

Lifeline Malawi

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www.lifelinemalawi.com

Winter 2006

THERE IS A TIME...

... For Volunteering, by Dr. Cheri Nijssen-Jordan, Phd, MBA



Dr. Cheri with husband Peter & 3 daughters



Dr. Cheri with young patient



Dr. Cheri with Ngodzi clinical staff



Line up for Outreach Clinic in remote are of Kasungu district.



A new set of twins from our antenatal clinic

It was time to go back to Africa. Peter and I had been in Southern Africa as volunteers from 1983 to 1985. It was now time to introduce our children to a new continent, a new culture and a new way of life. It was a time to reacquaint my husband Peter with his passion for development work. It really was the right time....

I am a pediatric emergency physician at the Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary and an Associate Professor at the University of Calgary. It was through this affiliation that I was able to arrange a 6 month sabbatical leave to go to Malawi to help Dr Chris Brooks and Lifeline Malawi. Having been introduced to the organization in September 2005 through a short mission trip, I resolved to get my tropical medicine certification and return to help expand the clinic and services and introduce education and research initiatives. In July 2006, Peter and I set out with 3 out of our 4 children to Malawi and Ngodzi clinic. We left our son Anthony in Saskatoon at the University of Saskatchewan much to his dismay!

The next 6 months was a whirlwind of activity. I provided medical care at the Ngodzi clinic as well as giving medical direction to the very capable staff there. As Medical Director, I also helped lead the initiative to establish a new clinic in Dowa district as part of a child labour elimination project centered in the tobacco growing area of Malawi. The new site construction is now nearing completion and hopefully will open doors in January 2007. As part of the project we focused on delivering accessible medical care in an extensive mobile outreach program. It was not uncommon to see over 300 patients a day at each of the clinics. Our team worked hard and had tremendous satisfaction in being able to provide care, badly needed medications, HIV testing and counseling and antenatal services to people who had not see a physician for many years. The roads were long, dusty and full of potholes but our team went home with smiles on our faces every day.

To say that the 6 months we spent in Malawi was great does not do justice to the immense learning we did as a family and as individuals. I was able to gain valuable experience in tropical medicine, use my MBA skills, and have the pleasure of working in a beautiful country with a fantastic organization and team. Peter worked as a consultant with UN Development Program while lending some sage advice to construction issues at the new Kasese clinic. The girls helped out at the clinic before enrolling at an international school where they quickly developed strong friendships with students from all parts of the world. We all felt very blessed to have this opportunity and look forward to continuing involvement with Lifeline Malawi.

POSITION POSTING

Lifeline Malawi is currently seeking to fill a permanent Medical Director position. If you, or someone you know desires to use your tropical medical experience to assist our organization bring life transforming hope and healing to the people of Malawi, please visit our website at www.lifelinemalawi.com for further details.

BRINGING LIFE-TRANSFORMING HOPE AND HEALING TO A NATION

THERE IS A TIME...

.....For Receiving



Centre of Excellence for ARV Treatment

With the assistance of funding from the National Aids Commission, Lifeline Malawi has been distributing anti-retrovirals medications to HIV positive patients from the Ngodzi Clinic for the past 12 months. Recently representatives from the Ministry of Health and the National Aids Commission were on sight to present the Centre of Excellence award for ARV treatment to our clinical staff, Janet and Mike.



Rotary Chinook donates funds for Hydraform Brick Machine.

In December 2006, Norman Myden and Dave Saunders from Calgary Chinook Rotary presented a cheque for \$10,000 to Lifeline Malawi to help purchase a Hydraform Brick Machine. This contribution was graciously accepted by two (2) Lifeline Malawi Board members, Rob Whitfield and Dr. Ian Burgess. Once full funding is received for this equipment, Lifeline shall be able to complete their various construction projects using environmentally friendly technology. No more deforestation required to burn bricks!

... For Giving, an article by Gord Hunte B.Ed., CFP, EPC



Community Housing being constructed

When I talk to clients about charitable giving, a common response is that they want to be good stewards of their money, to handle it well. As of May 2006 the federal government has given us another tool for our stewardship toolbox. Next time you make a charitable donation consider your options, you may find that you have more to give than you think.

Let me give you an example: Tom wants to donate \$10,000 to his favorite charity and he is going to sell a stock or mutual fund to make the donation. Tom's initial investment was \$5,000 and is now worth \$10,000 so he has a \$5,000 capital gain he will have to report and pay tax on. This will cost Tom an additional \$975 in taxes. However, if Tom donated his stock or mutual fund "in-kind" to his favorite charity, he would not pay any tax on the capital gain, which would give Tom an additional \$975 to donate. Since Tom is so generous he rounded the cheque up to \$1,000.



Laboratory Equipment.

Mary has \$100,000 that she would like to donate but she doesn't want to see the money spent all in one year. Mary should consider a charitable giving fund. She donates her \$100,000 to the charitable giving fund and gets a tax receipt for the full \$100,000. Mary then directs the charitable giving fund to distribute a portion of her donation to her favorite charities every year. When Mary dies her children get to continue to direct funds to Mary's favorite charities creating an enduring legacy. (You can start a charitable giving fund for as little as \$25,000.)

These are only two of many powerful options available to you. Be sure to integrate charitable giving into your financial plan and you will see your efforts multiply.

A very wise man once said, "If you're givin' while you're livin', you're knowin' where it's goin'".



Future client for Maternity Program's Family Planning clinic.

CURRENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES (CDN\$)

Community Housing	10,000 per home
Medicine Shipment	5,000 per shipment
Leadership Development Initiatives	2,500 per program
Laboratory Equipment	starting at 1,000 (one time)
Maternity Program Operating Costs	starting at 500 (one time)
Outreach Clinic Operating Costs	starting at 250 (one time)
200 Club Membership	starting at 50 per month

