



Horn of Africa Neonatal Development Services

3rd Quarter 2014

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.

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



Cynthia Duncan and NICU staff at Siena Campus packing donated equipment



Life- saving CPAP bottles ready to ship

HANDS Team Preparing to Return to Ethiopia

Our HANDS team, in collaboration with two volunteers, is in the final stage of preparation to head back to Jimma, Ethiopia. This team will include Dr. Mesfin Woldesenbet, HANDS founder and neonatologist, and Raymond Laberge, HANDS board member and neonatal respiratory therapist. Our volunteers are Beverley Edwards, neonatal ICU nursing manager and Geeta Abraham, neonatal charge nurse. Both volunteers are from Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital in Houston, Texas. The team plans to stay in Ethiopia for 2 weeks in October and November 2014.

During their stay, the team will continue exchanging experiences with local medical professionals, re-enforcing the positive changes they made in the past and recommending any new ways to improve conditions. The focus will be to continue having adequate neonatal resuscitation skills and deal with other major challenges including nutrition, infection and providing developmentally appropriate neonatal nursing care.

Though most of the neonatal equipment gathered by HANDS through the generous donation of individuals and institution will be sent as one large shipment, the traveling team will carry some equipment that is desperately needed in Jimma.

The HANDS team will also be meeting with Ministry of Health Officials to discuss how these efforts could be more effective locally in Jimma and our goal to expand this experience to other areas in Ethiopia.

HANDS would like to thank our volunteers who are travelling in the upcoming trip for their willingness to share their expertise with our local Ethiopian medical professionals. HANDS would also like to express its gratitude for the consistent backing of individuals and institutions that continuously provide their unwavering support and make these kinds of trips a reality.

Generous Donation from Dignity Health

The Dignity Health, St. Rose Dominican Hospital-Siena Campus, in Henderson, Nevada, donated much needed neonatal equipment to HANDS. Cynthia Duncan, a registered nurse and manager of the neonatal ICU, and the staff at the Sienna Campus spearheaded this generous donation.

This donation included a neonatal transport incubator, intravenous pumps, phototherapy units and other important equipment that will be essential in accomplishing our goal of upgrading neonatal care in Ethiopia.

HANDS would like to express its sincere gratitude for this kind donation and wonderful gesture of support.

Year-End Fundraising Campaign

Our year-end fundraising campaign will start in December. HANDS would like to thank all our previous supporters for helping us achieve our goals and hope your support will continue. For our future new supporters, HANDS would like to express its gratitude.

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

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

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 that travel to Ethiopia. The team comprises of 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

How You Can Help

Would you like to get involved with HANDS 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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