

COLLEAGUES IN GLOBAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER

December 2024

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Report on WBW Fellowships to Africa Fall 2024 Carolyn Kruger, Ph.D.

The Project HOPE Colleagues for Global Health (CGH) have supported “Save the Newborn” initiatives in Sierra Leone and Malawi and helped these countries decrease their high neonatal mortality rate. The country programs were initiated by Dr. Tom Kenyon during his tenure as President of Project HOPE and supported by CGH and volunteers over the last four years.

Project HOPE has since become a leader and partner in the development of advanced neonatal nursing education programs in Sierra Leone and Malawi and has worked in close coordination with partners for the development of baccalaureate (BSN) and master’s (MSN) programs. These programs are the first university level neonatal specialty degree programs in their countries and are becoming models for other countries in Africa. The programs also provided HOPE publications that drew the interest of funding for new programs. Essential to the development of



CGH sponsored neonatal educators teaching clinical care at Kamazu Central Hospital in Lilongwe, Malawi

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Continued from page 1

skilled nursing health workers is quality training with a competency-based curriculum and preparation of faculty skilled in teaching theory and providing quality clinical application for students in the care of small and sick newborns in neonatal acute care settings.

WBW Endowment: The Sierra Leone and Malawi programs were largely funded by CGH WBW Endowment Fund. The WBW Endowment was meant to support the education and advancement of health providers to care for vulnerable populations with the technical assistance of professional educators and leaders called “Fellows”. Technical assistance was provided by neonatal professional educators, clinicians, and biomedical engineer volunteers, many of whom were recruited by CGH members.

WBW Endowment Deployments -2024: The goal of the deployments funded by WBW Endowment during 2024 was to prepare nurses and faculty to provided quality classroom and clinical training for the advanced BSN and MSN programs. **The University of Sierra Leone, College of Medicine, and Allied Health, School of Nursing and Midwifery** received two consultants focusing on post-graduate training of the new Neonatal BSN and MSN graduates and preparation of Special Care Baby Unit Preceptors as clinical teachers for new staff and students. The **Malawi Kamuzu University of Health Sciences** BSN in Neonatal Nursing received two consultants who focused on advanced theory and clinical training of faculty.

Additional CGH Funding supported the establishment of a clean water system repair for the Sierra Leone Ola During Children’s Hospital, Special care Baby Unit (SCBU) which has greatly impacted lowering the rate of sepsis in the unit. A Neonatal Learning Lab was established with newborn simulation equipment and provision of teaching and professional nursing resources. A significant event was the acceptance of two “Fellows” in the training programs whose abstracts were selected for oral presentations at the Council for International Neonatal Nurses (COINN) International Conference in Denmark- 2024.

CGH Alumni should be proud of the support they have given for the advancement of neonatal nursing programs as examples of the WBW Walsh Founder’s support for long-term, sustainable development with strong “counterpart” partnerships.



Beldine Ndalo -second from right (U.S./Kenya) and Mustapha Mahama - far right (Ghana) mentoring Kamazu University of Health Sciences faculty in neonatal care.



Neonatal educators with KUHeS faculty in front of labor ward at Kamazu Central Hospital.

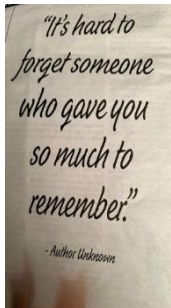
Memories:

From Val Cooke:



A situation that stands out to me is one morning after working all night on the ship, Dorothy Aeschliman came by and asked if I would like to accompany a Midwife from a church group, that was needed in a mountain village to deliver high risk maternal patients in South America. She needed someone to help with newborn resuscitation, if necessary. I joined the midwife, and we had 5 successful deliveries and healthy births. It was an amazing 7–10-day experience for me.

From Joann Jene:



From John Wilhelm:



During the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays and as we begin a new year, it seems appropriate to recognize the enormous impact that Project HOPE has had on my life. Rather than a single memory, I realize how broadening my association with Project HOPE has been in bringing "health opportunities to people", experiencing international cultures and working with truly good and altruistic people in Ceylon, Jamaica, Brazil, San Diego, CA, Grenada and Millwood. My Project HOPE experiences have enriched my career and provided a unique texture to my life. I am grateful.

From Debbie Reister:

A note I found the other day: 2/25/92 Just a quick note from Romania. I thought I could write a longer note on the computer, but found out they don't have paper here or at least we can't find it! Bucharest is a beautiful city even in the winter – the spring and summer, however, must be outstanding, they have tree lined streets and big houses. It is very different to be in the actual spots that were filmed during the revolution and taking Ceausescu from power. The Ministry of Health where I am working is the building where he had the helicopter land to help his escape and has bullet holes in the walls! The people are friendly, language is like French with a twist. Looks like I will be coming back over the next year to keep the office going. Went to a wonderful violin concert last night – cost 16 cents - \$1= 360 lei. I will tell you more later. Want to give this to person going to U.S.

Obituaries – Irene Machado

Susan Morrow Callan – June 2, 2024

Moving to Anchorage Alaska in 1969, she worked as a Medical Technologist until 1972 when she joined a Project HOPE tour on the ship USS HOPE providing medical services and teaching underprivileged in Natal, Brazil.

William Grant Heggie, Jr – August 24, 2024

In 1973, Grant joined Project HOPE, accepting an assignment in Maceio, Alagoas Brazil, the then-impoverished Brazilian Northeast state. Over the next three years, Grant led the planning, building and training of the support staff for a 75-bed general acute hospital and the initiation of a number of desperately needed public health programs. Grant referred to his time in Brazil as his most satisfying career experience.

President's Message – Debra Reister



This year has been very successful with the programs in Malawi and Sierra Leone. It is such a great pleasure to work with everyone involved with the programs. I enjoyed the trip to the HOPE office in June speaking with many people about our activities. It is always great to meet old friends and gain new ones. The office was beautiful but now there will be a new office in the new year, not far from the current address.

The CGH will have many changes in the coming years, but we will always have great memories and friends!

Note: Picture is from the handover of the mobile clinic in Atyrau, Kazakhstan, drinking camel milk in celebration!!

MAY YOU ALL HAVE A HAPPY HEALTHY 2025!!

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