



Remembering Srebrenica

Twenty years ago, in July 1995, approximately 8,000 Bosnian Muslim males, aged 12-77 were systematically executed by Bosnian Serb troops at the U.N. designated “safe area” at Srebrenica. Medicine For Peace sent a medical team to Tuzla to assist displaced women and children who had survived the atrocity. **We worked in ethnically cleansed villages in Bosnia for an additional 6 years.**

On July 8, 2015, the twentieth year anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre, the U.N. Security Council voted on a resolution condemning the mass murders as a “crime of genocide”. Russia, a close ally of Serbia, vetoed the Security Council resolution. In the face of overwhelming evidence, the Serbs continue to deny participating in what International Courts have described as crimes of war, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

Bosnia remains in disarray, and the failure of Serbs to admit culpability for crimes committed remains a major impediment to reconciliation between Bosnian Muslim and Serb.

The U.N. has accepted responsibility for its failure to defend the Srebrenica enclave, and has implemented an action plan to prevent genocide in the future. The future is now, as minorities are threatened in Myanmar, Sudan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Syria, and Iraq. The critical question is whether the U.N. member states are willing to act on the ground to protect threatened civilians.

Meanwhile, the Mothers of Srebrenica continue to search for the remains of their sons and husbands. One thousand bodies are still to be found.

MFP Improves Health of Haitian Women

Women's Health Month: A Success

The banner that hangs in front of the Alma Mater Hospital reads, "**March is Women's Health Month. Free Examinations and Treatment.**" Women's organizations in town rally their members to come to our clinic for a free examination and treatment. Orna, our head nurse, speaks at all the Sunday Church services, and on the three radio stations in town. Her message is, "Protect your health. Come to the women's clinic. Do this for your children, do it for yourself."



Medicine For Peace (MFP) nurses walk through the market passing out flyers explaining that Haiti has one of the highest rates of cervical cancer in the world, and that it is a preventable disease if diagnosed early. Some women comment that they had friends who died of breast or cervical cancer.

MFP nurses Orna Dieunane and Erlose Cerfrere promote a healthy life style at our rural clinic in Pendu.

On March 1, women began gathering in front of the hospital at 6 a.m. waiting for the 8:30 a.m. clinic to open. Each woman received a breast and gynecological examination, and was screened for cervical cancer, AIDS, syphilis, and other sexually transmitted infections (STI's).

By the end of the month, we brought more than five hundred and fifty new patients into the health care system. We successfully treated ten patients with cervical pre-cancer and two patients with invasive cervical cancer, diagnosed six new patients with AIDS and placed them on anti-retroviral drugs, and treated more than a hundred patients with STI's. **We have now screened more than 5,000 women for breast and cervical cancer.**

There were many lessons learned during women's health month, In countries with entrenched poverty, if a woman has the option of a doctor's visit or a few bowls of rice, she will opt for feeding her children. Free medical care does not promote dependency, as some assert, it just prolongs women's lives.



Michael Viola and Orna Dieunane in the MFP cancer screening clinic.

Improving Health Care in Haiti with Information Technology



Tracking down ill patients in rural mountainous Haiti is a difficult task.

Advances in IT have revolutionized health care in developed countries, and we have use low-cost, user friendly technology in a rural hospital in Haiti with considerable success. Despite the lack of electricity, clean water and sanitation, much of Haiti has been wired to the internet by Digicel, an Irish Communications Company. We are now able to receive pathology and radiology reports in a timely fashion, contact patients (someone in a neighborhood or village will have an inexpensive cell phone), and communicate readily with colleagues both in Haiti and in the United States. Two technologies have been particularly useful: the development of a patient tracking and data collection system, and telemedicine.

A unique patient tracking system. A major problem in practicing medicine in rural underserved areas is patient non-compliance in keeping scheduled clinic visits. Carson Crane, MFP's information technology specialist, developed a unique computer program that assists us in tracking and finding patients, as well as alerting us to delays in laboratory reporting and patient follow-up.

Consequently, we now have a nearly 100% patient

follow-up. This is remarkable since many of our patients come many miles over difficult terrain to attend our hospital clinics and rural dispensaries.

Telemedicine. Simple, low-cost communication technologies hold promise to bring expert medical consultation to remote medical facilities in the developing world.. Carson has developed a unique, secure MFP website so that primary care physicians in Haiti can easily interact with MFP dermatology experts in the United States.

Teledermatology consultations consist of a primary care physician in Haiti entering a clinical history and images of the patient's skin lesion on our secure website. Within twenty-four hours an expert MFP dermatologist in the United States assesses the patient's problem, and provides a diagnosis and recommendations for treatment.

This service not only delivers expert consultation to Haitian patients living in a remote areas, but provides a teaching opportunity between medical professionals in the United States and Haiti.



Carson Crane develops innovative computer programs for MFP to improve health care in rural Haiti.

Children's Fund For Girls Scholars Excel in Music and Athletics



Lena, far left, as a high school all-star...

The Children's Scholarship Fund For Girls (CSFG) has provided education and guidance to needy Latina girls for 24 years. The main criterion for obtaining a CSFG scholarship is need, plus a willingness for the girls to maintain a high grade point average, and for their parents to encourage academic achievement. But we have had students like Lena Diaz in the CSFG who have excelled as scholars, musicians, or athletes. This is Lena Maria Diaz's story.

Lena and her family fled from the violence in Colombia after criminals attempted to kidnap her. Her mother was able to ward off the kidnapers, and Lena escaped unharmed. Once in the U.S. her parents labored at temporary, low paying jobs but were able to provide a new home for their children.

Lena initially attended local schools on Long Island but her parents again found her threatened, this time by

drugs and gangs in the school. She was accepted into the CSFG and placed in a nurturing private school. The Fund helped her parents with tuition, uniforms, and tutors.

From a young age, Lena showed a special talent for soccer, first playing on elite travelling teams, and then in a competitive high school league. She was awarded an athletic scholarship to Sacred Heart University, a Division I school in Connecticut, where she is in her junior year. She is looking forward to attending law school.

We take pride in having helped this talented young woman along her career path. For more information on the CSFG in the U.S. and Haiti contact **K.J. Crane** at [fundforgirls2 @ gmail.com](mailto:fundforgirls2@gmail.com).



..and as a college player



Medicine for Peace is a not-for-profit medical and humanitarian organization that has worked in El Salvador, Iraq, Bosnia, Haiti and the U.S. We are supported by caring individuals— like you— who share our vision of mothers and children prospering free from war, torture and extreme poverty.

Medicine For Peace

2732 Unicorn Lane

Washington, DC 20015

Phone: U.S. :202-441-4545

Haiti: 509- 939-451206

Fax: 301-571-0769

E-mail: medforpeace@aol.com

Please donate by sending a check or visit our website to securely donate online: www.medicineforpeace.org