You Saved Miriam, a Little Girl Dying of Tuberculosis

A so soon as we meet Miriam, a tiny 9-year-old girl, we see her big brown eyes, expressive and beautiful in her sweet face. Then we learn that this little girl has a deadly form of tuberculosis.

She's in the clinic supported by Project HOPE, a long and narrow concrete-block building with cement floors, a tin roof and open windows.

In one of the rooms, there's Miriam's bed, a thin cushion on a metal frame, shrouded in mosquito netting. Miriam sits on a plastic chair. Unfortunately, we weren't permitted to take her picture. Her denim dress is torn and frayed. A white mask covers her mouth. She looks up at us, but she's too shy to talk.

Suddenly, she erupts into a rattling cough that comes from deep in her lungs, and she winces in pain. Sometimes, she burns up with fever so bad that her sweat soaks through her clothes. And she gets chills that freeze her.

The truly sad part of Miriam's story is that her treatment was stopped when her disease was less severe and could have been cured more easily.

Her family is nomadic. They travel with the seasons in the deserts of Africa. So when it was time for mom and dad to move on, they packed up, and naturally took Miriam with them.

It's true that Miriam did seem to be getting better — she was getting treatment, after all — so her parents thought that she'd be fine.

But when one of our Project HOPE field promoters in Africa heard that Miriam was gone from the clinic, he took action.

Just as the family was getting ready to leave, he went to speak with Miriam's parents. He explained to the parents that their little girl was not cured and that — even worse — she would die without more treatment.

Miriam’s parents let her return to the clinic. And that’s where she is today. The good news is that she’s getting help and treatment again for her tuberculosis.

But the bad news is that the disease has turned into the multiple-drug-resistant type. This form of TB is curable, but it’s more difficult and takes longer to treat. But that just means Miriam’s doctors and nurses are going to work harder to save her.

And thanks to your continued and kind support, we’ll be there until this little girl is well again, ready to return to her family.

That the clinic where patients like Miriam are treated for tuberculosis and other deadly diseases — treatment made possible by your generous support.

Your support is vital — because it's a big job. As big as this. And your gift will multiply 105 times — sending donated medicine and supplies into poverty zones to save lives.

Here’s my gift of: $25 $50 $75 $100 $250

Your generosity multiplied. Always.

If you'd like to help as much as possible, I want to join HOPE Lifters by making this an automated monthly gift. I understand that my account will be charged each month for the amount indicated above.

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to Project HOPE, and mail it, along with this form, in the envelope prepaid.

Dr. Howe is grateful for your continued support of Project HOPE’s work in Africa, and around the world.

Sincerely yours,

John P. Howe, III, M.D.
President and CEO
An Orphan Boy Has HOPE for the Future, Because of You

Children singing and dancing — that’s the joyous greeting we receive when we arrive in the poverty-striken village. And that’s when we meet Matiti.

A young, thin boy who’s a little taller than the others, Matiti beams his big, 100-watt smile as he hugs each of us in turn. At 10 years old, Matiti is in the same situation as all of the other children here. He’s an orphan.

Matiti was abandoned by his mother when it became apparent that he had a learning disability and wasn’t developing at the normal pace. Despite being abandoned by his own mother, Matiti is a happy little boy who never dim.

Matiti came here with nothing — not even clothes. And more importantly, not even a birth certificate. Without that crucial document, he can’t get the special schooling he needs.

So for now, he’s finding care and compassion through Project HOPE and a local woman named Mary. Trained by Project HOPE field staffers, Mary has opened up her home to these children, helping to feed and care for them. She’s also passing on her training to others, so that they can help care for all the other children in the village who have been orphaned.

And even though Mary and the other Project HOPE staffers have so many children to look after, they continue to search for a way to get Matiti admitted into school. It’s a challenge. But it’s one that we hope you’ll help with through your continued and generous support. Just as we hope that Matiti’s big, friendly smile will never dim.

A Community Comes Together Through Your Support

One mom in the group speaks up. She says that since her children wash their hands with soap and water, and also wash their bedding in order to prevent disease, the group nodds with approval.

Another mom explains how she learned to recognize the early symptoms of tuberculosis so that she can know when treatment is needed.

Yet another mom says that she now understands how to better care for the orphans in the village who have lost their parents because of AIDS, and how to help these vulnerable children in their grieving.

These women and others in the group are sharing their thoughts about the help they’ve received from Project HOPE. It’s a heartwarming experience to see people working together for the greater good.

With help from Project HOPE, they’re taking their future in their own hands — a future that you’re helping to create through your generous support.

Next, the community savings lockbox is opened. Yes, this is part of Project HOPE’s work in Africa, too. Inside the lockbox are passbooks for each community member, and each person comes forward with their hard-earned money to add to the community savings. Then the group discusses how best to use the funds. A loan to a local farmer? Purchasing materials to make baskets for sale? A grant to help someone get medical treatment? It’s a heartwarming experience to see people working together for the greater good.

An under-the-tree session where this community joins together to work for the good of all, including the vital health education that your gifts make possible.

What will your legacy be?

What will your legacy be? Here’s how you can start building it today with Project HOPE.

Discover the More Convenient, More Effective Way to Give

With Project HOPE’s guidance, members of the community are pooling their money to create a fund that will benefit them all.

What is your legacy? Leave Your Legacy of Compassion

You can help shape Project HOPE’s future through a unique gift opportunity known as a charitable gift annuity. You make a donation and we, in turn, pay you a fixed, dependable payment for the rest of your life. After your lifetime, the remaining balance allows Project HOPE to continue saving lives around the world. Another way to maximize your support is to include Project HOPE in your estate plans. A charitable bequest does not affect your current cash flow or assets, and is simple to revise, should your circumstances change. Best of all, you have the satisfaction of knowing that your legacy will be one of hope for others.

For more information about charitable gift annuities, bequests and other ways to create your legacy, please call our Planned Giving Office at 800-544-4673, or visit projecthope.org/hopelifters.
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Your Gift to Africa

Dear Friend,

So much joy in people’s hearts, and yet so much suffering. So much genuine hospitality and love, and yet so much poverty.

This is Africa.

Welcome to the special AFRICA FIELD NOTES edition of HOPE News. You’ve been privileged to see Project HOPE’s work in Africa many times on humanitarian missions. Project HOPE has been taking an active role in these beautiful, yet struggling countries since 1964. In fact, the first mission in Africa was a voyage by the SS HOPE to Guinea. You remember the SS HOPE. It’s the World War II ship that was converted into a floating hospital and served as the early home of Project HOPE.

Today, that tradition of help in Africa started by the SS HOPE continues through your generous support. Because of you, we’re working in Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Egypt and Tanzania. In all of these countries, people are suffering and dying from AIDS, tuberculosis and other deadly diseases. And they’re struggling with oppressive poverty.

Many countries in Africa are so poor that medical care simply isn’t available for broad swaths of the populations and people are left on their own, with tragic consequences. So many die agonizing — and completely avoidable — deaths.

But with your help, we’re determined to put a halt to this suffering. We’re working to get diseases like AIDS and TB under control, improve detection and diagnosis, and improve treatment so more people will be saved.

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Sincerely yours,

John P. Howe, III, M.D.
President and CEO

FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK

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Your Generosity Multiplied. Always.

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Continued on back page >

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Your generosity multiplied. Always.

News about your gifts to fight disease, care sickness and save lives

SUMMER 2014

Africa Field Notes: #1

You Saved Miriam, a Little Girl Dying of Tuberculosis

Insider This Issue:

ORPHAN BOY HAS HOPE FOR THE FUTURE... He’s getting care and compassion because of you.

A COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER... See people working together for the common good.

NEW WAYS TO GIVE... How you can get more from your gifts to fight disease and save lives.

One of the patient rooms in the clinic. The poverty is evident, but what you can’t see is the love and dedication of the doctors, nurses and staff who care deeply about patients like Miriam.

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