

Other Projects

HF is supporting efforts to expand the use of mind-body techniques to enhance childhood pain management in third world settings

HF is supporting the further development of a simple biofeedback unit, though which children can learn that changes in their thinking cause immediate changes in their bodies.

Some HF volunteers are also active in the Rainbow Center for Global Child Health at CWRU. When agendas are shared, HF provides occasional support for the Center's programs.

Organization

Health Frontiers is registered as a non-profit organization in Minnesota, and classified under the US tax code as a 501(c)(3) public charity. Its EIN number is 34-1694322.

HF is sustained by a diverse network of supporters, especially by the many professionals who donate their services. Cash support comes mainly from individual contributors, and from organizations such as churches, service clubs, foundations and public agencies. Contributions to HF are tax deductible under US law.

Health Frontiers was founded in 1991 by Karen Olness MD, Hakon Torjesen, and several colleagues at CWRU and family members. Its work has been managed by them and a volunteer board, with no paid headquarters staff. The HF office is located on the Torjesen/Olness family farm near Kenyon, Minnesota, USA.

The HF relationship with Case has always been one of complete independence, but earlier it included 15 years of affiliation as a subcontractor.

In the year ending September 30, 2006, the value of the donated professional time and travel of HF volunteers was more than \$500,000, and HF cash expenses were \$177,177.

The Medical Director of Health Frontiers is Karen Olness MD, Professor of Pediatrics, Family Medicine and Global Health, CWRU.

Members of the HF Board of Directors are:

- President, Hakon Torjesen, Asst Professor of Medicine in Global Health, CWRU
- Vice President, Helen Tomlinson PhD, Fairport Asset Management, Cleveland, OH
- Treasurer, Georgine Busch, Adviser to non-profit organizations, Kailua-Kona, HI
- John Kennell MD, Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics and Global Health, CWRU
- Erik Torjesen MA, Faculty member, Singapore American School, Singapore
- Kristine Torjesen MD MPH Partners in Health, Nano, Malawi
- Jennifer Wright, MBA MS, Mother and homemaker, Raleigh NC

For more information,
please visit the HF website at

www.healthfrontiers.org

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Bryan Watt

A report from

Health Frontiers

December, 2006

Purpose

Health Frontiers (HF) is an all-volunteer outreach of health professionals. Its focus is on outcomes in global health and child development that would be lost without a volunteer effort. It is a catalyst organization, prepared to seize opportunities at the frontiers of health, and help nurture them into realities.

Laos Project

Over the past fifteen years in Laos, scores of HF volunteer health professionals---many of them taking a year or more out of their careers---have helped their Lao colleagues to establish the first viable post-graduate medical education programs in the history of this needy country.

They helped the Lao National University to launch intensive three year residency programs in pediatrics and internal medicine, that are based on specific health needs in Laos, and consistent with international standards. 33 pediatricians and 10 internists have already graduated, and six or more of each are expected to graduate annually.

At the start of this training, Laos had seven pediatricians for three million children. Today, one or more pediatricians are active in almost all provinces of Laos, and the teaching in Vientiane is often done by Lao internists and pediatricians.

The major HF resource supporting these outcomes is the donated time of the volunteer faculty. Our current Laos team includes internist-pediatrician Cindy Chu, and pediatrician Louisa McKenzie, both serving full time on small living stipends. Part-time volunteer help comes from pediatrician Leila Srour, her husband Bryan Watt, and Louisa's husband Kevin Mottershead. The US-based director of the Laos project is volunteer pediatrician Melanie Rosenberg. These are all pictured above, along with Karen Olness and Hakon Torjesen visiting from the HF home office.



Karen, Hakon, Kevin, Bryan, Cindy, Melanie, Leila, Louisa

A key partner in this effort is nearby Khon Kaen University in Thailand, which provides many tuition-free subspecialty training rotations for the Lao residents. And volunteer faculty from Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), Khon Kaen and many other centers make short term teaching visits to Laos, usually traveling at their own expense. Cash funding for the project comes mostly from individual donations.

Children in Disasters

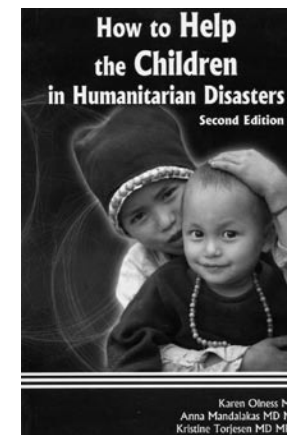
In numerous recent disasters, including the Tsunami, Katrina and the Pakistan earthquake, a unique band of volunteers have responded. They are graduates and faculty of a training program on the special needs of children in disasters, which HF has helped to support.

Millions of children around the world are caught in humanitarian disasters, due to nature, war, or terror. Often, their special needs are not fully understood by relief professionals.

A five day interactive curriculum on these needs was first developed in 1995 by HF medical director Karen Olness and a volunteer group of colleagues at CWRU. Such a course has been offered annually at CWRU, and replicated in many overseas locations. It has drawn many sponsors, including Health Frontiers.

In 2006 HF published the second edition of the manual on needs of children in disasters, pictured below. HF also co-sponsored replications of the training course in Pakistan, Thailand and El Salvador. In Pakistan, nine volunteer faculty from the US and Thailand helped to conduct four courses in three weeks on the needs of children after the quake.

Looking ahead, a network, involving the Rainbow Center for Global Child Health, HF, CWRU, IPA, and others, is working on replicating the course in Greece, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Uganda. The next Cleveland course is scheduled for June 18-23, 2007.



HIV/AIDS Projects

In Uganda, HF has sponsored a volunteer research collaboration to test the hypothesis that the inexpensive anti-malarial drug, chloroquine, can slow the progression of HIV infection in infants. The results are now being submitted for publication.

HF has also supported a follow-up study of a small group of Ugandan teenagers, most of them orphans, who are still alive up to sixteen years after being born with HIV infection, a remarkable history of growing up HIV-infected in a poor country, before ARV treatments were available.

HF serves as fiscal agent for several projects that support HIV-infected children in Uganda.

It is also channeling donations to projects in HIV/AIDS devastated Malawi.