

Helping Children Worldwide



Helping Children Worldwide, Inc.

Providing Hope to impoverished children, their families, and their communities.



Children of Sierra Leone

- Half of the 6 million person population is under the age of 18
- Sierra Leone has the highest infant mortality rate in the world

2008 - A Year of Progress for Helping Children Worldwide



Baidou Joe, one of the oldest girls from the CRC, recently began vocational training school in Bo. She is training to become a seamstress.

2008 was a year of vibrant growth for Helping Children Worldwide (HCW). Each of the programs HCW funds: the Child Rescue Centre (CRC), Mercy Hospital, and Connections for Hope overcame challenges and produced tangible success as they continued to serve vulnerable children and families across the globe.

Children at the CRC saw many individual triumphs this past year. Ibrahim Dandaji, a CRC youth who was receiving medical treatment in the United States for his Hodgkin's Lymphoma, returned to Sierra Leone this September cancer free! He is now living once again at the CRC and back in school.



Ganda Bassie, another young man living at the CRC voted Youth of the Year at Centenary UMC, where he is actively involved in the student council. Several of his classmates at Christ the King Secondary School, also residents at the CRC were awarded certificates of achievement as well as scholarships!

For the first time, the CRC celebrated graduations! The oldest residents at the CRC graduated from senior secondary school. HCW is excited to contribute to their post-secondary education. Two girls are now attending vocational school locally in Bo, two are now at college in Freetown, and two of the boys are enrolled in medical school also in Freetown. To help with this process the CRC hired a full time Guidance Counselor who will assist with transitioning resident children to post-secondary education or vocational training.

The CRC seeks to meet the needs of and fund opportunities for the wide range of ages of children. CRC benefit fund-raisers like the annual HCW Golf Tournament and Galilee Fun Run yielded increased publicity and over \$80,000 in contributions for the CRC. Thanks to the diligence of the new CRC business manager the CRC completed 2008 under budget! Additionally, research was done by an alternative energy task force who put plans in place to implement alternative energy systems at the CRC and Mercy Hospital.

Children of the CRC

- 70 children live in residence at the CRC
- 150 children are part of the Child Support program which provides tuition, school supplies, and health care
- 24 children are in foster care homes supported by the CRC

Mercy Hospital and Connections for Hope in 2008

Mercy Hospital in its second year continued to establish itself as one of the premiere medical facilities in Sierra Leone. It sees between 800 to 1,000 patients each month with over 11,000 outpatient visits this past year.

The hospital is the only facility in the region to have a diagnostic lab. Additionally the hospital includes a fully stocked pharmacy, 25 beds, and a highly trained staff led by a licensed physician and a state registered nurse midwife.

Programs provided at the hospital include fully funded government supported voluntary HIV testing, counseling and case management; maternity care with professionally attended deliveries and comprehensive prenatal care; malaria prevention and treatment program with bed nets; medication and education; therapeutic feeding center to treat and prevent malnutrition; as well as annual medical education programs for community health professionals.

Mercy Hospital provides care regardless of ability to pay. In 2008 65% of its patients received care who otherwise would not have because of an inability to pay. The most vulnerable women and children in Bo are now receiving prevention and treatment supplies to target malaria. Mercy Hospital also treats the children at the CRC - providing vaccines, urgent, and follow up care.

Success is especially notable in the way Mercy Hospital is combatting birth-related mortality. It has dropped its infant mortality rate by 80% from the national average of 1 in 8 (the highest in the world). This year Mercy Hospital helped safely deliver 50 high risk babies who would have otherwise died due to lack of medical care.



George is one of the lab workers at the Mercy Hospital lab. The lab is the only one of its kind in the region. Patients travel from other regions and countries to have access to Mercy Hospital's facilities!



The non-profit partners in Connections for Hope will provide help for vulnerable children and families in the Northern Virginia area.

Connections for Hope is a partnership of nonprofit organizations and other service providers that operate under one roof to provide individuals and families in need with access to an integrated array of services. After three years of planning and development, this center is becoming a reality.

The non-profits housed in Connections for Hope will be Helping Children Worldwide, the Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic, Just Neighbors, the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia, Northern Virginia Family Services, Reston Interfaith, and Vecinos Unidos. Northern Virginia Community College, the Community Services Board and the Department of Family Services have also expressed interest in working with Connections for Hope. The lease is currently being negotiated. It is the hope of HCW that both clients and organizations will benefit from having multiple services housed in one place, working together for a shared purpose.



Looking Forward



This year the CRC instituted a mandatory twenty minute daily reading period.

Medical Stats in Sierra Leone

- **1 in 8 women die in childbirth, the highest maternal mortality rate in the world**
- **200 doctors serve 6 million people**
- **Average life expectancy is 41 years old**
- **1 in 4 children die before their 5th birthday**

The Challenges and Opportunities of 2009

Helping Children Worldwide is very optimistic about the coming year. All of the programs supported by Helping Children worldwide have kept their spending well within budgets. Donors can be assured that financial management is important to us and your contributions are making a big difference in the lives of children, their families and their community literally on both sides of the world.

Child Rescue Centre: In 2009, we will see at least six of the oldest students move from secondary school to university or vocational training studies. The younger children will continue to be enrolled in Zenith International Academy, the best private school in Bo. We also anticipate that land owned by the CRC will be transformed into a working farm. This will not only provide food for the CRC but also valuable skills training for the resident children.

Mercy Hospital: HCW has already received two important grants for 2009. \$10,000, from the UMC Global Fund, is designated to promote HIV/AIDS prevention through education and information. It provides for testing, counseling, and drug therapy. The second grant also for \$10,000 is from the UMC Malaria Fund. This grant is designed to facilitate awareness and education. It provides testing, bed net distribution, prevention, and treatment.

Connections for Hope: The offices of Connections for Hope in Herndon, Virginia will be open in the Spring of 2009. HCW and the partner organizations in this non-profit center are excited about the collaborative approach to meeting needs in our community which are rising rapidly. The center will provide an integrated approach to service provision allowing for a scope of services far beyond what one organization could provide. Connections for Hope not only provides affordable space for partnering organizations, but a cost-effective way to provide services in tight economic times. Watch for more information on the opening celebration.

Your Donations At Work



In Sierra Leone only 26% of the population have access to safe drinking water. The CRC has its own well which provides potable water.



Dr. Tejan is the head physician at Mercy Hospital. Because of the pristine facilities, trained staff, and caring service it is ranked above other hospitals in the area.



Connections for Hope will provide job skills training, financial counseling, English Language training in addition to other services for families.



Mercy Hospital and the CRC directly support children, the poorest of the poor, in Sierra Leone by taking them off the streets and providing free medical care.

Children at the CRC grow up learning about the world outside their compound.



The CRC computer lab provides invaluable skill training to the children. Improved internet connectivity in the coming year will make this an even more important resource.



Mercy Hospital treats patients regardless of the their ability to pay and has saved several children who otherwise had no access to medical care.

