

Reaching Out

DECEMBER 2012



This Christmas we are excited to give you news about the many people whose lives you have improved in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in the Philippines and Ivory Coast and to pass along their words of gratitude.

Our major initiative in Kinshasa, DRC is now underway and is giving new hope to medical professionals and to the women and children who rely on them. By providing skills training there and in other countries you are improving the lives of the trainees, their families and the many people they serve in their communities.

On behalf of the LINCCO team, I thank you for your on-going support and extend our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year!

Silvia Ugolini, president

Project Starts in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Thirty students entered the first class of the Master's degree in Health Programs Administration in September 2012 set up at l'Institut Supérieur en Sciences Infirmières (ISSI), an institute of higher education in nursing science, in Kinshasa, thanks to the help of LINCCO and Canadian experts in this field.

Patience Mbombo, a nurse hospital coordinator at the Monkole Hospital Centre, which works with the institute for nursing studies, ISSI, is enthusiastic about the program and says it has already helped her improve her work.



Patience Mbombo at work

"The courses on the underlying concepts of the nursing profession helped me understand that it is not a disease but a person we are treating. I now approach my patients and their families with greater consideration and I don't limit myself to only providing technically competent care for the person receiving it."

Maguy Aembe, a teacher at ISSI for the past seven years, foresees that the program will lead to direct medical results.

"The classes have stimulated discussion about the values underlying nursing care and the place of nursing in the health care system."



Maguy Aembe with her students

Aembe has, in turn, tailored her classes to facilitate discussion among her students about the nature of their chosen profession.

The program inspired Henry Ntambue Muembo, one of the participating nurses, to organize a seminar on humane and accessible care at his hospital.



Seminar held by H. Muembo

Last November, Marie Hatem, nursing professor at the University of Montreal, travelled to DRC to select 30 candidates for the second cohort of the Master's program which will begin in February 2013.

Nutrition and Care of Children and the Elderly in the Philippines

The six-month second level training program for Community Health Workers -Nutrition and Care of the Elderly and Children - began on October 17 in Southville, outside Manila.

Two classes are held each month with the bulk of the training focused on nursing skills, nutrition and home management with additional help offered through values formation and mentorship. All but two of the 40 women enrolled are active CHWs. The schedule allows them to care for their families and work as CHWs in their communities while upgrading their skills.



A CHW in action

The Project to Help Women Displaced by War in Abidjan, Ivory Coast Completed

The project in Ivory Coast came to an end in August 2012. According to our partner organization, the Association for Social and Cultural Development (ADESC), the number of beneficiaries exceeded expectations. The contribution of the Roncalli Foundation, which financed a large part of this project, is greatly appreciated.

More than 120 women took part in the final part of the program which was on women's leadership and social participation with a particular focus on human rights.

The information provided was of great interest to a number of women whose rights were violated during the civil war. The participants were grateful for the formation they received from the three parts of the program. They acquired job search skills and new information technology skills.

Between January and August 2012, 493 women and children received medical attention. Our partner reports that the level of hygiene and nutrition among the recipients improved considerably as a result of the skills they received from the medical personnel.



A doctor counsels a mother displaced by the civil war

Fundraising Events

Two major events were held this year to raise funds for our project in the DRC. A "wine & cheese" reception took place at la *Tangueria*, a dance school in Montreal and later in the fall, a benefit dinner was held at *Buffet Il Gabbiano* in Ville LaSalle. These events raised \$8,000.

Professor Marie Hatem, who helped design and select students for the Master's Program in DRC, spoke on both occasions about the alarming rate of maternal and infant mortality in the Congo and the positive impact LINCCO's project will have on it.

Drawing on his many visits to the DRC, Dr. Jacques Pépin, professor of medicine at the University of Sherbrooke, offered a picture of the extent of the problems in the Congolese health system.

A video prepared for the official launch of the project was shown at the events and is now available on LINCCO's Facebook page.



Fundraising dinner held on November 17, 2012

How you can help

We accept donations by VISA and MasterCard as well as cheques or money orders payable to LINCCO:

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