



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Friends,

Your support of Curamericas Global makes such a difference for women and children around the world. I am proud of our continued commitment to evidence-based public health and fiscal responsibility. We were able to leverage the \$165,814 in donations we received in the last year to generate \$867,834 for our programs abroad. That means that every \$1.00 of *your* investment was turned into nearly \$6.00 worth of programming for women and children around the world.

Because of continued support from donors like you over the past 31 years, Curamericas Global has served more than 1,000,000 women and children. I invite you to join us and become an advocate for community health by sharing our work with your family and friends.

Warmly,

Andrew Herrera
Executive Director

Curamericas Global combats Ebola outbreak in Liberia



Curamericas Global staff reviews health precautions.

This year, West Africa has suffered from the worst Ebola outbreak in history. Ebola, which resurfaced in Liberia in March of this year, is a virus spread through contact with bodily fluids of Ebola patients

who are showing symptoms. With a mortality rate of over 50%, there have been more than 4,555 deaths as of October 20, and many more are still in danger of catching the virus.

“Most of the people who have

died from Ebola died from lack of information,” said Beatrice Gbanga, partner of Curamericas Global and Medical Coordinator at the Sierra Leone Annual Conference. With support from our donors, Curamericas Global and our partners at Ganta Hospital are working to reduce the transmission of the virus by providing educational outreach and supplies, as well as support to those who have been affected.

According to Program Manager, Allen Zomonway, the Nehnwaa Curamericas Global health workers have been more openly received by community members than outsiders who have only recently arrived to contain the outbreak. Zomonway believes this is due to the strong relationships that have been built between the project and the communities over the past six years.

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Notes from the Field: Rob Fields, Vice Board Chair

In June 2014, the leadership of Curamericas Global traveled to Curamericas Global’s project site in Guatemala for the grand opening of a fourth Casa Materna. Rob Fields, Vice Board Chair, reflects on the trip.

What a wonderful trip and what wonderful work Dr. Valdez and Curamericas Guatemala are doing in this isolated, mountainous region of northern Guatemala. Curamericas Guatemala is now providing health outreach services

to nearly 200 communities and reaching nearly 100,000 people due to continuous financial support from individuals and organizations in the United States.

Since the first Casa Materna
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A mother and her child wait to receive his monthly checkup and vitamins.

Strengthening health through community participation: A week in Kibera



Left: Millicent and her daughter, Mary. Mary was malnourished when Community Health Workers first surveyed their home, so she was admitted to Carolina for Kibera's eight-week program at its Nutrition Center in Kibera. (Photo by Suzanne Thompson) **Top right:** Curamericas Global Program Manager Florence Amadi (left) trains health workers on the Care Group methodology. **Bottom right:** The Kibera slum in Nairobi. (Photo by Andrew Johnson)

Kibera is one of the most densely populated slums in the world and a microcosm of some of the world's most challenging health and development issues. For the past two years, Curamericas Global has partnered with Carolina for Kibera (CFK) and Ronald McDonald House Charities to create a health system that is managed and owned by the community in order to reduce child mortality from preventable diarrheal disease. As a subcontractor, Curamericas Global provides Technical Assistance in the form of capacity-building and training for the staff who implement the Community-Based Impact-Oriented (CBIO) and Care Groups (CG) methodologies.

In September, Curamericas Global Program Manager Florence Amadi facilitated Training-of-Trainer sessions on the Care Group approach for nine CFK Community Health Workers and Program Managers. "Many of the staff who participated grew up and still

reside in Kibera. Although I did not get to hear from every health worker about their life experiences, their smiles showed stories of hope and not despair, stories of how they would like to make Kibera a better place, and a resounding 'can happen' attitude! For the kids that played and laughed along the path, this is home!"

"My one week of interaction with the participants and community members was nothing less than enjoyable and inspiring!" says Amadi, reflecting on her trip. "I was continually impressed by the cohesiveness and resilience portrayed by the community."

Enthusiastic to implement the Care Group

approach, Amadi felt that the team's commitment renewed her conviction of the importance and effectiveness of community-based healthcare "Change is best achieved when driven by those affected. Community involvement and participation are the fulcrum of a strong healthcare system. As the holidays approach, this is the perfect time to pause and reflect on what we believe in, and the experiences that have inspired us throughout the year – indeed, throughout our lives!"

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For more information on Curamericas Global's work in Kenya, contact Florence Amadi at (877) 510-4787 or famadi@curamericas.org.

Curamericas Global 2012-2013 Annual Report

In our 31 years as an organization, we have served over 1,000,000 beneficiaries across the globe. The 2012-2013 Annual Report details our major accomplishments in each of our designated focus areas and the impact we have had on global health, specifically in the areas of child and maternal mortality reduction and HIV prevention.

To request a copy of the annual report, please email info@curamericas.org.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

LIBERIA

↓ 60% decrease in child mortality

↑ 85.9% infants receiving essential newborn care

HAITI

↑ 100% suspected sexual violence victims offered assistance

↑ 22,759 women tested for HIV

GUATEMALA

↓ 44% decrease in neonatal mortality

↑ 96% mothers receiving health education

This Grassroots edition is dedicated to the **Ronald McDonald House Charities** who have been our ally to save children's lives since 2009; to **our partners** around the globe, who work in challenging environments to help their neighbors have a better life; and to the **6.3 million children that died last year**.



Q & A with volunteer Kelley Holsinger

In August, 2014, twelve volunteers traveled to Curamericas Global's project site in Calhuitz, Huehuetenango in the northwestern highlands of Guatemala. At the site, volunteers worked with the construction crew to complete a number of improvements to the Casa Materna and also helped the nursing staff conduct community health outreach, weigh and measure babies, and distribute vitamins in the several small communities in the area. Volunteer Kelley Holsinger offered to share some insights about her experiences on the trip:

What do you wish people knew about Curamericas Global?

I know that I've always been guilty of thinking that I'm just one person, and that I'm not able to make a difference or impact on this world. With just one group of volunteers, we were able to collect enough infant clothes to send each new mother at the Casa Materna home with one outfit for her baby for an entire year! Tears came to my eyes as the staff expressed their genuine thanks for our help through this one volunteer trip. Our trip was just one of many that Curamericas facilitates. It has definitely changed my perspective and I wish more people knew how much of an impact Curamericas has on the communities it works with around the globe.

What did you learn about yourself or the world during your experience?

During this trip I learned how important it is to surround yourself with people you care about and to be part of a community. Back home I live a rather independent life; I live alone, work alone and often have to travel alone for work. This trip was quite the opposite of my everyday life at home. Barbara, Jane, the other volunteers and the Casa Materna staff quickly became my new family. Each day, the sense of community that the people feel in Calhuitz was very apparent, and each day I wanted to be a part of that.

What is your favorite memory from your trip?

The children we met definitely made this trip very memorable. Many of the kids were shy at first, but all it took was a wave and a simple "hola" and they lit up, giggling and smiling! On the first day at the Casa Materna, after our work was done, Rachel and I took a walk around the village and found four girls playing fútbol. Despite the language barrier, we joined in their game of kicking the ball around and ended up playing Team Calhuitz vs. Team America! I saw one of the girls we played with every day afterwards and each time I got a wave and a glowing smile that brightened my day!



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Curamericas Global partners with underserved communities to make measurable and sustainable improvements in their health and well-being.

Your gifts help to fund our efforts to make a lasting impact around the world. Thank you for your support!

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Ebola (continued from page 1)

Most of the hospitals in the country are overwhelmed by the epidemic and have been forced to close. In Nimba County, Ganta United Methodist Hospital is the only hospital that is still operating at full capacity and the only organization providing rural community health outreach. This kind of invaluable, life-

saving community outreach is made possible through the support of Curamericas Global's donors and supporters.

In partnership with Ganta United Methodist Hospital, Curamericas Global's programs in Liberia have continued to show results despite the lack of any formal grant funding since

spring 2014. Curamericas Global is committed to maintaining a relationship with the project in Liberia, building upon the years of trust and community empowerment in Nimba County, and is currently seeking funding to support the continuation of the project.

Notes from the field (continued from page 1)

maternal clinic was piloted in 2009, the project has constructed three additional facilities, all of which provide a safe space for women to give birth and receive prenatal checkups and classes. Even though the project has greatly expanded in the past few years, community involvement, cultural sensitivity, and data to evaluate impact remain central to all of the health efforts.

During our trip, we had the privilege of being guests at the grand opening of the new Casa Materna in Pett. Members of the community gathered at the Casa Materna, waiting several hours for festivities to begin. Many speeches were given during the ceremony including a full financial report, words from key committee members, greetings, encouragement from the local Mayor, and a blessing of the Casa Materna

by a priest. A marimba band, fireworks and traditional dancing accented the celebration, which continued throughout the day.

Thanks to the support of our many donors and volunteers, Curamericas Global is able to bring lifesaving interventions like the Casa Materna to high-need communities. As a Board member, it was wonderful to see the gratitude and outpouring of support for the Casa Materna by the community, making clear their dedication to improving the health of their mothers and children. Many of the villagers had heard about the extraordinary impact of the Casa Maternas on other communities, and were excited to have the same services provided in their hometown.



Guatemalan children practice washing their hands after attending a class by Curamericas Global staff.