

SUPPLY LINES

Annual General Meeting

The annual meeting of IH held on March 3rd, 2005 at Westminster United Church. The keynote speaker was Sylvia Dolynchuk who gave us an informative talk about her trip to the Ukraine which she took last Fall with three other members of IH. Details of the trip were outlined in our last newsletter. She did tell us about the hopelessness felt by so many, especially the old and disabled. However, the two containers we have sent to Zaporizhzhya have restored the people's faith in humanity. They can't believe that someone would give them something for nothing. Winnipeg is considered a wonderful place!

Dr. Cheryl Simmonds presented a brief talk and video on her recent trip to Mbale, Uganda. Dr. Simmonds took pediatric supplies from the warehouse. In the video, we saw the pediatric ICU and ward which was barren of supplies and equipment but overcrowded with sick children. There are no cribs, the mattresses are worn out and the building is dilapidated. Bed capacity is 400 but there were 450 patients when Cheryl was there. Parents camp out in the courtyard so that they can assist with their child's care.



The children's ward, Mbale Regional Hospital, Uganda



Dr. Gerald Makobi (Medical Superintendent), Dr. Peter Olupot-Olupot (Staff Pediatrician), Dr. Jaffer Balejussa (Staff Surgeon) thanking Dr. Cheryl Simmonds

meeting for the position of PR director. The new board consists of:

President Phyllis Reader
Vice President Val McIntyre
Secretary Judy Brown
Treasurer Liz Patzer
Warehouse Director Roma Maconachie
Transportation Director Dave Dunford
Fundraising Director Merv Michalysheh
PR Director Dorothy Ridd

Containers, Containers

St Vincent and the Grenadines - Not content with just taking a number of boxes to his homeland islands of St Vincent and the Grenadines, Byron Jones organized a container to be packed and sent from Winnipeg. With the help of Lindon Sobers, other Island expats and volunteers from International H.O.P.E. A 40 foot container was packed on February 5th and arrived on the islands on April 6th. Mrs. Pam Bonadie, Chief Administrator of the Milton Cato General Hospital, expressed sincere thanks for the 40 beds, bassinets and other equipment. Along with the medical equipment and supplies, teddy bear t-shirts donated by the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba, were packed in the container. Byron had the pleasure of distributing the shirts to patients on the children's ward of the hospital. Many thanks go to the Children's Hospital Foundation for their generous gift.



Volunteer loaders and packers from the St. Vincent and Grenadines community in Winnipeg and International H.O.P.E. – Phyllis and Ron Reader and Dave Dunford

Ukraine - A third container destined for Zaporizhzhya, Eastern Ukraine was packed on March 29th. As with the other two containers, our partners and funders for this initiative were the Mennonite Benevolent Society headed by Louie Sawatzky. We learned at a recent board meeting that the Mennonite Benevolent Society has been in operation since 1945 supporting the Mennonite Family Centre in Zaporizhzhya. Their goal is to initiate and develop health and social services,

2005 International HOPE Board

Elections were held for all positions on the Board of Directors. There was one change following the board

introduce new skills and change attitudes for elderly residents of the area. MBS has developed a home care program, a respite centre and a day program. Our supplies have been essential in equipping these programs.

African Initiatives

Zambia - Calgary philanthropist, Colin Glassco, founder of the Colin B. Glassco Charitable Foundation for Children, heard about IH and flew into Winnipeg to collect 7 boxes of orthopedic supplies destined for the Lusaka Orthopedic Hospital in Lusaka, Zambia. The Foundation annually sponsors several orthopedic surgeries. Since 1998 the Glassco Foundation has also been involved in various eye programs in Zambia and other parts of southern Africa, aimed at reducing preventable blindness in children. As well, the Foundation funds the digging of water wells. To date, they have been instrumental in the digging of 100 wells.

Nigeria - Alero Adeleye Olusae was at the warehouse recently touring and chatting with Roma. Alero would like to mobilize the Nigerian community in Winnipeg to raise funds and send some of our supplies to Nigeria.

Paraguay - IH recently received a request from Dr. Juan Aveiro for surgical and urological supplies to be packed for his forthcoming trip to Paraguay. These supplies will be taken to Dr. Federico Guggiari of the FUNDACEF Foundation. The goal of this foundation is to treat children with urological and digestive problems related to spina bifida and meningocele.

Cuba

This summer International H.O.P.E will be coordinating a project with the Manitoba-Cuba Solidarity Committee. A van will be packed with crutches, wheelchairs, canes, walkers and incontinence supplies from our warehouse. Members of the Manitoba-Cuba group will drive the van to Tampico, Mexico where the supplies will be loaded onto a barge destined for Havana. Two years ago IH participated in a similar endeavour with the Manitoba-Cuba group and Pastors for Peace.

Letter of Thanks

We received a wonderful letter of thanks from Esther Henry Fleury, Health Services Administrator at the Princess Royal Hospital, Carriacou, Grenada. She tells us that they were overjoyed to receive the supplies contained in the 28 boxes sent by Casper Shade and the Winnipeg Grenadian community. Casper and friends have been feverishly working to secure funds to send a container sometime this year.

Children of the Ukraine

Last summer Irene Osinchuk packed and transported surgical supplies to be delivered to various orphanages and institutions in the Ukraine under the auspices of

Help Us Help the Children, a project of Children of Chernobyl Canadian Fund. We received a thank you letter from Dr. Olha Detsky, director of the Lviv Charitable Foundation "Infant". Some of the supplies were distributed to a unit for sick premature newborns. IH has also received a report from Kalyna Bezchlibnyk-Butler, director of the CCCF reporting on her tour of hospitals in the areas most affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Kalyna tells of the dearth of basic medical and diagnostic equipment in all the hospitals she visited. Unfortunately, the devastation of the disaster is still present. Doctors reported that they are seeing an increased incidence of congenital anomalies and nervous system disorders in babies born to females who were between 1-6 years of age at the time of the disaster.

Irene will be heading back to camp again this year, taking as many supplies as she can. She will also be making a second trip to Chernobyl to give several presentations on diabetes.

Media Adventures

In January of this year, Erin Madden who writes a column about volunteers for the *Winnipeg Free Press*, featured Phyllis Reader and Roma Maconachie from our board. The article generated numerous calls from Winnipeggers who were eager to volunteer or who had supplies they wished to drop off.

Shaw cable came to the warehouse to film our Wednesday group of volunteers this winter. The program has run a number of times over the past couple of months so keep an eye out.

Our Wonderful Volunteers

Some of the volunteers who have recently joined our organization are: Trudy Streeter, Elsie Marner, Sharon Reimer, Julia Schoen, Carol MacKay and Beth Ariss. Once a month Phyllis comes to the warehouse with her cadre of OR nurses to sort the high-tech surgical equipment which always stymies our other volunteers. We are indebted to: Joan Brown, Chantal Betourney, Marilyn Deleeuw, Sylvia Dolynchuk, Gisele Donnelly, Glenda Heinrichs, Kristin Heinrichs, Bonnie McFeeters and Corliss Vancaesele. As always, a big thank you is extended to the young people who have chosen to do their volunteer hours at the warehouse. Recent recruits include: Greg Longbottom, Ashley Walus, Tyler Morgan and Lisa Vander Kraake. Many times they bring along their parents to lend a hand. Laurie Walus, Mary Vander Kraake and Judy Morgan have all cheerfully helped out. Our thanks also go out to Susan Tierney who donated a used refrigerator to the warehouse. How wonderful to have a fridge that doesn't sputter and conk out whenever you need it the most. Surely this is one of life's simple pleasures.

For more information about IH please visit our Website at: www.internationalhope.ca