

# NEWS

## CHILD HEALTH FOUNDATION

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

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### Help to Nepal



Child Health Foundation thanks all those who gave so generously to send oral rehydration therapy packets to help the survivors of the catastrophic earthquake in Nepal.

With your help, we were able to send, in May, \$8,840 which paid for one-half pallet of CeraLyte. Charlene Riikonen, CEO of Cera Products Inc., has matched this and it provides 8,000 liters of ORS.

Hundreds of thousands of people are now living in tents or tarps, subject to all earth's diseases, including diarrhea. Children are most vulnerable and ORS is designed to prevent their death from dehydration caused by loss of vital fluids.

The CeraLyte has gone to Direct Relief, the organization that ships medical aid to Nepal.

### Better Breathing

**Fundacion NC**, Colombia, has sent the final report of their project called *Social Responsibility Program*. This NGO has an Asmamovil in Bogota. It is a mobile health unit that screens children in schools to determine risks for respiratory disease. Two public schools were selected to set up the activities and the aim was to improve asthma control, reduce ER visits, and improve quality of life for the children and caregivers. They reported previously that they did screening, baseline medical and lung function, and education. A total of 24 children have now completed the evaluation; others also benefited even though they didn't follow through completely due to various reasons. They discovered that ER visits were reduced from 32 to 1 and days missed from school 127 days to just 11. Questionnaires filled out at the outset and conclusion revealed that improvement of quality of life was statistically significantly for both child and caregiver. Furthermore there was an increase in the knowledge to manage the disease of 30 to 35 percent. They close with this thought, "The program will continue its activities thanks to organizations like CHF who care about the health of communities in need."



### Some Good News

First the good news, according to UNICEF, the mortality rate for children less than 5-years of age has dropped from 90 per 1,000 live births to 43 per 1,000 live births. Child Health Foundation takes some credit for that.

But then the same report says, "At current rates of progress, given projected population growth, it is estimated that 68 million more children under five will die from mostly preventable causes by 2030. The Millennium Development Goals are not reaching the most disadvantaged.

We receive many requests from these disadvantaged communities tucked away out of reach of the major charities and government assistance. We are able to help some of them, for example, we have a project now in a neglected area in Bangladesh where a local organization, SAVE, is training midwives to save the lives of newborns and their mothers in a community of 35,000 who are deprived of health facilities. This photo depicts one of 4 training sessions (25 local midwives in each) held with the support of the government health services. They report the project has already reduced mortality of infants and mothers.



We would help more like that one if we had the funds. Would you like to help?

### Saving Newborns

The **Women Empowerment Program**, Rwanda, is fighting neonatal mortality with the bcPap and Kangaroo care. They have trained 25 nurse volunteers and when they were well trained they introduced the bcPap in 50 health centers and believe they have saved over 3,000 newborns.



And over 4,000 babies who needed Kangaroo care were discharged in good condition. They also began training of general practitioners and nurses so that when this project ends, the practice will continue in these facilities. A quote from Dr. Gilbert of Rwamagana hospital: "When I came to deliver a baby with distress with difficult spontaneous breathing I just wrote in my file that the prognosis is poor (more than 90% used to die) However, after irreplaceable knowledge on Bcpap now I save 100% of them."

## On Tap



**Achung Kenda Progressive Women Group**, Kenya, sent their final report They have designed and moulded 180 soapstone water dispensers (*pictured*) in 20 schools as well as tripod stands to hold them. They were distributed to 20 preschools with the highest incidence of enteric disease. The team then made visits to evaluate the level of usage and success of the dispensers. They expected that about 70% of enteric diseases would be reduced with this project.

## More Clean Water



**EPRC**, Bangladesh, has supplied clean water to 1005 more community members by installing arsenic-free tube wells. The total of those reached now, since the project first started in 2004 (funds supplied by Esther Lazarson

of New York City) is 40,000 people, many of them children.

Because they require that the locality served have proper latrines before installation, there is also less contamination of the ground water.

Since the women have more time now, the project also holds women's clubs where they are educated on environmental health issues, water safety & management, disaster preparedness, agricultural related education, and basic education. Another NGO supplied the women with seeds for home gardens.

All good news.



## Latest New Board Member



Dr. Bonita Stanton is Vice Dean of Research for the Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit.

Dr. Stanton graduated from Wellesley College and Yale University School of Medicine. She did her pediatric residency training at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Ohio and her infectious disease fellowship at Yale. For five years she served as director of the Urban Volunteer Program in Dhaka, Bangladesh, directed toward the health of Bangladeshis living in the slums, and as the World Bank Maternal Child Health specialist.

In 1988, she became the chief of the Division of General Pediatrics/Associate Chair at the University of Maryland. During the 12 years they were in Maryland, she and her family spent a 6-month sabbatical in Cairo, Egypt, where she worked with USAID on a healthy mother and child project. A few years after returning to the U. S., she served as department chair of pediatrics for 12 years (first at West Virginia University and then Wayne State University) and has been in her current role since 2011. We welcome Bonita to Child Health Foundation and expect great things from her.

## Library Tanks



**The Transformational Leadership Center**, Rwanda, has installed rainwater tanks at 3 children's Peace Libraries, so that when children get clean water there they are sensitized about drinking clean water at home.

They also built a handwashing tank at one of the libraries (the others already have the tanks) and held 5 sanitation workshops where 225 children learned the importance of good sanitation.

The video *Magic Glasses* was shown at the training sessions teaching children to use bathrooms and wash hands. Lillane, one of the children, said, "I did not know how I get worms. Now I will not get more worms. I will wash my hands and drink clean water. I thank you for this training."

We are pleased with this project and expect it will impact that community.

CHF 2013 Annual Report is ready and available. Contact us and we will email it to you.

## Child Health Foundation

110 E. Ridgely Rd., Timonium, MD 21093 • Phone (410) 992-5512  
email: [contact@childhealthfoundation.org](mailto:contact@childhealthfoundation.org) • website: [www.childhealthfoundation.org](http://www.childhealthfoundation.org)