



MFP Medicine For Peace Report

25 years of healing mothers and children

Founders Message

I am excited to report to you that, after 25 years of providing medical care and advocating for women and children who are victims of war and extreme poverty, Medicine For Peace is thriving. Our mission remains the same: to undertake high impact medical and mental health projects at modest cost in areas of desperate need. We initiate well-researched programs using experienced American volunteers who partner with community organizations and local health workers. Using this model, our goals for the future are ambitious and bold.

We have labored amidst the violence and immense loss of life in Iraq, the ethnic cleansing and forced displacements of large populations in Bosnia, and three hurricanes, an earthquake, and the ongoing cholera epidemic in Haiti. Yet, we remain undeterred. We have immediate plans to significantly expand our woman's health initiative throughout the Artibonite region of Haiti, as well as opening a new clinic for torture victims in West Baltimore.

Your faith and investments in us have made a difference. We want to share with you the sense of satisfaction that our Board and volunteers feel having reached this 25-year landmark. We hope that you will continue to support us as we undertake even more demanding humanitarian challenges in the future.

- Michael Viola, M.D.



Medicine For Peace Founder and Director, Dr. Michael V. Viola, with Haitian friend.

“Medicine for Peace is a human centered organization which has not succumbed to indifference in the face of suffering but is concerned with medical care for civilian victims of armed conflict”

-Vatican Representative to the United Nations

Cover: MFP volunteer, Kathleen Crane, and Sarah Tahir, a four-year-old patient from Kirkuk, Iraq

MFP Makes Major Impact on Women's Health in Haiti



The Women's Health Clinic at the Alma Mater Hospital in Gros Morne.

Cervical cancer rates in Haiti are among the highest in the world. Since the MFP Women's Health Initiative began in May 2010, the clinic at the Alma Mater Hospital in Gros Morne and our mobile clinics have screened more than 5,300 women for cervical cancer. While the cornerstone of the program is cancer screening and prevention, the program provides a general gynecological examination, testing for sexually transmitted infections (including HIV), breast examinations, and counseling services encouraging health-promoting behavior.

MFP's Women's Health Initiative

- Screened **5,300** Women for breast and cervical cancer.
- Eradicated Cervical Pre-Cancer in **322** patients.
- Diagnosed and treated **36** patients with cervical cancer
- Treated **1,426** patients with genital infections.
- Brought **thousands** of women into the health care system.

The success of the Women's Health Initiative has been due, in large part, to our community education efforts. MFP nurses spend considerable time in outreach activities talking frequently at school and community organization gatherings, radio shows, church services, and directly promoting health to women in the market. October and March are **Women's Health Month** in Gros Morne during which women participate in community and health activities which promote women's rights and the the importance of improving women's health and well being.

“The MFP cancer control program is one of the largest in Haiti and we hope it will be used as a model for other regions in the underdeveloped world.”

- *Claude Allen, Director, Gerard Health Foundation*



This stream in Gros Morne overflowed after storm Matthew hit Haiti. The result was washed out roads, making our dispensaries inaccessible, and a spike in cholera from contamination of the water supply.

Saving Children in Two War Zones— Iraq and Bosnia

MFP's first medical team arrived in Iraq in June 1991 and through two conflicts in the Gulf, MFP physicians and nurses performed health and nutrition assessments, established a pediatric clinic in a Baghdad hospital, delivered more than a million dollars in pediatric drugs to clinics in need, and brought children with congenital heart disease and war related injuries to the United States for surgery. Two award-winning film documentaries, William LiPera's "Children of the Cradle", and Susan Meiselis' "Opening Hearts", describe MFP's work with Iraqi Children.



Bosnian children at the Tuzla refugee camp.



MFP physicians in Baghdad hospital.

From 1995-2000, MFP's Bosnian Children's Project provided mental health services to Moslem mothers and children who had survived the ethnic cleansing of the town of Kozarac. MFP focused on rehabilitating children who lost parents, and had been subjected to violence and assault. *Oslobodjenje*, the well-respected Sarajevo newspaper, described the MFP school-based mental health project in Kozarac as "a model of co-operation between American health workers and Bosnian women's organizations."



Educating Latina Girls for 25 Years



A happy CSFG scholarship recipient.

The Children's Scholarship Fund for Girls was established in 1991 to promote the education of girls who fled the wars in Central America to immigrate to New York and Washington, DC. The CSFG empowers these girls by placing them in private schools that provide a superior education, as well as a nurturing environment to help girls become self-sufficient young women.

The fund provides tuition, books, uniforms, academic support and the opportunity to participate in a summer of Music and the Performing Arts at USDAN in Long Island. The CSFG has supported the education of girls from

El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, Puerto Rico, and Peru.

Following the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the CSFG funded teachers and 100-150 students at the Foni Bo School in Gros Morne, Haiti. The program assists girls to progress from 1st through 6th grade. At the present time only 20% of all Haitian girls complete grade 6.

All of our U.S. scholarship recipients have gone on to graduate from University, including Suffolk Community College, Vassar, Union, Hunter, NYU, SUNY Stony Brook, Columbia and Harvard.



Kathleen Crane with students at the Foni Bo School.

Advocating for the Voiceless

MFP is an advocacy as well as a medical relief organization. Our volunteers present our findings about crises in war-torn and impoverished countries to the public through lectures, radio, television, and the print media.

We have released a number of seminal reports, including “Health Crisis in Baghdad”, “Nutritional Studies in Hurria District, Baghdad”, “Status of Public Hospitals in Iraq- 2005”, and “Medical Evidence for State-Sponsored Torture in Ethiopia- 2012”. MFP physicians have testified before Congressional and U.N. Committees, and civic organizations on the health effects of the economic embargos on Iraq, on Haiti, and on State-sponsored torture in the Horn of Africa.



Left, N.Y. Times article which refers to the findings of the first MFP medical teams working in Iraq; right, 2012 findings of the MFP clinic for torture victims concerning torture in Ethiopia.

MFP Partners with Bon Sequors Hospital in West Baltimore



The original hospital was built in 1919 to care for poor inner city residents.

Bon Sequors Hospital has a long history of ministering to the sick and the poor in inner city Baltimore. In keeping with its tradition of compassion and justice for the people it serves, Bon Sequors entered into a formal agreement with Medicine For Peace to relocate MFP’S clinic for torture victims to the hospital site in November 2016.

Our team of doctors, nurses, interpreters, and befrienders delivers *pro bono* primary care, and performs medical forensic examinations for individuals seeking asylum in the U.S. because of alleged torture in their home countries. We partner with other non-profit organizations to offer a wide range of medical, mental health, and social services to torture victims. It is estimated that there are more than 40,000 torture victims in the DC/Baltimore region awaiting review by immigration courts.

MFP is active in the world-wide movement to prevent torture by educating Government officials, the general public, and the medical profession about the devastating effects of torture on its victims and the wider society in general.

“The nurses and doctors at the MFP clinic made me begin to feel whole again.” -**A torture victim from the Sudan**

The Medicine For Peace Story: 1991- present



1991-1994: Iraqi's Children Project



1992-1994: The Baghdad to New York Save-a-Child Shuttle



2010: Haiti Earthquake Relief Project



2001- present: Haitian Women's Health Project



1992: Medical Supplies Delivered to El Salvador



1995-2001: Bosnian Children's Mental Health Project



2004: Comprehensive Assessment of Baghdad Public Hospitals



2009, 2016: MFP Clinics for Torture Victims