December 2016

MBF
Medical Benevolence Foundation

President's Report:

Building Sustainable Health Care in the Developing World

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

Lisa Cole, new Director for the Mary K Center for Global Nursing Development.

Mary K Center for Global Nursing Development (CGND)

Welcome new Director, Lisa Cole, MA, RN

As MBF looks forward, not just to the coming year, but for the foreseeable future, it is clear that focusing on increasing and improving nursing education is a critical step towards building sustainable health care systems in developing countries. To help facilitate that process, the Mary K Center for Global Nursing Development was created. The focus of the Center is to draw together resources from the foremost clinical and management practices around the world to help nurses in developing countries improve the quality of care, as well as advance their profession.

Lisa joined MBF in September of this year. Her primary role is to help develop, oversee and coordinate programs that will increase the capacity and strengthen the quality of the nursing profession in developing countries. She works to develop collaborative partnerships with both MBF's international partners, as well as schools and individuals in the U.S.

Lisa has an undergraduate degree in nursing and organizational communications and a master's degree in gerontology. She has more than 30 years of proven clinical, program development, management and leadership experience in the health care industry, and has spent the last 10 years of her career focused on community outreach to and engagement with under-resourced communities. We are glad to have Lisa on board and are looking forward to the work that the Mary K Center will be doing.

Partner: Presbyterian University of East Africa (PUEA), Kenya

Expanding and Improving Nursing Education

If those most in need around the world are to have greater access to better quality health care, one key factor to making that a reality is improving and expanding nursing education in these countries. MBF has partnered with nursing schools in Kenya—including Chogoria, Tumutumu and Kikuyu—for many years. In a recent partnership with the Presbyterian University of East Africa (PUEA), MBF is helping to establish a Bachelor of Nursing degree program (BScN) that will benefit its three nursing school partners. The curriculum for the new program was approved, pending some minor changes, by the Nursing Council of Kenya (NCK).

Andy and Lisa with Rev. Mwamba in Kenya.

While the BScN program curriculum was approved by the NCK this summer, the University is still working to secure its Charter from the Commission for University Education (OUE). Rev. Julius Mwamba, moderator for the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) has been assigned to manage the process. Andy Mayo, MBF CEO and Lisa Cole, Director for MBF's Mary K Center for Global Nursing Development, met with Rev. Mwamba in October to discuss the status of the situation. Mwamba felt the situation was positive given the recent remarks by the Minister of Education, and the government showed its confidence by allocating scholarships for 853 new students at PUEA.

Partners in Haiti

Recovering and Rebuilding After Hurricane Matthew

Thanks to all our supporting partners on behalf of Hôpital Ste. Croix (HSC) and the Darbonne Maternal & Child Health Clinic in Haiti. On October 4, Hurricane Matthew, a Category 4 storm hit the southwestern side of Haiti. More than 1,000 died and countless more were left homeless in a country still struggling to recover from the 2010 earthquake.

Part of the roof at the Darbonne Maternal & Child Health Clinic is torn off during Hurricane Matthew.

A member of the medical team doing student physicals at the HSC day clinic.

Even though HSC and the Darbonne clinic were not directly hit, the high winds and heavy rains caused significant damage at both facilities. But rather than wait for relief workers from outside the country to arrive and help with recovery, MBF was able to direct contributions quickly to the two facilities so they could hire members of the local community to immediately begin clean up and repairs. Not only did this strategy get both the hospital and clinic back to providing medical treatment, but it also provided income for the local workforce. Utilizing the local workforce is important in building sustainability as it benefits the local economy while helping create a sense of ownership within the community. The FSIL nursing school, another one of our partners in Haiti, sustained little damage and students were quick to pitch in and help at both the hospital and clinic.

In early November an MBF mission team, with members representing seven different church congregations, headed to Haiti to help with repairs and recovery after the storm. Medical members of the team worked at the HSC day clinic and also provided continuing education for some of the doctors and nurses at the hospital. Construction members of the team helped with repairs as well as projects that had been planned and will help expand the services of the hospital. They had a prayer-full and productive week.

Members of the MBF Mission Team in Haiti.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord, I am reminded of our call as Christians to heal the sick, help the poor and share the Gospel. I am humbled by what God has accomplished this past year and grateful for your continued faith in our partnership that allows us to do this work. Through your ministry to bring sustainable health care to the developing world, you have touched thousands of lives. I pray that you may have the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace of His love this Christmas season and throughout the coming year.

Andy

Andy Mayo
President & CEO, MBF

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MBF is a Christ-centered organization dedicated to transforming lives by building sustainable medical ministries by partnering with hospitals, nursing schools and clinics in developing countries.

800-547-7627 • info@mbfoundation.org • www.MBFoundation.org • 9555 W. Sam Houston Pkwy., Ste. 170, Houston, TX 77099

12/2016