

NEWS

CHILD HEALTH FOUNDATION

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

2007 Small Grants Awarded

Three of the 2007 Innovative Small Grants have been awarded for the health and well being of children to organizations in the United States, two to **India**, and one each to **Uganda**, **Kenya**, and **Pakistan**. In addition to these we also funded four others for purely humanitarian purposes. These went to help children in India (3) and Uganda.

These thirteen were selected from over a hundred proposals submitted and reviewed by our grant committee of health experts. The reviewers look for projects which employ innovative methods to improve and save children's lives, and then award them up to \$5,000 which, especially in developing countries, is a small fortune.

Two of the grants to United States organizations will be carried out in other countries; one in Lesotho to work on prevention of HIV/AIDS and one in Ghana to promote sanitary habits in school children. Among the others are a study on micronutrient fortified salts to prevent anemia and blindness, improving clean water availability. You will be reading the reports of these projects in future newsletters. In this one is the reports of completed Small Grant programs.

We are actively seeking sponsors for the other ten projects that were selected but are presently without funding. If you are interested, please contact us.

Opening Minds to Safe Sex

Butoke, a 2005 recipient of a Small Grant in the Democratic Republic of Congo, submitted a final report on a program creating a core of resource persons and trainers embedded in the base communities to become competent to enlighten youth and adults on responsible sexuality in the light of faith and science. HIV/AIDS is a very prevalent problem there.

The number of workshops jumped to 16 from a previous 4 with a total of 1400 participants, and they are very well accepted and promote lively discussion. The discussions have also alerted them to the link between human rights of both women and children and the contradictions between the customs and these rights.

They feel that for now they have an adequate number of trainers to go back to their parishes and temples to give sound advice to teens.

Wow! Just 3 Percent

The good news is that Child Health Foundation is among those few organizations that have very low administration costs. According to our most recent calculations, we spend only 3% on overhead. That means that if your gift is \$100, we use only three dollars of it for stamps and envelopes, etc. If it is \$20, then \$19.40 goes directly to improving some children's lives.

This year your gifts have purchased cows, prevented such infections as malaria, HIV/AIDS, diarrhea, and provided clean drinking water and latrines to village children in several countries.

If you would like to continue this great work that we and you and dedicated people in the countries are doing, please mail us your check or go to our website and use your credit card. Thank

Healthy Babies

Eclipse Development Initiatives in Nigeria

(2006 grant) is conducting what they call *Sweet Mother Program*, empowering parents and families with knowledge, resources, skills and behavior to ensure safe motherhood, healthy children and a good start in life for newborns.

They use counseling sessions and visual and auditory aids to promote breastfeeding, immunizations, oral rehydration therapy, and treated bednets to prevent malaria.

Their work was recently featured in a Lagos newspaper, in which Child Health Foundation was given credit for financing the project. We look forward to their final report.



Visit our website at
www.childhealthfoundation.org

Most Severe Flooding Ever

In August, the ICDDR,B Dhaka Hospital, our partner in health, experienced a rapid escalation of patients coming with severe diarrhoeal disease operated at well beyond maximum capacity. The Centre had to rapidly secure additional resources to address the increasing patient numbers, that is, additional tents, beds, staff, IV saline, and pharmaceuticals, in order to provide treatment to the 1000 people arriving every day at the hospital in severe states of dehydration. Despite this acute burden, the hospital is continuing to save lives and keep mortality low. Up to 30% of these patients would die if they had not received the efficient and free medical care at the Dhaka



100% Sanitized Communities

Dus Bhola in Bangladesh, one of our 2006 Small Grant recipients, set out to improve the health status of poor children through facilitating affordable environmental sanitation projects. They hoped to achieve the 100% sanitization coverage of 15 villages. By involving community based organization, they trained leaders in basic health and hygiene practices such as washing hands, using safe water, and covering food. They discouraged open defecation, encouraging instead the building and use of low-cost latrines, which were demonstrated on site.

As a result of their efforts, 15 villages reached the 100% use of hygienic latrines and maintained them well. They also abided by the instruction to follow the other health practices. The important thing, they say, is that the people see themselves as a community whose members affect and support each other. And now those communities act as facilitators for other communities and so spread the message.

Eyes and Flies

Kossoye Project in Ethiopia gave tetracycline eye ointment treatment to everyone in the village for 6 days/month for 6 months, and taught them to wash regularly around the eyes and nostrils and to maintain sanitary latrines to control the flies that spread the infections. They have completed another year (2005 and 2006 Small Grants) of their intervention to reduce the prevalence of eye infections (especially trachoma) by 50% in children under age 10.

Their other objectives were to establish early use of oral rehydration therapy (ORT) for diarrheal disease, to train child care givers in preventing malnutrition and to prepare older elementary girls in the ways to prevent sexually transmitted diseases.

The project was a great success, reduction of trachoma prevalence from 94% to 26%, widespread use of ORT, and improved knowledge of STD among students in the school. The only disappointment has been signs that severe stunting malnutrition has become worse. Hope is that the new interest in vegetable gardens that have been planted will help with this problem. They also provide income for other family needs and are a sustainable way to help families help themselves.

Buy a Card, Save a Life

See our lovely holiday cards on our website (5 styles) and contribute to children's health around the world.



Full reports of all the projects are available upon request.

Kitchen Gardens Improve Children's Health

Musokoto Joint Farmers Self-help Group in Kenya, with a 2005 Small Grant, developed a child nutrition and health project aimed at improving the health status of orphans with HIV/AIDS. They have submitted their final report which outlines a very successful project.

The first part of their project was involved in holding workshops to educate trainers, selecting land, and planting nutritional foods to use as demonstration. Beans, sweet potatoes, groundnuts, soya beans, and various vegetables were planted in 5 donated kitchen gardens.

The second phase was spent in more training, harvesting, and replanting. The group is now able to supply 127 households with orange-fleshed potato flour every week. The five kitchen gardens have been maintained by 10 trainers and the 127 beneficiaries, and the group is able to get cash from the sale of the flour. They have some challenges to work out yet but this would be helped with more funds to purchase equipment and train more trainers.