

Since our last newsletter in June, our volunteers and members of the community have been engaged in a number of initiatives.

### **Second Ukraine Shipment**

This past summer a second container was packed and sent to Zaporizhzhya in the Eastern Ukraine. The container was packed with beds and other larger hospital equipment generously donated and delivered to the warehouse by Blair Zurba, Manager, Central Dispatch, Brandon General Hospital. Once again, we are indebted to our partners the Mennonite Benevolent Society and Louie Sawatzky for organizing and financing this endeavour. A third container was planned for shipment this Fall but concerns were raised about the registration of the recipient site by the Ukrainian government. Louis traveled to Zaporizhzhya to investigate. He has since decided to delay another shipment until 2005. Another concern of both IH and the Mennonite Benevolent Society was the recent instability of the Ukrainian government and how that will affect humanitarian aid.



*Newly renovated ICU in Zaporizhzhya equipped with IH supplies. Patients must bring their own sheets.*

In September, four volunteers from IH, Elsie Liwiski, Sylvia Dolynchuk, and Dave and Donna Dunford, traveled to the Ukraine. The purpose of their trip was to re-visit hospitals, orphanages and clinics and to network with funding organizations. A highlight of the trip was the opportunity to accompany two health care workers on home visits to some of the patients who had received our equipment from our first shipment. They also toured the hospitals where many of the beds and other

equipment had been distributed. In one hospital, an ICU has been renovated and activated using our supplies. Needless to say, patients, staff and administrators were very grateful for the supplies and have remarked on the quality. Members of the group are hopeful that a contact made with members of the King George Community Foundation in Ivano Frankisk will result in a registered drop-off depot and funds for a shipment to the Western Ukraine. Supplies are desperately needed.



*Donna distributing supplies in Yablonit*

### **Ivan's Aftermath**

In September hurricane Ivan swept through the Caribbean leaving death and destruction in its path. Several Winnipeg representatives from different island communities have been to the warehouse to pack supplies.

### **Grenada**

Casper Shade and a group from the Grenadian community living in Winnipeg packed hundreds of boxes of medical materials from the warehouse and donated foodstuffs for shipment to Grenada. The medical supplies are destined for 2 hospitals and 2 nursing homes. Casper, the honorary consul, said the need is urgent because 90% of the homes were damaged or destroyed in the hurricane. There were 38 deaths and many crush injuries caused by falling or flying debris. The goods and supplies were transported free of charge by Reimer Express to Toronto where they will be then shipped to Grenada. IH received a letter of appreciation from Ena Francis, president of the Grenadian Association of Manitoba.

### **St. Vincent's and the Grenadines**

In close proximity to Grenada lie the islands of St. Vincent's and the Grenadines. Byron Jones, a retired Winnipeg principal, has made several trips to his homeland, taking medical supplies with him. Last year he donated \$50,000 worth of medical supplies from the warehouse to the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital. This Fall, he was again packing medical supplies (approximately worth \$15,000) which he shipped in October. These are destined for Union Island that was ravaged by hurricane Ivan (50% of all homes, 90% of the crops and 75% of the tourist industry were lost). Union Island is an outpost, about 40 miles south of St. Vincent and is Byron's home island. Byron will be on the island when the supplies arrive and will be involved in the distribution.

### **Traveling to Cuba**

Elizabeth Franklin, a Winnipeg nurse, returned to Cuba for the seventh time. Prior to her October trip, she dropped into the warehouse to pack supplies for two clinics, one in Veradero and one in the remote village of Holquin. Elizabeth describes the clinics as absolutely "bare bones". One doctor treats 2500 families without even a functioning blood pressure machine. The principal health problems are asthma, bronchial infections and heart disease, which Dr. Hernandez-Perez must treat, with whatever is available such as roots, herbs and so forth. As well as the supplies from the IH warehouse, Elizabeth was able to secure medications from another Winnipeg donor. A message of thanks (in Spanish) was received from Dr. Emilio Abreu León, Director of the Policlínico "Mario Muñoz" in Varadero.



*Emma, a young recipient of Elizabeth's largesse*

### **Dominican Republic**

Dr. Rosa Rosario, a Winnipeg pediatrician and a native of the Dominican Republic has been to the warehouse several times to pack supplies which she has shipped to the island. Her hope is to open and operate a pediatric clinic in the town of Banao. Dr. Rosario plans to work six months in the Dominican Republic and six months in Winnipeg. She was overwhelmed with the quality and volume

of supplies that IH made available to her. We shall keep you informed about her progress in setting up her clinic.

### **Uganda**

Another Winnipeg pediatrician, Dr. Cheryl Simmonds, will be setting out for the Mbale Regional Hospital in Mbale, Uganda in January. She was at the warehouse to pack boxes for her trip and has promised to tell us more about her experience when she returns.

### **Book Launch Fundraiser**

On Thursday November 18, 2004, IH and the Soroptimist International of Winnipeg held a joint book launch/fundraiser. The guest speaker was Tim Higgins co-author with Sharon Carstairs of the book *Dancing Backwards: A Social History of Women in Canadian Politics*. Tim gave an entertaining overview of the book that heightened our awareness of the obstacles Canadian women and female politicians, in particular, have had to overcome in order that their voices may be heard.

### **New IH Website**

Thanks to the ingenuity of Tracy Maconachie, IH will soon have its own independent Website. You will be able to check out all the latest news about the organization, our history, places where our supplies have been carried or shipped and much, much more. Our site can be found at:

**[www.internationalhope.ca](http://www.internationalhope.ca)**

and will be very informative and user-friendly. IH is very appreciative of the hours of work Tracy put into the creation of this marvelous site.

### **Recent Presentations**

This Fall, Sonia and Merv Michalysen gave a presentation about IH at St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church. Their talk was so well received that the participants requested another on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **Thanks to Our Young Volunteers**

IH would like to thank Jennifer Proctor, Michael Vandale, Sandra Kaminski, Greg Joss and the young men and women (Christine, Kayla, Samantha, Corinn, Shelby, Cory, Chris & Evan) from the confirmation group at Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Church who volunteered at the warehouse. Their help sorting and bagging items is invaluable. Colin Walus has recently started to volunteer at the warehouse to fulfill a community service requirement at his school, MCBI.

### **Contact Us**

The new direct phone number for International H.O.P.E. is: (204) 889-4469.