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Thank you

Mission accomplished thanks to the pharmaceutical industry

For almost two decades, HPIC's mission has been generously supported by Canada's pharmaceutical industry and healthcare products sector. These partners donate the medicines and medical supplies that are so desperately needed for HPIC's programs in the developing world. In addition, their financial support helps HPIC meet the costs of getting medicine into the hands of doctors and nurses serving the most vulnerable.

Fifty-nine companies, both independents and members of Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies, the Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association, Consumer Health Products Canada, MEDEC, and BIOTE Canada, gave to HPIC in 2009. The list of partners continued to grow last year and now includes Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals Canada.

In 2009, HPIC's pharmaceutical and healthcare products partners came through in a big way. Despite the deep economic recession, HPIC's partners gave a record amount in planned donations of medicine. These are the gift-in-kind donations that enable HPIC to run its programs in a sustained and planned way. Thanks to the industry's response, HPIC was empowered to respond to more requests from program partners. And the companies helped HPIC get through challenging times by giving more money to the mission than in any previous year.

HPIC was able to share some of the results in person with these company partners. There was a lunch with Dr. Paul Thistle of Howard Hospital in Zimbabwe, a presentation given by HPIC's Linda Campbell about her mission trip to Sudan, and an Appreciation Dinner that celebrated the participation of the pharmaceutical and healthcare products industries in HPIC's mission.

Saluting HPIC's top donors of medicine & medical supplies in 2009

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Supporting a beacon of hope in Zimbabwe

"Health Partners International of Canada is the main constant supplier of pharmaceuticals to Howard," said Dr. Paul Thistle of Howard Hospital in Zimbabwe in June when he presented his work at HPIC's office to representatives of donor companies. "The drugs donated by HPIC through its partners in the pharmaceutical industry are supporting people in great need. They will survive for a better day and they will have a better day. Today there is a joy on their faces as they receive the life saving and life changing support from Canada."

Friends all over the world have rallied around the hospital and their support has kept it open. "The donated medicines, surgical and hospital supplies have bridged the gaps in the provision of essential health care services....this support allows our hospital to remain a beacon of hope in a very difficult operating environment. Thank you to HPIC, your partners in the pharmaceutical industry and your donors."

Health Partners International of Canada

HPIC is a humanitarian not-for-profit relief and development organization dedicated to improving access to medicine and enhancing health in the developing world. HPIC contributes to well-being by providing donated essential medicines, supplies and vaccines, building national health sector capacities, and responding to emergencies and health threats. We partner with a network of ministries of health, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and healthcare professionals, with pharmaceutical and healthcare product companies, and with Canadian government departments; and we count on the financial support of individual donors, foundations and corporations. Because of our unique model, HPIC multiplies every donated dollar to provide, without discrimination, at least \$10 of free medical aid. HPIC is registered with the Canada Revenue Agency as a charity; its registration number is 119031524RR0001.

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One of the youngest patients to receive care at Howard Hospital in Zimbabwe.



Health Partners International of Canada
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2009

YEAR IN REVIEW

Message from the President

"However tall the mountain is, there's a road to the top of it."
 (Afghan proverb)



By December we had found our way to the top of the mountain that was 2009. HPIC was not spared the effects of the global economic recession. We dealt with these challenges proactively and through it all, we still managed to reach one million people through our projects. I am grateful for the contributions of our staff, our partners in delivering programs and our generous donors who made this possible.

Hundreds of volunteer nurses and doctors carried Travel Packs on medical missions to give basic care to isolated and vulnerable populations. Dozens of NGOs turned to HPIC to contribute to developing better access to medicine for impoverished communities. And HPIC was able to respond to several emergency situations, including the cholera

epidemic in Zimbabwe, flooding in the Philippines and in El Salvador.

And while we were doing what we've always done, we were also plotting a new direction for HPIC. This new direction will see a growing focus on building capacity and addressing the root causes of inadequate access to medicine. An excellent example is our new multi-year program in Afghanistan.

With the 20th anniversary year on our doorstep, we took time to reflect on our mission. The result is a new mission statement that describes HPIC as a "relief and development organization."

In this first year as president of HPIC, I had the opportunity to meet many of our partners. Whether they come from the pharmaceutical industry, the NGO community or are volunteer doctors and nurses or donors, these partners are wonderful people. I am proud to work with this unique network of organizations and individuals drawn together by a concern for those lacking access to medicine and care.

On behalf of the people we serve, I want to thank you for helping HPIC continue to meet the many challenges involved in caring for our brothers and sisters all over the world.

Glen Shepherd
 President



HPIC's new address (as of May 1, 2010):

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HPIC in numbers

- **1 million** people treated
- Active in **68** countries
- **\$23.8 million** in medical aid provided
- **697** Travel Packs carried to **51** countries
- **31** 20-foot equivalent containers of medicines and medical supplies
- **1,153** volunteer hours offered at distribution centre
- **Every \$1** donated provided at least **\$10 of medicine**



Young woman recovers with supplies from Canada

Folade's story reads like a modern day Congolese version of the Good Samaritan, says Connie Smith, HPIC representative in Goma, DRC.

"One day I was headed to the market in Masisi, my baby on my back," Folade recounted to Smith. "I was struck down by a vehicle which came out of nowhere. As I lay injured, I saw a jeep with peacekeeping soldiers come along. I cried out for them to stop and help me. But to my astonishment they just kept on driving.

"Some time after, a motorcycle taxi came down the road, already carrying two passengers. I thought that maybe the driver could at least get someone to help us. What happened next was amazing. The taxi driver stopped and saw that both my baby and I were hurt. He excused himself to his clients saying, 'Sorry, but these people need to get to a doctor. You'll have to wait for another motorcycle, here's your money back.'"

It took more than an hour on the back of the bike to get there, but Folade and her baby made it to HEAL Africa. Supplies from HPIC have helped Folade, who has had to have dressing changes regularly as well as use a urinary catheter.

It is a long way from Canada to the DR Congo. It is a long time since Jesus answered the question, "Who is my neighbour?" Folade and other Congolese, left by the sides of roads, still wait for a compassionate response.

"If I could go to Canada, I would thank the people who have sent these things to our hospital so they can care for us here. May God bless them."

HPIC provides regular shipments of medical supplies to the HEAL Africa hospital in the volatile North Kivu region of the Democratic Republic of Congo. This partnership supports HEAL Africa's work as a training hospital, its outreach program, and its service to victims of gender-based violence.



"Can you help me have a baby?"

In the few days since she had arrived in northern Ghana on a medical mission, Dr. Jennifer Wilson had heard many heart-wrenching stories.

"I cannot have a baby," her patient said through the translator. "Please help me have a baby."

This desperate woman had been to the local soothsayer and he said it was her fault. In her society, that is grounds for divorce and she would be banished to live on the outskirts of the village.

All Dr. Wilson could do was listen to her story, examine her and treat her chronic yeast infection with medicine from the Physician Travel Pack.

She introduced her to Dr. David Mensah, the director of the Northern Empowerment Agency, the organization that had invited the Canadian team. The NEA works to facilitate sustainable holistic development, so that medical care is given in a context of improvements in water supply, economic opportunities, and education.

Baby saved with medicine from PTP

"Our team encountered an abandoned baby in the bateye of Antonce near Yamasa, Dominican Republic," reports Canadian high school teacher Peggy Dunne.

"We were told that the child had been left there because his mother could not face seeing her child die."

Stories like this are not uncommon in the sugar cane plantations where filthy conditions, extreme poverty and lack of basic services plague the daily lives of hundreds of families.

"We were told that the child had been left there because his mother could not face seeing her child die."

Dunne was part of the Dominican Republic Experience, a program of Canadian student and adult volunteers that travels to the D.R. twice a year to support the community development work in the impoverished Yamasa district. The teams that travel there now regularly bring several Physician Travel Packs to supply the ongoing needs of the clinics and the young doctor they are supporting.

The main clinic in the town of Yamasa is staffed on a rotation basis with pediatricians, gynecologists, G.P.s and surgeons. Carmen, a full-time nurse, offers basic care along with Mercedes, a nurse who works part-time.

The satellite clinics in the very poor outlying areas

are serviced by the team's sponsored physician, Leonardo de Jesus Acosta, affectionately known as Dr. Leo. Medicine for the clinics is carried in large tool kits in the back of a truck.

It was while visiting one of these satellite clinics that the team came across the dying infant. "Dr. Leo was able to use the medicine we had brought with us to save the baby's life," reports Dunne. "We have two photos: the infant Riley when we first found him, and the same child, one year later, happy and very much alive."

This boy is alive and healthy thanks to care and medicine packed in a Physician Travel Pack.



Dr. Mensah ensured the young woman's involvement in a peanut farming project.

A year later, Dr. Wilson had returned and saw a well-dressed woman with a familiar face approach their make-shift clinic. She was with her mother, carrying her little baby.

Healing had transformed her life in many ways. She was a mother, she was a wife, and she was a successful entrepreneur. At last she had her baby and she had the means to ensure the child's future.

So she came to say thank you to Dr. Wilson and to Dr. David Mensah with a bag of peanuts from her farm.

Basic health care provided by Dr. Jennifer Wilson (left) and the Physician Travel Pack made all the difference in the life of this young woman (next to Dr. Wilson) in Ghana.



Miracles of healing in Haiti

Rev. Tina Leslie Simpson spends a lot of time in the sun. She goes to Haiti about four times a year to work with the staff and patients at Northwest Haiti Christian Mission Clinic in the poorest area of a desperately poor country. Rev. Tina, pastor of Mississauga Christian Church, runs Northwest Haiti Christian Mission Canada, the main provider of all the supplies and medicines at the hospital.

Listening to her speak about the impact of the medical donations that largely come from Health Partners International of Canada, the terrible suffering of the patients is greater than a Canadian could imagine. Thanks to Rev. Tina, HPIC and a network of supporters, miracles of healing are touching these patients who have been through so much.

Like Christmas

"When a shipment of medical aid arrives, it is like Christmas," Rev. Tina says. "The word goes out and the sick come in. The next morning about 700 people are waiting to be seen."

Two patients in particular are etched into Rev. Tina's memory and heart. "A 13-year-old came in with a massive infection. His upper leg and the whole hip was affected," she says.

"At first he refused to have surgery. His other siblings had died. If he had surgery, he wouldn't be able to climb the avocado tree and steal food to feed his family. His name is Sonson. He did have surgery and Sonson and his mother went home with new shoes as well."

Waiting days for treatment

In April 2009, Oreo fell off a tap tap (a truck). "He twisted his leg on a rock. It broke so badly that he had a compound fracture. He was brought to a government hospital and waited four days to be treated. By now he had maggots in his wound. They lifted him up on a table and pulled his leg straight. No cleansing and no anesthetic. The man was screaming!"

Oreo was transferred to the NWHCM and was close to death. "He had surgery and we kept a vigil by his side. We fed him, gave him electrolytes, antibiotics and medicine for his pain – all from HPIC. He recovered to a point where he could leave the hospital. In September, when we arrived, a man was waving his crutches in the air, giving thanks and hugging us. It was Oreo! He was alive and had both legs."

In 2009, HPIC sent several containers of medicine and medical supplies to Northwest Haiti Christian Mission Clinic enabling the staff to treat thousands.

In September, when we arrived, a man was waving his crutches in the air, giving thanks and hugging us



Sonson (centre), with his mother and Rev. Tina Simpson-Leslie (right), recuperates after surgery.

