



December 20, 2013

Dear Friends,

In 2009 drug resistant tuberculosis was a death sentence in Ethiopia. As of today, we have started almost 900 patients on life-saving TB therapy and have likely saved another 10,000 from new infection. With a positive outcome rate of 80%, the program has achieved one of the highest ever positive outcomes for drug resistant TB globally. And even more remarkably, we have achieved the same success in TB cure among HIV+ as among HIV- patients. The model we have created is becoming a roadmap for scaling up care for the millions suffering from this curable disease in Africa and other areas of the South.

This past year the program in Ethiopia has expanded from Addis Ababa and Gondar in the north to new areas of Amhara Province and to the Sidama region in the south of the country. The GHC team also visited South Sudan, newly emerged from 30 years of civil war, assisting that country's ministry as it begins to tackle the problem of drug resistant TB that the country is facing.

During 2013 we have also watched the bamboo buildings of the Zahara Children's Center rise right outside Addis Ababa. It is nearing completion in anticipation of its opening in 2014, when it will begin to provide life-saving services to children infected with or affected by HIV and TB, including drug resistant TB.

In Cambodia, it is hard to believe that we will celebrate our 20th anniversary as an organization in March 2014. We continue with the community approach to TB that began in three remote district hospitals in Svay Rieng Province in 1994. We have treated tens of thousands of patients and continue the success of our program for drug resistant TB.

Our HIV and TB/HIV programs in the villages and cities continue to thrive, reaching over 4000 children and adults. In Phnom Penh, we continue to provide the primary HIV care for almost 500 children at the Sullivan Center of the Khmer Soviet Friendship Hospital with great success, integrating the counseling and social programs of the Maddox Chivan Children's Center. The unique approaches developed at the Maddox to help children understand their illness and to keep them healthy have been game changers. We will take these lessons learned to the Zahara Children's Center when it opens in Ethiopia in 2014.

This year we have seen the results from our TB/HIV treatment work and our clinical trial showing that by changing the timing of the drugs, we could reduce mortality by 34%, accepted as international practice. And we anticipate that our recent work in the lab showing how TB destroys the compromised immune system of an HIV+ person will have further major impact on how treatment is designed. It is already contributing to global understanding of HIV and the immune system that is critical to finding a cure for HIV.

Our accomplishments this year have been possible because of your support and partnership. The Declaration of Human Rights states that "everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person...". Those whose lives we have touched because of your support have been granted the basic human right of treatment for a curable or treatable disease.

With great appreciation to you all and with wishes for a happy and healthy new year for you and your families,

Anne Goldfeld, M.D.  
President and Co-founder GHC/CHC