



UpdateNow!

September 2008

Lily Medical Centre Celebrates Grand Opening by Ed Bjurstrom

The grand opening of the Lily Medical Centre was held on July 29th in the township of Mophela in South Africa. A visiting team of volunteers from the United States representing the CareNow Foundation were able to help with preparations for the opening and participate in this historic event. CareNow has been supporting the effort to establish this new medical clinic near the Lily of the Valley Orphanage over the past 2 years. Last year (2007) CareNow sent a container full of medical supplies, equipment and medicines to outfit the clinic. Since that time, the clinic has been regularly used by visiting healthcare professionals while the effort to hire a permanent nurse, pharmacist and part-time doctor was on-going as well as gaining the approvals needed from the local government for full operation.

The official opening was a wonderful occasion that showed how important this clinic is to the surrounding community as well as the orphanage. Approximately 200 people attended the opening of the clinic and included representatives from emergency services, the local health department, local police, Department of Welfare as well as local community leaders. Ed Bjurstrom presented a check for \$10,000 to Noel Wright, the head of the Lily organization, to be used to purchase medicines for the clinic. The newly hired “Sister-in-Charge” (nurse practitioner), Shile Dlamini, was introduced as well. She has a Diploma in Health Assessment, Diagnoses, Treatment & Care from the University of Natal and is able to diagnose and treat patients on a daily basis with support from doctors at a regional hospital. This new clinic will make a life and death difference in this community as most of the local people have no access to any other medical care.



CareNow Team Volunteers at Valley of 1000 Hills Clinic by Chris Faherty

There is a place in South Africa that is overwhelmed by life threatening illness, 80% unemployment, crippling poverty and death. Yet in the midst of despair there is a place of hope, a place called 1000 Hills Community Helpers. A group of nurses, a social worker, a pharmacist and a retired surgeon, all volunteer, offer their services in a clinic to administer hope and healthcare to a community that has nowhere else to turn.

As representatives of CareNow our team of eight was able to spend a busy Thursday visiting and helping at this clinic. We sorted medicines and vitamins in individual packets to hand out to patients. We also prepared individual doses of cough syrups and liquid medicines for children in small bottles. We sat in on interviews with one of the nurses as she worked with patients dispensing advice, compassion, medicine and hope. Food parcels were also available for those who had no food, as well as formula for infants. All of the food, medicines and supplies are donated or purchased with donated funds. CareNow has been involved in supporting 1000 HCH

for three years with funds for medications. I was humbled to see how far these donations have gone to give care with dignity to people who are in desperate need.



Patients wait for treatment at the Valley of 1000 Hills Medical Clinic



Chris Faherty is a registered pediatric nurse and serves on the board of CareNow. She and another board member, Anne Kennedy, traveled to South Africa and Zambia this summer to visit clinics that CareNow supports.



CareNow Visits Zambia Mobile Clinic

by Anne Kennedy

After a whirlwind visit to our clinics in South Africa we were on to Zambia and into the bush where we spent four days working with Susan Hundshamer and Stephanie Brink, our nurse and mid-wife team working with Missionary Ventures International in the Sinazongwe area of Zambia.

We were overwhelmed, saddened, and shocked at the poverty, disease and lack of humanitarian treatment of God's children. This experience can't help but change your life and really have an impact on how you choose to live in the future. We went to three different areas in Sinazongwe and served about 200 local people, treating where we could and referring to local "hospitals" in cases where the treatment was beyond the capabilities of Susan and Stephanie. The diseases we saw ranged from AIDS and all the devastating things that accompany it, to worms and arthritis from carrying wood, bricks and large 30-40 pounds of corn maze on heads, not to mention that these people have never seen a dentist, optometrist or audiologist.

The last part of our trip was spent in Ndola in the northern part of Zambia with Mission Medic Air, a new group in Zambia that CareNow is evaluating for support. Mission Medic Air operates small airplanes to fly in support to remote clinics and arrange visits by doctors and dentists to provide medical care to people in remote areas. We will provide additional information on this organization in future Updates. We left Zambia with feelings of hope and excitement about how we can further help so many people in need and make their lives a little better.



SUSAN AND STEPHANIE AVAILABLE TO SPEAK TO YOUR GROUP

Susan Hundshamer and Stephanie Brink, our nurse and midwife from Zambia, will be on furlough from October 20 through the end of December. If you are interested in having them share about their work in Zambia to your group, please email Wendy Bjurstrom at wbjurstrom@carenowfoundation.org.

A Big Texas “Thank You” to the Friendship Church in San Antonio!

The Friendship Church of San Antonio, Texas, one of CareNow’s supporters, found a unique and creative (although messy) way to raise funds for CareNow during their annual Vacation Bible School in July. During the week, over 60 boys and girls competed by having a penny contest to see who could bring in the most coins. If the girls won, Pastor Warren Cook and his team of men would be “slimed” at the end of the week. If the boys won, the Pastors wife Julie Cook and her team of women would be “slimed”. To the delight of the boys, they won the contest and the women got the opportunity to be slimed. Many thanks to Friendship Church San Antonio for raising over \$500 for CareNow

Coming in Fall 2009

Westlake Village 5k Run/Walk and 10k Run for Africa

This run/walk for Africa will symbolize the plight of many rural villages in Africa where people have to walk for hours or even days to reach a hospital or clinic. Proceeds of this run will help support a rural clinic that brings much needed medical care to people in Africa

who currently have no access to even the most basic healthcare. If you would like to be on the planning committee or volunteer at the event, please email Wendy Bjurstrom at wbjurstrom@carenowfoundation.org

A Helping Hand from Local Non-Profits and Businesses

We are thankful to our local freeclinics, the Conejo Free Clinic, www.conejofreeclinic.org and Westminster Free Clinic, www.westminsterclinic.org for their donations of medicines and supplies that were brought South Africa and Zambia by our CareNow volunteer traveling teams. Thanks to Teresa Seeley, Cindy Vinson and Sally Maliski for all of their help. We also want to thank Jane Rosner and her staff at the West Valley Hearing Center, www.westvalleyhearingcenter.com for their donation of foam ear tips to test the hearing of many of the children that live near the Zambia mobile clinics. It was discovered that many children thought to be completely deaf will be able to hear with the help of hearing aids. Please contact our office if you know someone who is able to donate hearing aids.

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