EVERYONE DESERVES ACCESS TO THE BEST HEALTHCARE AVAILABLE. OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE MAKING THIS POSSIBLE.

CARING FOR CRITICALLY SICK NEWBORNS IN VIETNAM

Volunteer Spotlight: Mary Le

As soon as she met the neonatal nurses she would be training for the next two weeks at the Vietnam National Children's Hospital (VNCH), Mary Le was impressed.

In preparation for her second trip to Hanoi as a Global Healing volunteer in 2016, Mary had carefully prepared a lot of training material, including 15 slide decks. The hospital staff translated all of the training material into Vietnamese and had it bound into books for the nurses who attended the training.

“I'd never seen anything like it,” Mary says. “Everyone was so eager and excited to have the Global Healing team there!”

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NEW SKILLS IN HAITI

By establishing industry standard systems at the blood bank at Hôpital Universitaire de Mirebalais (HUM) in Haiti, Global Healing has made it possible for hundreds of patients to receive safe blood. We continue to train the hospital staff to build their skills.

Hematologist Dr. Benjamin Rioux-Massé of Hema-Quebec in Montréal, Canada, has made several trips with Global Healing. “It has been fun and rewarding to collaborate with the HUM staff,” says Dr. Rioux-Massé. “The Global Healing team and HUM staff have developed friendships, and have great respect for each other and the importance of the project.”

We are now able to train HUM staff on component production — HUM now produces their own plasma and has a standing plasma reserve.

A grant from International Council for Commonality in Blood Banking Automation, Inc. (ICCBBA) has strengthened the blood bank techs' awareness of written procedures, quality control and recordkeeping. We've seen a big improvement overall in the blood bank, and expect this positive trend to continue.

“With another three years and with a local champion,” says Dr. Rioux-Massé, “we can get to goal-directed therapy with whole blood and components and develop an algorithm for doctors on what to transfuse. This would be a major success.”
A health science major at Furman University in South Carolina, Lia Thompson was thrilled to spend five weeks in Roatán, Honduras, as a Health Education & Advocacy Liaisons (HEAL) intern at the Roatán Volunteer Pediatric Clinic (RVPC).

“I knew I wanted to volunteer abroad doing something in pediatrics and in a Spanish speaking country,” she says, “so the HEAL internship was everything I wanted all wrapped up in one.”

Lia accompanied the pediatric doctor on rounds while the doctor saw the patients in the emergency room first, and then went to the outpatient clinic where Lia helped register the patients. She especially loved working with the littlest patients—weighing and measuring babies and taking their temperature.

**Access to free medical care on Roatán is very limited.**
The Ministry of Health operates two free family medicine clinics on the island, but the RVPC is the only free pediatric clinic. If it weren’t for the RVPC, patients’ families would have to pay for their children to see a pediatrician, an expense many cannot afford.

Sometimes a patient needs care that is beyond the capacity of the RVPC facilities. Lia remembers one little girl who was very ill when she arrived in the emergency room. She needed to be transported to the mainland for treatment, a cost her family could not afford.

“It was Global Healing that was able to make that happen,” says Lia. “I breathed a sigh of relief. You get really connected to the patients, and you realize how tangible an effect that sort of assistance can have on people’s lives.”

Back at Furman University, Lia wanted to support Global Healing’s work with patients and families in Roatán. She hit on the idea of a 5K race around the campus. The 5K Run for Roatán took place around a lake on a clear, sunny morning in April, with music and games at the finish line. Global Healing is grateful to Lia for raising over $700 with this fun 5K run.

“I saw that the RVPC is doing really awesome work,” Lia says. “When you’re there you see the difference it can make in a resource-poor setting to have access to the medicines and equipment kids need—the things that really make a difference in a child’s health.”

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**2019 INTERNATIONAL BLOOD SAFETY FORUM**

In collaboration with America’s Blood Centers, (ABC) we are pleased to be organizing the 2019 International Blood Safety Forum at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Alexandria, VA, on **March 23, 2019**. Once again the meeting will be a prelude to the ABC annual meeting.

In 2017 we talked about what should be done to help developing country blood systems provide a sustainable supply of safe blood and at the upcoming 2019 conference we will review what is being done by professional societies, blood centers and nonprofits.

We hope you will follow us for updates and join us at the meeting. Learn more at: globalhealing.org
GEORGIA: The Jo Ann Medical Center Celebrates 22 Year Anniversary

In September Global Healing staff joined in the 22nd Anniversary celebration at the Jo Ann Medical Center (JAMC) in Tilibisi, Georgia. JAMC opened its doors in 1996, when no local treatment was available for babies and children with congenital heart conditions.

Today, Georgia’s pediatric cardiology thrives in a modern infrastructure, with hundreds of babies being diagnosed in the womb and shortly after birth, maximizing their chances of getting the proper treatment and living full and healthy lives.

After the celebration, program manager Sarah Fernández talked with former patients of the medical center. They shared their past experiences at the JAMC, and spoke about their present lives, and how they felt the JAMC had changed them for the better. Among these former patients were two JAMC nurses, as well as another nurse in training and a medical student. All of them reported that their childhood experience at the JAMC had guided them to choose careers related to pediatric cardiac surgery.

“We decreased the morbidity and mortality of the pediatric population a lot,” said Dr. Irakli Metreveli, a retired surgeon who helped found JAMC. “Before JAMC, almost all of the kids with congenital heart disease—and it’s around 700-800 kids per year—were dying. Those kids are not dying anymore.”

“It’s happiness,” Dr. Metreveli continued, “to know you are giving a chance through this program to hundreds of people per year to be alive. When you go to the hospitals in Georgia you really see the impact of this program on the quality of care they are providing right now. And it was possible only because of Global Healing’s program.”

Head nurse Maka (second from left in pink) with former JAMC patients who now work at the center as nurses or are in training. They expressed that their childhood experience at the JAMC had guided them to choose careers related to pediatric cardiac surgery.

Together with the VNCH staff, Mary Le designed a training format to meet the needs of the participating nurses. Every morning she led the group on bedside rounds. Later, in the didactic training session, the group would pick interesting cases from the morning and discuss everything that goes into caring for that patient.

“Global Healing really cares about their partners,” Mary says. “They care not only about what’s being taught but also how their partners feel about it. The relationship Global Healing has with VNCH is not a donor-beneficiary relationship but a truly equal partnership.”

VIETNAM (CONT’D FROM PAGE 1)

Now in its fifth year, our program at VNCH helps the medical personnel there to provide the best care possible. Volunteers like Mary not only train them in top level care but also leave them with the materials and skills they need to train others as well.

On her most recent trip, Mary provided training in topics including newborn assessment, pre-term infant care, congenital heart defects, bedside procedures and caring for IV lines.

A pediatric nurse practitioner working at UCSF and Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, Mary has taught and trained over 50 neonatal nurses at VNCH, and hopes to go back soon.

The impact of Global Healing’s presence at VNCH was clear to Mary from the start.
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We hope you enjoy reading about the work our volunteers are doing to make healthcare better for children in Honduras, Haiti, Georgia and Vietnam. This newsletter features stories about our exceptional volunteers and their incredible commitment to the children and mothers we serve. In this edition we tell stories from our volunteers about the impact their experiences had on their patients and themselves.

This month we began teaching hand hygiene and safe placement of IV lines in the Public Hospital Roatán (PHR) through the efforts of Honduran infectious disease expert Dr. Elham Mandegari. This is the first project of its kind in the PHR. Our program will emphasize training of trainers and monitoring of performance to ensure the gains are sustained. We also plan to complete our pilot project to promote exclusive breastfeeding by the use of text messages by the middle of 2019.

We are looking forward to the 2019 International Blood Safety Forum in March, with talks by Dr. Meghan Delaney, Dr. Martin Smid and Dr. Benjamin Rioux-Massé, among others, on how best to help developing country blood systems make the progress they need.

This year we were very happy to join in the Jo Ann Medical Center’s 22nd Anniversary Celebration and to mark the grand opening of their newly renovated cardiology center, supported in part by Global Healing. JAMC continues to serve the children of Georgia and the Caucasus region with state of the art cardiac care.

The year 2019 promises to be a landmark year for Global Healing and the people we serve. We hope you will continue to follow us to share in our excitement about the future. Please help us continue the good work by supporting Global Healing.

Very Best Wishes,

John J. Donnelly, Ph.D.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING GLOBAL HEALING

As always, Global Healing greatly appreciates the support from our donors and our sponsors.

The sustainable programs we have implemented worldwide would not have succeeded without the generous support of our partner organizations.

Please join Global Healing in our mission to provide modern medicine for the developing world.

Ways You Can Help:
*Volunteer- locally or internationally
*Donate- go to globalhealing.org or use enclosed envelope
*Matching Gifts- ask your employer if they match gifts
*Give a Gift of Stock
*Planned Giving
*Host your Own Peer-to-Peer Fundraiser

In July, Global Healing staff members ran the 5K race at the 2018 San Francisco 2018 Marathon. On behalf of our medical partners overseas and our volunteer physicians, nurses and lab trainers, thank you for helping us raise over $7000.

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