

Other Projects

HF has sent donations to the suffering Bwaila Maternity Hospital in Lilongwe, Malawi, and is exploring the possibility of a deeper involvement.

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

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

Some HF volunteers have shared agendas with the Rainbow Center for Global Health at CWRU. HF occasionally supports Center activities.

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 the many professionals who donate their services. Cash support comes from individual donations, and from organizations such as churches, foundations, corporations and public agencies. Contributions to HF are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

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

HF was founded by CWRU faculty members, but is an independent organization. It earlier had a 15-year affiliation as a subcontractor of CWRU.

In the year ending September 30, 2008, the value of the donated professional time and travel of HF volunteers was more than \$500,000, and HF cash expenses were \$248,547.

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 Global Health, CWRU; organic farmer, MN
- Vice President, Helen Tomlinson PhD, International volunteer, San Diego, CA
- Treasurer, Georgine Busch, treasurer, Earl & Doris Bakken Foundation, Kailua-Kona, HI
- John Kennell MD, Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics and Global Health, CWRU
- Marisa Herran MD, co-director, Rainbow Center for Global Child Health, CWRU
- Erik Torjesen MA, Faculty member, Singapore American School, Singapore
- Kristine Torjesen MD MPH, Global Health Consultant, Carey, NC
- Jennifer Wright, MBA MS, Partner, Tandem Strategy, 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

www.healthfrontiers.org

Purpose

Health Frontiers (HF) is an all-volunteer outreach of health professionals, focused 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

Since 1991 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 have helped the Lao University of Health Sciences to launch intensive three-year residency training programs in pediatrics and internal medicine. These are based on specific Lao health needs, and are consistent with international standards. By mid 2008, 42 pediatricians and 23 internists had graduated, with six or more of each projected to graduate annually.

At the start of this training, Laos had seven pediatricians for three million children and equally few internists, all trained abroad. Today, the Lao graduates are working in all Lao provinces and are increasingly involved in the teaching in Vientiane.

The training has grown to include continuing medical education programs, subspecialty training opportunities in nearby countries, and a teaching outreach in remote northern Laos.

The major HF resource supporting these outcomes is our long-term faculty in Laos, serving gratis or on small living stipends. They currently include nephrologist Christine Johns, pediatrician Leila Srour, IT engineer Bryan Watt, and recently internist-pediatrician Cindy Chu, and pediatrician Angela Luangrath. The US-based volunteer project director is pediatrician Melanie Rosenberg.



Graduating Lao pediatricians, internists and friends

A key partner in this effort is nearby Khon Kaen University in Thailand, which has long provided many tuition-free subspecialty training rotations for the Lao residents and additional training for the graduates. More recently, the Royal Children's Hospital at the University of Melbourne has played a key role in pediatric CME programs. And volunteer faculty from Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), Khon Kaen, Melbourne and many other centers make many short term teaching visits to Laos, usually traveling at their own expense.

Cash funding for the Laos project has come mostly from individual donations, and recently also from WHO, Tom Dooley Heritage, and Oxiana.

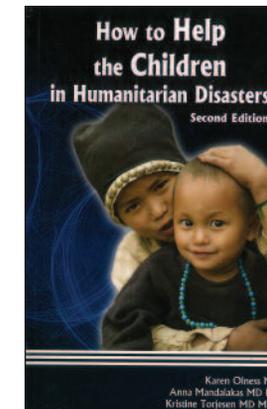
Children in Disasters

In numerous humanitarian disasters, including the Tsunami, Katrina, the Burma cyclone and the Sichuan 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 establish,

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

A five day interactive workshop on these needs was first developed in 1995 by HF medical director Karen Olness and a volunteer group of colleagues at the Rainbow Center for Global Child Health. The course has been offered annually at CWRU, and replicated in many overseas locations, drawing many sponsors.

Health Frontiers has published the manual on needs of children in disasters. The second edition in English and Arabic is pictured below. In 2008 and early '09, HF supported presentations of the workshop in Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Myanmar and Sudan. The Myanmar course was taught by Thai colleagues, long active in the project, because Myanmar barred Americans.



HIV/AIDS Research

HF has sponsored research collaborations in Uganda, focused on low cost ways to slow the progression of HIV infection. Preliminary data on the use of chloroquine with HIV-infected infants has been presented at medical meetings,

HF is also supporting a school fees program for children from earlier studies, and follow up on a small group of untreated Ugandan teenagers who are alive longafter being born HIV infected.