

SUPPLY LINES

Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting was held on March 2, 2006 at Westminster United Church. Elections were held for several positions on the Board of Directors. The new board consists of:

Past President Phyllis Reader
President Val McIntyre
Vice President Roma Maconachie
Secretary Judy Brown
Treasurer Cheryl Simmonds
Warehouse/Volunteer Director Vacant
Transportation Director Dave Dunford
Communications/PR Director Dorothy Ridd
Fundraising Director Vacant

St. Vincent & Grenadines Tour

Five IH volunteers and one guest toured St. Vincent and some of the islands of the Grenadines, in particular Union Island, with Winnipeggers Byron and Cita Jones as their gracious hosts. Val and Don McIntyre, Dave and Donna Dunford, Roma Maconachie and Trudy Streeter were able to see firsthand the pressing needs of these islands. They visited the Cato hospital where two containers of medical supplies have been delivered. During the tour our team was able to talk directly to staff to ascertain what the health personnel would like sent in the future. An orphanage where one-third of the children have AIDS, the Lewis Punnet Home for Seniors and a mental institution with 20 beds for 50 patients were also on the tour. Byron, the visionary, plans to send three more containers as soon as he can secure the funding.



The Pakistan Earthquake

In our last newsletter we reported that Dr. Ahmed Farooq and three other Winnipeg doctors had taken supplies from our warehouse to Pakistan. At our annual meeting, Dr. Farooq told us about the immense devastation in the area. He described the leveling of all buildings at the epicenter of the quake and the tremendous loss of life, particularly women and children, because they were the ones in the buildings, mainly homes and schools. Many of the survivors had sustained

fractures or crush injuries. Dr. Farooq was so impressed with the spirit of the survivors in that they looked to the future and reconstruction rather than what they had lost. Another Winnipeg physician, Bob Blanchard and his wife Monica, were in the quake zone shortly following the disaster carrying supplies from the warehouse. In a letter to International HOPE members, Dr. Blanchard also described the utter devastation and loss of life. As he has done many times before, Bob went directly to Bach Christian Hospital to perform surgeries and to comfort the injured and dying. He writes, "Many lost their entire families: up to 10 or more people. Many saw their loved ones dying under immovable stones. Parents at our hospital stand around with a vacant look, stunned by the loss of their children or other relatives". The loss of much of the community infrastructure was also overwhelming. It made the Blanchards realize how dependent we humans are on our community and each other. Like Dr. Farooq, Dr. Blanchard commented on the amazing resilience of the Pakistani people.



Looking down the valley one can see the devastation & the tents



So happy to have sutures & other supplies donated by International HOPE

Haitian Dental Mission

A multidisciplinary team from Winnipeg traveled to Port Au Prince, Haiti, taking with them supplies from our warehouse. The team consisted of Dr. Teresa Wawrykow (family medicine resident), Dr. Reynolds (family physician), Bruce Hildebrand (photojournalist), Wendy Doy (children's program co-ordinator), Daniel Plourde (a grade 8 student who ran the pharmacy) while Dr. Plourde, an infectious disease specialist, led the

mission. Although there were no Canadian dentists on the team, a Haitian dentist provided dental services to the community in the clinic during the team's stay. The mission was sponsored by Evangelical Medical Aid Society. During the team's stay they saw over 200 patients experiencing a variety of diseases from malaria and typhoid fever to asthma and urinary tract infections. Teaching was an important aspect of the mission. In clinic, partnerships were formed between senior Canadian and junior Haitian health care members to facilitate learning in a practical setting. They also spent one afternoon lecturing to about 70 nursing students from a local school. Serving meals to the neighbourhood children close to their base at the El-Shaddai Church was also carried out by the team. Teresa Wawrykow, who reported on the mission, was touched by the generosity and hospitality of the members of the church.



One of the many children seen by the Canadian team



Dr. Teresa Wawrykow at work

Students Without Borders, Africa 2007

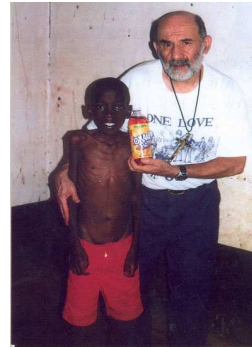
Joanne Plamondon, her daughter Janelle and Janelle's friend Danielle Harel, came to the warehouse to pack four boxes of supplies to be shipped to M'Bour, Senegal. The supplies will be distributed to a medical clinic, an eye clinic and a prison. Joanne, Janelle and Danielle are all members of the Students Without Borders committee at College Jeanne Sauve. This group was founded by Diane Plamondon and hopes to raise enough money to send a container to Senegal.

Project Teach/Konbit Pwof

Volunteers recently packed a 20-foot container headed for La Gonave, Haiti. Project Teach/Konbit Pwof is an organization, spearheaded by Pierre S. Joanis, dedicated to promoting children's rights in Haiti and improving their education. In a cooperative effort with another group, Hand to Hand for Haiti, Project Teach/Konbit Pwof would also like to establish a clinic in the area and was grateful for the supplies we were able to provide.

Canadian Food for Children

For a number of years now, IH volunteer Dennis McVarish has worked tirelessly to ensure the shipment of hundreds of boxes of basic medical supplies for Canadian Food for Children. CFFC is an organization, founded by Dr. and Mrs. Simone of Toronto, that ships thousands of tonnes of food, clothing and educational supplies to 47 of the world's poorest countries. We are privileged to be able to assist this worthwhile endeavor.



Dr. Simone and undernourished child

Our Thanks

A huge thank you from International H.O.P.E. goes out to our supporters. Marg Loutes and her husband have been picking up supplies, large equipment and drugs from all over western Manitoba and delivering them to the warehouse. It's a great deal of traveling in not so optimal conditions, so we really do appreciate all their efforts.

Since the inception of International H.O.P.E., R.W. Packaging has been transporting to the warehouse valuable products, such as rubbing alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, Epsom salts and calamine lotion, for shipment to our destination countries. We thank Henry Ruiter (president) and Ken and Floyd Carpenter for their efforts and on-going commitment to our mission.

Woman of Distinction

International H.O.P.E. nominated our founder and past president, Phyllis Reader for the 2006 YMCA-YWCA Women of Distinction award in community voluntarism. Phyllis has been a mentor and inspiration to all of the volunteers. We are very proud of her and what she has accomplished.



For more information about our activities and volunteer opportunities please visit: www.internationalhope.ca .