

Winter 2014

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Last Fall Marie Hatem visited the Democratic Republic of Congo. Read her interview to learn how your donations are helping there.



Marie Hatem recounts lessons in caring from her trip to DR Congo to guests at "Celebrating Africa".

Message from the President

We hope 2014 is off to a great start for all of you. We have some heart-warming testimonies from supporters like you to help take the chill off these cold winter days. We hope we can count on your commitment to improving the lives of people in countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Philippines and Ivory Coast to realize our goals in the coming year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Silivia Ugolini".

Silivia Ugolini

"Just to see the commitment of the people we are working with. . ."

Interview with Marie Hatem

LINCCO: When did you most recently visit the DR Congo and for how long?

M.H.: I was in DR Congo to visit the institute of higher education in nursing science, ISSI, for twelve days in November 2013.

LINCCO: What was the purpose of your visit?

M.H.: I went to help with the on-going development of the Master's program in Health Administration. In particular, to give a course to students in the second year and to develop courses for coming semesters.

LINCCO: What struck you most during your visit?

M.H.: I was particularly struck by the dedicated effort of everyone at the nursing institute, starting with the director, who is striving to increase the school's material and human resources. The commitment and progress of the students is also remarkable; they have a lot of drive to learn and succeed. Each day health care professionals face a whole series of difficulties ranging from power and water outages to internet breakdowns. Their salaries are very low, they lack resources at work and they receive little respect while caring for a population for whom death and disease are part of daily life, poverty is widespread and basic hygiene is lacking.

LINCCO: How did you benefit personally from your visit to DR Congo?

M.H.: To see the motivation of these people working to overcome the many challenges they face each day, striving to improve themselves and their professional competence, is a lesson in humility and makes you appreciate how fortunate we are to live in a country where the quality of life is very good.

Working alongside these people in their surroundings made me more determined than ever to work for change. It is quite a feeling to know that the change to which I am contributing, however small, will benefit all the people of DR Congo. All long journeys begin with a single step!

Testimony from two of our amazing volunteers

Testimony by Jean-Chrysostome Zoloshi

Since September 2013, I have been director of Our Lady of Africa Mission in Montreal. I arrived in Quebec in 1998.

For the past several years I have been involved in the DR Congo in the health and education fields and community development. In 2012, I helped set up an education centre for underprivileged children in Kilembé, 700 kilometres from Kinshasa. Through LINCCO, I donated health science reference books to the nursing institute, ISSI. I arranged for the transportation of these books by container to Kinshasa.

During my visit, I received care at Monkole Hospital. I was surprised by the exceptional quality of care that I received, by the cleanliness of the institution and the attentive and respectful service of the staff. I could see that the nurses and doctors consider their work a vocation: with so little means at their disposal, they manage to do so much. I observed that they treat patients from different social classes equally. As a result of my stay at Monkole, I am of the opinion that poor people can have the right to be well cared for and well respected.

Monkole Hospital is a model to be followed throughout Congo and all of Africa.

With the help of LINCCO's generous donors, I intend to raise funds so that the maternal nurses and midwives of the rural hospital of Kilembé can follow the training program given by ISSI to reduce the rate of maternal and infant mortality in their region.

I share LINCCO's Gospel values, such as service to the poor, solidarity with those in need and mutual aid. Moreover, as a native of DR Congo, I wanted to participate in this project in particular.

Testimony by Laetitia Nguewo

LINCCO appeals to me because its financial support is tied to local professionals who work on the ground to bring about long-term results through a variety of projects.

The project to reduce maternal and infant mortality in DR Congo combines a reality I have lived personally and an approach that particularly appeals to me.

Father Jean-Chrysostome Zoloshi, a Montreal priest, has worked on the ground in DR Congo and has seen for himself what LINCCO is doing there, thanks to your support.



Father Jean-Chrysostome gives personal testimony of Monkole Hospital's good work.

Laetitia Nguewo, a Montreal student in public administration supports LINCCO because she believes in mobilizing local communities through projects run by local professionals. She talks about the challenges donors like you are helping them overcome.



Laetitia shares her enthusiasm for LINCCO at the Annual Dinner.

Super typhoon Haiyan

hit the Philippines on Nov. 8, 2013 as a Category 5 storm with maximum sustained winds of 145 mph.

14.1 million people affected

4.1 million people displaced

1.1 million damaged houses

6,201 reported dead

1,785 people missing

OCHA totals as of late Jan, 2014

My experience with LINCCO has given me a privileged insight into the reality of the work charitable organizations carry out internationally. Given my African origin, I know how slow, cumbersome and lacking in transparency most African governments are. I know how arduous the work of international supporters really is. All of this calls for great respect for all the people who are passionately devoted to doing their job well and to overcoming all the difficulties they encounter.

Typhoon Haiyan Relief: \$14,052 from donors matched by Federal Gov't

In early December, 2013, the Foundation for Professional Training Inc. (FPTI) began operations for the delivery of relief goods to 3 heavily hit areas in the Philippines: Panay, northern Cebu and Leyte. The goods included clothing, personal hygiene items, blankets, candles and flashlights. Hundreds of households received help. In addition, the relief teams fed 500 people in Dagami and 800 people in Javier.

In January, 2014, the Foundation wants to begin rebuilding the homes of survivors. Most of the towns targeted for relief still have no electricity and only a limited supply of potable water. An extraordinary amount of work remains to be done! We thank you so much for your generosity and hope that we can count on your continued support.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

LINCCO's 2nd annual fundraiser dinner "Celebrating Africa" held on September 21, 2013, raised \$8,832.

A heartfelt thanks to all the people who supported this fundraiser. We look forward to seeing you again at the 2014 Annual Dinner.

Donate

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LINCCO is a registered charity that supports and promotes the teaching of valuable skills to people in developing countries by providing financial and professional aid to well-run local initiatives that promote the transfer of skills to individuals and from individuals to the family and the community as a whole.