Word from Missionaries in Tanzania, Paula and Denny Lofstrom October 2014

Dear Friends of the Children of Tanzania,

Mary Kitundu writing:

This has been a busy month for us.
Paula and Denny Lofstrom have returned to the US for fundraising to continue the development of the Children's Hospital. They spent 3 1/2 months here, and left feeling as if they had left their home here in Zinga. We will welcome them back next March when a flood of volunteers come to physically help us in construction and in caring for the children.

A few days after they left, in the evening a huge truck and crane came roaring onto the site carrying a 40 foot container. This was the "Mississippi Container" arriving after three years of collecting, packing, shipping and arriving.

I always think of these containers as miracles. They contain needed furniture, desks, incubators, medical equipment, chairs, pillows, sheets, kidney dialysis machines, ultrasound machines, Dopplers...you name it. In addition there were almost 5000 beanie babies to comfort children who will have immunizations and malaria tests. Can you imagine that? I hope you can.

We will be well equipped in most areas...but a hospital always needs more. Our greatest wish is a digital x-ray machine. It is a great help in diagnosis and the digital side of it will allow us to have world wide consultative help. Keep your eye out for one!

And, of course, we can't use all of this under and ebony or mango tree. We need walls, foundations, roofs, windows and doors. We continue to look for people or groups inspired to help us with the "outsides" of hospitals so we can care for the children inside.

We send our thankfulness to all the people (and it does take a lot of people) to produce never ending miracles for the children of Tanzania. You add joy to our lives.

Sincerely, Mary Kitundu, President, IHP-US, IHP-JEMA-TZ

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Mary Ellen Kitundu

Dennis Lofstrom writing:
We have been in the U.S. since the 29th of September. As I write this on the 23rd of October, we have been in the U.S. for 25 days without any indication of symptoms of Ebola. We are further away from any cases of the disease when we are in Tanzania then when we are in the U.S. Africa is a huge continent and West Africa is a long ways from East Africa, with very little direct traffic between the two.
We attended the 50th Nobel Conference at Gustavus Adolphus College on the 7th and 8th of October, an impressive celebration of this anniversary year with eleven returning laureates from previous conferences to answer the question, “Where Does Science Go From Here?” the topic of this year’s conference.
We presented the International Health Partners, U.S. program, The Children’s Hospital at Zinga to the board of the auxiliary of St. Mary’s Hospital in Rochester, to interested people at Bethel Lutheran Church in Rochester, and at First Lutheran in Newton, Iowa where we held our annual U.S. Board meeting at Marie and Duane Quanbeck’s. Marie is a member of the board and former missionary kid in Tanganyika. Her family is from Norway. I was her doctor in the years 1959 to 1962 at Augustana School at Kiomboi Hospital.

We attended a continuing medical education symposium in St. Paul, MN on neurofibromatosis at Children’s Hospital of Minnesota. We stayed with my daughter Lori Jane and her husband Warren in Coon Rapids, MN and met with more family and friends while there. (Fund raising isn't ALL work!)

We are now in Iowa City, Iowa. We talked with the medical student global health track unit at the University of Iowa yesterday and are heading south from here. Paula is outlining more of our future schedule giving “the Rest of the Story”.

Keep in touch!

Denny

Paula Lofstrom writing:
Dear Friends of IHP,

I’d like to remind everyone about Amazon.Smile. IHP will receive 0.5% of any purchase made through Amazon, and you’ll get the same reminders and pages they show you now, but will automatically direct it through Amazon Smile. Here’s what you do when there’s something you want to buy through Amazon: Go to Amazon.Smile. Look for the prompt for choosing your charity. When prompted for your charity of choice, first put in Mesa, AZ., then put in International Health Partners. U.S., Inc. The reason you put in Mesa first is that there’s another International Health Partners out of New York, and that’s not us. Now, this does not take the place of a regular donation. You’d have to buy $10,000 worth of stuff to equal a $50 donation, but it does put a little icing on the cake, and if enough people do it, it will help a little more. Amazon donates 0.5% of what you buy on Amazon.Smile to our IHP.

As Mary and Denny mentioned, we’re back in the U.S. We love being here in the fall. I can’t remember ever seeing the colors more beautiful than this year. What a gift God gives us with the changing of the leaves.

We’ve covered Minnesota and Iowa, and will be passing briefly through Kansas City, then Arkansas for a day and then on to California, Arizona, and Utah before Christmas. Please look at our schedule below and see if you can add in anything opportunity along the way to tell the story of IHP.

Here’s the deal, we’re $53,000 away from being able to open the first building of The Children’s Hospital at Zinga. That would cover the plumbing, septic, ceilings, smoothing and painting the walls. If each of you could write a check
for $53.00, we could open the doors and start serving patients. Within two (2) MONTHS. That’s our goal, to bring healing to those in need, especially the children.

The Luna Vista Rotary in California is going to help buy the terrazzo machines and materials for the flooring. The windows are going in thanks to you, our donors, plus a matching grant from Conoco-Phillips. First Lutheran Church in Newton, Iowa is raising money for the doors and grill work. We’re so close. So close. Yes, we are aware that $53.00 is a sacrifice for you, but if you were to say to one or two people on your Christmas list, “I’m giving YOUR gift(s) to kids in Tanzania will have the chance to live,” would they mind? Would they be proud and pleased? Would they honor that and maybe contribute $53.00 themselves? Please, think about it. And then, if you are able, act on it.

Please send checks to:
International Health Partners, U.S.
Joyce Zemel, Treasurer
1811 S. 39th St., #36
Mesa, AZ  85206

Or – go to our website, www.ihptz.org and click on Just Give

Or – call Joyce at 480 540 9317  and she’ll put it directly on your credit card.

If you tell us whose gift is coming to us, we’ll write them a personal thank you note telling them that the gift is from you. Please give us their name and address.
Wherever we travel and speak, people are asking us about Ebola. At Zinga, Ebola is as far away from us as you are from Nicaragua. Africa is a HUGE continent. In order to contract Ebola you must be in direct contact with someone’s bodily fluids, vomit, feces, urine, blood. There were many people living in the same apartment with the gentleman in Dallas who was infected and NONE of them got it. It is a horrible disease, but if someone in South America got it, would you panic? Tanzania is gearing up for a possible outbreak, but it is a long ways away at this time. For several years there were outbreaks in Uganda, just right across the lake, but it never got to Tanzania. There were suspected cases who were immediately isolated, but they proved to be other conditions, flu and a urinary tract infection causing the fevers and symptoms.

Lynda Sardeson, RN, Diabetes Nurse Educator, gave the first continuing education conference on that subject to nurses at The St. John’s University School of Nursing in Dodoma. It is our intention to begin a continuing education opportunity for the nurses in Tanzania like we have here in the U.S. Thank you, Lynda for starting the project on such a high note. Members of the Tanzania Nurses Counsel and Ministry of Health were very impressed and pleased.

We want to thank Jill Reynolds, Judy Lind, Birdie Jackson, Carol Collins, Barbara Carr, Lois Okerstrom, Alan Hoppensteadt, Sharon Yelton, Ann Serian, Belle Lindskoog, Roger Bates, Donna Schneider, Lorelle Banzett, Cathy Perry, Lisa Henson, Elizabeth Perry, and Eugenia Pyntikova for contributing to the car emergency fund. **THANK YOU ALL!!!** What you’ve done is helped us past the poor more money into this old old car into seeing what kind of newer used car we may be able to afford. Sele has looked at a couple, but they didn’t pass the “mechanic’s look” test, so we’re still looking. We can’t afford to buy a reconditioned car from Japan because the shipping alone would be $3,000 plus Customs in Tanzania. So, Sele and Mary Ellen are looking around in Dar es Salaam to find a car we can afford that is in good mechanical shape. We have just under $5465 to spend, so far.

**Speaking schedule 2014/15**

November, 2014

2 – First Presbyterian Church, Santa Barbara, CA

9 – Trinity Lutheran – Simi Valley, CA

16 – Unity of the Oaks – Thousand Oaks, CA

19 – Arizona Nurses Association, Prescott, AZ
23 – Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Tucson, AZ
27 – Thanksgiving, Chandler, AZ
30 – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Herriman, Utah

December, 2014

We need to be in the Kansas City area during December but will be open for “day trips” away and certainly for speaking engagements in the K.C. area and surrounding communities (up to 250 miles away).

8 – 11:00 A.M., Unity of Overland Park
10 – Louisburg, KS Rotary, noon
14 – OPEN
21 – OPEN
28 – OPEN

January, 2015

4 – Lutheran Church, Clarksville, TN – confirm date change
11 – Peachtree Road Lutheran Church, Atlanta, GA
18 – St. Paul Lutheran Church, Niceville, FL
25 – OPEN

February, 2015

1 – First Baptist Church, Edgefield, SC  confirm date change
8 – OPEN – Indiana?
15 – OPEN – Ohio
March, 2015

Return to Zinga, Tanzania

Hi,

Lynda Sardeson here. This is my 3rd time to Tanzania with IHP-TZ. I came with my friend, Sonja Tarnow to help in any way we could. Sonja focused on painting the Powell House/Hostel. I had the honor and privilege of developing and teaching a 2-day continuing education workshop (8 hours each day) on diabetes at St John’s University in Dodoma. This was to be the first workshop in a proposed series of continuing education workshops. Attendees included nursing students, nursing faculty, and doctors and nurses with various years of experience from area hospitals. All who completed the workshop received certificates with continuing education hours. If you have a nursing specialty you would like to share in such a workshop please let IHP-TZ JEMA President, Mary Ellen Kitundu know (mkitundu@gmail.com).

We had a great time and learned lots from each other. I was also able to network with the Coordinator of the Tanzanian Diabetes Association (TDA) who also works with the International Diabetes Federation in training and supplying “Diabetes Conversation Maps” in Tanzania. I was able to demonstrate the use of the “Maps” as a teaching aid for those in the class. Mary Ellen Kitundu is developing a website for the TDA.

Blessings and gratitude,

Paula and Denny