



Horn of Africa Neonatal Development Services

1st Quarter 2015

Horn of Africa Neonatal Development Services (HANDS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving infants' lives in Ethiopia by facilitating the implementation of skilled medical care by the local medical professionals.

HANDS Team preparing to go back to Ethiopia for a mission

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“The Legacies we leave behind define our success in life”
MWS.

On April 23, 2015, three volunteers including Dr. Mesfin Woldesenbet (HANDS founder and neonatologist), Beverley Edwards (Neonatal ICU nursing manager) and Robert Menchaca (Manager, NICU Respiratory Therapist) headed back to Jimma, Ethiopia. Beverley and Robert are from Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital in Houston, Texas. The team plans to stay in Ethiopia for two weeks.

The main focus of this trip is to help upgrade the delivery room environment, and strengthen the neonatal ICU expertise skill in assessment of sick babies and proper neonatal nursing documentation. The team will continue ongoing training of medical personnel in neonatal resuscitation skills and major newborn problems and their respective management including nutrition, infection, respiratory problems and providing skill in acceptable neonatal documentation.

The traveling team will carry some equipment that is desperately needed in Jimma. However, the majority of the equipment has been shipped.

The HANDS team is planning to meet with Ethiopian health officials, both locally in Jimma and at the Ministry of Health, to discuss pertinent issues involving the care of newborns.

HANDS would like to thank our volunteers who are travelling on the upcoming trip for their willingness to exchange their experiences with our local Ethiopian medical professionals. HANDS would also like to express its gratitude to the constant advocacy of individuals and institutions that continuously provide their unwavering support in making these trips a reality.

HANDS Shipped Vital Neonatal Equipment to Ethiopia

In February 2015, HANDS shipped important neonatal equipment to Ethiopia. The shipment is currently in Addis Ababa custom's office, awaiting clearance. The shipment includes phototherapy units, intravenous pumps, blood glucose monitoring devices and other vital equipment that will help achieve improvement in neonatal care. The estimated price of the shipped equipment is close to \$40,000 US dollars. This was made possible by the generous donation of institutions and individuals.

The shipment was facilitated by Boeing Company in collaborations with Ethiopian airlines. HANDS would like to express its gratitude for this generosity.



Vital Neonatal Equipment shipped to Ethiopia

Report: 2014 Year-End Fundraising Campaign

Our year-end fundraising campaign, conducted in December, was a huge success. We were able to generate close to \$9,000 enough to support one mission involving a team of 3 volunteers. HANDS would like to thank all supporters in helping us achieve our goals and hope your support will continue.

Please visit our website and facebook page to get more information:

- Our website (www.handsforbabies.org) and
- Our facebook page (www.facebook.com/HANDSforBabies).



Bubble CPAP being applied to a patient in Jimma Hospital

Next Steps

We believe strongly that the involvement of multiple organizations comprised of a variety of specialties or professions, both medical and non-medical, are needed to address these issues. This will require the involvement of local Ethiopian professionals and orchestration by the Ethiopian Ministry of Health.

We are in dire need for neonatologists who will lead teams and are willing to travel to Ethiopia. A team comprises of a neonatologist, neonatal nurse and respiratory therapist.

We hope the above newsletter will trigger thought and discussion among individuals and organizations residing in the developed world. We are willing to work with local Ethiopian professionals towards the common goal of upgrading neonatal care in Ethiopia through the exchange of combined knowledge and experiences.

-HANDS Team



HANDS team with Jimma Hospital Nursing staff and Local Pediatricians

How You Can Help

Would you like to get involved with Hands for Babies by volunteering your time and talents?

We have volunteer opportunities for skilled, talented and dedicated people in the following areas:

Clinical Staff

- Neonatologist
- Neonatal Nurses
- Neonatal Respiratory Therapists
- Pharmacists

Non-Clinical Staff

- Administrative Assistance
- Fundraising
- Marketing
- Shipment
- Travel Arrangements
- Website Maintenance

We welcome monetary donations in any amount. Your contributions will enable us to continue our work to improve neonatal health care facilities and the delivery of medical care to newborn babies in Ethiopia.

To volunteer or make a donation, please contact us at:

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