salute
Each hands-on activist.
Who works so water gushes
out
At the twisting of the wrist.

When I sit alone in my arm-
chair
I love my solitude
Can it be ‘cos folks in far-off
lands
Are wishing for my good?

**Go to our website and read the latest EPRC report on the map.*

New Member of the Board

Veena Hammers, BA, MBA, is presently the Director of Product Management for the College of Health Sciences at Walden University, part of the Laureate International Universities Network. Prior to joining this position, she was the Director of Partnership Management where she established a new team within the University Business Development group to facilitate local partnerships. Ms. Hammers has a history of marketing and product management roles both in the telecommunications industry as well as education.



Ms. Hammers has dedicated her time to international development through varied volunteer work. Most recently, she spent several months in Bangalore India working with Unitus Capital, investment arm of the U.S. based non-profit Unitus.

Veena lives with her husband, son and infant daughter in Columbia, Maryland. We are very pleased to welcome Veena aBoard.

Rain Water for Better Health

Friends Orphanage School, Uganda, 2011 Humanitarian grant recipient, has submitted their interim report in which they say that the rain water harvest tank has been installed and they just have yet to purchase water cleansers, water supply plastic pipes with water tank wire nets.



In the photographs, kids and local women are happy to have free safe water again for better health. We will hear from them again soon.

Solar Disinfection

Life Concerns Foundation in Uganda held training sessions and radio broadcasts to promote using sunlight to improve the water quality at 5 primary schools. The children then began bringing their bottles to school and putting them in the sun. This simple, low-cost method was popular also because it reduced the need spending on firewood and kerosene and was kind to the environment. The project continues.



Visit our web site at childhealthfoundation.org