



FOOT STEPS TO HEALING

A Global
Commitment
to Improving
Women's Health
in Rural Ethiopia

SEPTEMBER 2010

globalsoulinternational.blogspot.com

NEWS

GLOBAL COLLABORATION WITH GIMBIE ADVENTIST HOSPITAL

PROJECT OVERVIEW

In collaboration with a rural hospital in Gimbie, Ethiopia, health care providers will provide medical training and service in key areas of women's health.

Fundraising efforts are underway to support the program.

PROJECT DETAILS

Providers of women's health at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) are collaborating with Gimbie Adventist Hospital (GAH), a rural hospital located in the Western highlands of Ethiopia, to improve women's health, particularly to decrease maternal morbidity and mortality and improve quality of life. Lack of trained health providers in rural Ethiopia contributes to alarmingly high maternal complications and death from preventable causes such as bleeding, infection, high blood pressure of pregnancy and prolonged obstructed labor. Consequences of prolonged labor such as obstetric fistula (a hole in the bladder or rectum that communicates with the vagina) has devastating physical and social consequences to a woman. Multiple



vaginal deliveries and prolonged labor in the setting of a lifetime of physical exertion has also created a silent epidemic of uterovaginal prolapse (protrusion of the uterus and vagina outside the body) among rural Ethiopian women, severely limiting their daily activities and basic bodily functions.

In collaborating with Gimbie Adventist Hospital, OHSU providers hope to create a sustainable solution by providing training to Ethiopian rural health providers in the areas of safe pregnancy and delivery, management of obstetric emergencies, family planning, pelvic floor reconstructive surgeries, outreach work and community education.

A team of rotating senior physician trainees as well as experienced faculty and staff will be traveling to this hospital once or twice a year. The first team project will be in November 2010.

This summer, two OHSU medical students, Katherine Ringer and Rebecca Sauerwein, spent six weeks in rural Gimbie engaged in a community research project in which they administered surveys to women and health care providers in rural Gimbie to understand the existing reproductive health and maternal health practices as well as community needs. This project was supported by a travel grant from OHSU Global Health Center and supervised by OHSU faculty and Gimbie Adventist Hospital staff.

NOVEMBER TEAM TAKES SHAPE

For our upcoming trip to Gimbie Adventist Hospital in Gimbie, Ethiopia, we have an incredible team. Members include Dr. Renee Edwards (Division Head of Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery at OHSU), Rahel Nardos (Fellow, Division of Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery at OHSU), Dr. Mark Nichols (Division Head of Family Planning, OHSU), Dr. Suzanne Burlone (Chief Resident in ob/gyn), Nurse Anesthetists Kendall Snow and Joan Bessey, two O.R. Nurses Amanda Skinner and Dana Peterson, and two certified nurse midwives Penni Harmon and Elizabeth Kavarnaugh.

NOVEMBER 2010 GOALS

Along with performing 40-50 uterovaginal prolapse surgeries, we will also facilitate surgical training of the Gimbie gynecologist and general surgeon in these procedures, provide training in family planning and establish a formal



relationship with the school of nursing and upcoming midwifery program at Gimbie.



KIND HEARTED DONATIONS

KEEN has generously donated 900 pairs of shoes for patients. Dresses have also been *handmade* by family members and friends of Nurse Anesthetist Joan Bessey.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENT

Please come—and help spread the word!

Silent & Live Auction

*African music,
drinks & hors d'oeuvres*

~ \$20 Cover ~

Sunday, October 17, 2010 4–7 PM

The Cleaners at Ace Hotel*

403 SW 10th Avenue & Stark

Portland, OR 97205

**Event space & catering donated by the Ace Hotel
& Clyde Common. Please help us thank them!*

Do you have an auction item to donate?

Call Dr. Gina Westhoff at 720-938-5554
or email her at Westhoff@ohsu.edu.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Our fundraising goal for the pilot project in November is \$30,000 to cover the expenses related to surgery, medications and the team's travel. With your help we are almost there!

- Ethiopian Dinner: **\$5,076**
- Film Presentation of
A Walk to Beautiful: **\$16,264**
(267 tickets sold)
- Additional Donations: **\$2,720**
- Total as of August 29, 2010: **\$24,060**

*Thank you to the anonymous donor
who provided a matching grant
at our last fundraiser! Surgical instruments
were also donated by St. Agnes medical center
in Fresno, CA and surgical mesh from
American Medical Systems.*

DONATIONS STILL NEEDED FOR NOVEMBER & THE FIRST 2011 TRIP

By donating \$175, you can cover the cost of one pelvic surgery for a woman, drastically improving her life. Your tax deductible donation can be made online:

GlobalSoulInternational.org

*Please specify
"Footsteps to Healing:
OHSU/Gimbe Project"
with your donation.*

Checks are also welcomed.

MAIL
CHECKS
TO: Global Soul International
6416 SW Corbett Avenue
Portland, OR 97239

Global Soul International
6416 SW Corbett Avenue
Portland, OR 97239



A Global
Commitment
to Improving
Women's Health
in Rural Ethiopia

FOOT
STEPS
TO
HEALING

SEPTEMBER 2010
NEWS

This Issue:

Fundraising Update

November Team Takes Shape

Upcoming Events

How You Can Help