AS I SAT BY THE BED OF A VERY SICK 44 YEAR-OLD man in Mozambique, it struck me that there is a direct connection between health and financial stability. Even though this man had the skills and the opportunity to work on behalf of his family, he could not because of his chronic health issues.

How Can We Tangibly Show That God Loves People Like Him?

World Hope International (WHI) takes a comprehensive, holistic approach to working with the poor. We not only try to create environments in which someone can be gainfully employed, but we also address the impact that health and wellness have on a person’s ability to make a living. In communities around the world, we address health-related issues, such as:

- Access to clean water
- Access to latrines
- Sanitation training
- Proper hand-washing methods
- Community disease education, including the debunking of myths and misinformation that, in some cases, are centuries old and extensions of superstition.

Now, more than at any other point in history, we Americans are bombarded with information regarding health and wellness (TV, radio, magazines, the Internet, billboards, etc). Most poor people have little or no access to these mediums. One of WHI’s Strategies of Love is to expose these precious children of God to ways in which they can be healthy as they go about their daily lives.

Because you care enough about the plight of those struggling in poverty, your loving support enabled World Hope International, on your behalf, to:

- Provide 430,000 people with access to clean water
- Build latrines for 70,000 people
- Educate several hundred villages with regular wellness training.

On behalf of the world’s poor, I humbly thank you.

Contact Karl at karleastlack@worldhope.net
REACH4LIFE

Education & Accountability Helping to Keep Students Healthy

By Tae Symons, Health Programs Manager

World Hope International (WHI) believes that young people are crucial for defeating the global HIV/AIDS epidemic. Largely due to misconceptions about HIV/AIDS and how to protect themselves from the disease, every day, more than 6,000 youth between the ages of 15 and 24 are infected with HIV.1

The Reach4Life program teaches youth to take responsibility for their own health and the health of their families and friends. The program teaches young people about salvation, inviting them to say “Yes” to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and “No” to a lifestyle of drugs, alcohol and premarital sex. Reach4Life introduces at-risk youth to Christ over the course of 40 weeks, and is structured to encourage abstinence through a peer accountability construct. It also focuses on learning to think critically, developing self-confidence and making informed choices. Each teen involved is equipped with the facts about HIV/AIDS and how to prevent it.

A Reach4Life Success

Paulos frequently watched pornographic materials which led him to engage in premarital sex. Through his experience with Reach4Life, God delivered him from this life of sin and he became a new creation.

“Accepting Jesus as my personal Savior is the greatest thing I have ever done,” he says. He is now a committed member of his church and continues to talk to his friends about how God can change their lives as well.

Throughout 2010, World Hope International supported more than 25,000 youth in Zambia, Africa through the Reach4Life program. The program is now expanding to reach the young people of Mozambique.

For more information on Reach4Life, visit WorldHope.org and click Our Work.


ANTIHUMAN TRAFFICKING

A Holistic Approach to Restoring Child Victims

by Kristin Wiebe, Director of Anti-Human Trafficking

The World Hope International Assessment Centers in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap employ a holistic approach to restoring child victims of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) and rape. When these children are delivered to our care, their physical health and safety are WHI’s immediate concern. Once those issues are attended to, the process of dealing with their psychological and spiritual care begins.

World Hope International (WHI) contracts with medical doctors specializing in sexual abuse to conduct health assessments and initiate care for all girls admitted to the Assessment Centers. Each physician understands the circumstances these girls were pulled from and the dangers they face should they not receive proper, rehabilitative care. They are also aware of the need for discretion in order to preserve the safety of both the girls and WHI staff.

Most girls admitted to the Assessment Centers, especially survivors of the commercial sex industry, are well aware of the dangers they face from HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. Unfortunately, virginity is viewed as a cure for HIV/AIDS among many in Cambodia and the Far East. Most of the young girls have been forced, at one point or another, to have unprotected sex with multiple unknown men; and some have been forced to endure painful procedures that would allow their “virginity” to be sold multiple times. Rape survivors are given no options.

Caring for survivors means caring for the whole person: psychological, spiritual and physical. Providing compassionate and specialized care to address HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases means opening our eyes to the realities of the abuse these girls have endured, and showing them that no matter what, they are loved.

To learn more about World Hope International’s Anti-Human Trafficking work in Cambodia, as well as other parts of the globe, visit WorldHope.org and click Our Work.
COMMUNITY HEALTH TRAINING
Reinforcing the Basics to Keep Communities Healthy
By Tae Symons, Health Programs Manager

WITHOUT THINKING TWICE most of us wash our hands before we eat and after using the restroom, but, believe it or not, in a majority of the world, we are not the norm. In many parts of the developing world, hand washing with soap is not standard practice. We take for granted that our education and understanding has taught us the correlation between a lack of sanitation and illness. And, in a world where illness is accounted for as part of our work benefits package, the idea that a simple sickness could mean an insurmountable, poverty-deepening setback in terms of resource and income is completely foreign.

Providing community awareness of simple health practices like hand washing can save lives from the fast-moving, preventable diseases like cholera and dysentery that can plague communities lacking in proper sanitation. Correct knowledge for prevention, treatment and care is critical.

In Haiti specifically, where cholera outbreaks have plagued the already devastated nation, 22 of World Hope International’s 36 field agents are currently working to promote key hygiene and sanitation practices; providing soap, water purification tablets and conducting sanitation activities.

And this work is paying off! Since February, there have been no reported cases of cholera among children registered in the Delmas 3 camp, one of World Hope International’s service areas.

Dorival works in the Delmas 3 camp in Port-au-Prince as one of World Hope International’s field agents. His 10-year-old

HOLISTIC EDUCATION
The Facts:

At any given time, nearly half of the population of developing world suffers from illness caused by lack of access to safe water and sanitation.*

While access to safe water can decrease childhood water-related deaths by 15 to 20 percent, improved hygiene practices, such as hand washing, reduces deaths caused from diarrhea by 35 percent, and access to adequate sanitation reduces rates by 40 percent.**

According to the World Health Organization, it is estimated that as many as 14.5 million people are living with HIV/AIDS in Sub Saharan Africa.*

PREVENTION SEEMS SO SIMPLE. By practicing proper hygiene/sanitation and being a responsible marriage partner, we remain healthy, productive members of society. But, what if our communities weren’t so knowledgeable? What if we never knew that basic hand washing could prevent cholera or the realities of how HIV/AIDS is spread?
son, Jeremiah, often attended the training sessions with him. During one of the sessions, Jeremiah asked to speak:

“Last week, I lost my best friend from cholora. I cried a lot. I feel myself now well trained to teach all my friends how to avoid catching cholora.”

Since that day, Jeremiah has been an advocate at his school, in his neighborhood and in Haiti’s tent cities, training other children on how to wash their hands properly with the use of soap.

Time has proven again and again that a little knowledge can go a long way. Knowing this, and knowing what an enormous impact health/wellness instruction and disease prevention can have on a community, is why World Hope International places such emphasis on holistically approaching our work with the poor. By planting the seeds of understanding in one person, this information has the potential to reach an entire family. An entire family has the potential to impact a community. And a community can affect an entire region.

“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,” Colossians 1:9.

The communicable nature of knowledge can help overcome the spread of disease. This is why World Hope International makes health and wellness an integral part of its work.


World Hope International, Inc.

Changing Minds to Change Circumstances

By Heather Beatty, Adelphé Associate

When basic hygiene has always been a part of my life, it’s easy for me to overlook its importance. At a young age, my mother taught me the importance of good hygiene practices, like washing my hands, and now I am teaching those same lessons to my children.

However, in the rural Cambodian villages in which Adelphé operates, these simple, life-altering practices have never been shared. Disease, sickness and even death are rampant when basic hygiene practices aren’t incorporated into everyday life. Adelphé is a unique sponsorship program that helps to empower impoverished women in rural Cambodia with the education and resources they need to improve their circumstances. In addition to livelihood training to help grow their family’s income, World Hope International offers primary health care training, which includes:

- Hand washing and sanitation instruction
- Disease prevention techniques
- Pregnancy wellness and post-partum care
- Immunizations.

Teams aren’t the only way of offering medical assistance, however. After completing her nursing degree last July, 22-year-old Jaimie Reetz wanted to use her skills to share Christ’s love internationally. She got her opportunity in November 2010, when she began working as a Hope for Children Processing Coordinator in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Her position involved: developing and implementing activities for the children; collecting letters and data to convey to their American sponsors; monitoring the distribution of Hope for Children resources; and conducting health assessments. She also traveled outside of Freetown to visit sponsored children living in rural areas. Her work thus far has helped 600 Sierra Leonean children receive the education, food and medical care they would otherwise never know.

“All the gifts we have are from [Christ], and ultimately for Him,” she reflects. “God called me to be obedient in serving in Sierra Leone.”

Hope Corps teams are being assembled every day. To learn how you can volunteer, visit WorldHope.org and click Our Work.
Sokhom in Cambodia recently shared in a letter with her Adelphé sister, Nadine from Pennsylvania, what she has experienced by learning health and hygiene. “...I attended a workshop on basic health care and hygiene which gave me knowledge on how to live hygienically,” says Sokhom. “As a result my family’s health problems is reduced because we now know how to take care of our health. I am happy to see my community participate and learn from the trainings.”

Sokhom is now living a healthier, more productive life because Nadine became personally involved in her life and family through World Hope International’s Adelphé program.
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