



HOPE NEWS

project HOPE

Spring 2019

News from the field about your lifesaving impact

ProjectHOPE.org

Staying Ahead of an Epidemic in Colombia:

Confronting Measles and More

"A new strain of measles means even children who have been vaccinated can be infected," reports Dr. Atilio Rivera-Vasquez, the Project HOPE Colombia team lead and Health Technical Expert directly overseeing health sector activities.

In Venezuela, rampant inflation and food shortages have left most people with few alternatives but to pack what they can carry and flee the country. Three years ago, a chicken cost about 14 bolivars (the Venezuelan currency). By August of 2018, the cost was closer to 14 million. As the crisis in Venezuela worsens, medicine, food, and other necessities are in short supply. Desperate, some 3

million people have left Venezuela — the majority walking across the border to neighboring Colombia.

Dr. Atilio speaks about the increase in patients with measles. "This new strain can be treated, of course, with basic medical care — but if little boys and girls are without warm, dry places to recuperate, if they're suffering from malnutrition, measles rapidly become extremely dangerous.

"Thanks to the support of our donors, Project HOPE has sent doctors to key clinics at the border and we're working with the Colombian Health Ministry. We're not just treating children with measles — we're also

(continued inside)



Our HIV/AIDS programs connect patients with the medicines and counseling needed to lead a full life.

A Grandmother's Journey in Namibia

Nora is going blind, but that doesn't stop her from living her life. It can't. She cares for three grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. "These children were dropped off here as very small babies. I can't do that to them again," she says.

The oldest, 13-year-old Santi, is HIV-positive, as Nora is herself. Because she doesn't have another option, Nora walks five miles each month to the nearest hospital for Santi's medicine. And she does it with 14-month-old Pemail strapped to her back.

(continued inside)



Helping displaced Venezuelan families

Ying's Story

Surviving Childhood Cancer in China

When Ying was just 14, he was diagnosed with leukemia. Fortunately, Project HOPE had helped to establish the Shanghai Children's Medical Center just a few years before. Ying received specialized pediatric care that didn't just overcome his cancer — it also provided him with the opportunity to become a healthy, happy adult.

Today, Ying goes back to the Center regularly as a volunteer. He visits every child in every room, to tell them that he knows what they're going through, and that he beat leukemia when he was just a boy.

"I hope this inspires them," he



says. "I know what it's like for them."

The belief that success is possible is very powerful; Project HOPE knows this because your kind support makes our success possible. Thank you!

Confronting Measles *(continued from page 1)*



Infants and young children are particularly vulnerable to threats like measles.

screening every child we meet for signs of malnutrition." This work goes hand-in-hand with helping expectant mothers in the displaced population have healthy babies, and with protecting vulnerable women and girls from the terrors of sexual assault.

"Colombia, the host nation to so many of the Venezuelan refugees, is doing so much for these neighbors in need — but the new strain of measles has begun to spread to Colombian children, too. We must do everything we can to stop this epidemic before it is out of control." Dr. Atilio and his team are hard at work, improving the health of displaced Venezuelans in desperate need.

A Grandmother's Journey *(cont. from page 1)*

But she doesn't make her long journey alone; thanks to your generosity, you walk with her.

Nora's grandson Santi had no birth certificate when he was orphaned, which meant he wasn't eligible for healthcare. But Anatolia, a Project HOPE Community Health

Thanks to your generosity, you walk with her.

Worker, guided Nora through the bureaucracy to get him the care he deserves. In fact, Anatolia was able to get a grant from the Namibian government to provide Santi with a regular income. Anatolia reports, "After years of continued medical care, his viral load is now undetectable. He wants to be a teacher, and he's doing well."

"I am so grateful to Anatolia and to Project HOPE," Nora says. "I am truly grateful for this help for my grandchildren."



Anatolia helps patients with their struggles to keep up the challenging lifelong regimen of HIV medication.

UPDATE: Caring for Moms and Babies in the Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic is the Caribbean's second-most populous country and has the second-highest neonatal mortality rate in the region. To help, Project HOPE is collaborating with the national Ministry of Health to provide much-needed equipment (such as ventilators, incubators, vital sign monitors, and radiant warmers) to maternity wards.

We're setting up prenatal vitamin programs, providing vaccines and medications, and developing a mobile app to deliver our "5-Star" maternal care strategy to expectant mothers in an easy-to-follow digital format. We've trained over 435 hospital staff across the country in just over a year (with more graduates to come!) to educate and empower hard-working nurses to save more lives. Our advancements are thanks to caring donors like you!



We're helping make sure mothers and babies have the healthcare they need to thrive.



Seven-month-old baby Joshua is fighting for his life at Los Mina hospital in the Dominican Republic. His prognosis is uncertain, but doctors and staff are optimistic. "He's a fighter. Any other patient would've passed away by now. I have faith," his doctor, Dr. Suazo, shares.

A Note from the Chief Executive Officer

Dear Project HOPE Donor,

Right now, Project HOPE is fortunate to have a Matching Gift opportunity: Any donation you make before May 31, 2019, will be matched dollar for dollar, to a total of \$600,000.

That makes this a doubly good time to give generously and help Project HOPE empower healthcare workers around the world with the knowledge, skills, supplies, and support they

need to save lives. There's a coupon on the back of this note for your use. Please make a donation today. Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Tom Kenyon".

Tom Kenyon, MD MPH
Chief Executive Officer
Chief Medical Officer

Profile in Generosity

Karen Beetle

Karen Beetle has a private practice as a therapist in her hometown of Albany, New York. When Hurricane Maria devastated the island of Puerto Rico, Karen looked for a way to help.

“I did some searches to see who was providing support for mental health in Puerto Rico. That brought me to Project HOPE.”

As a volunteer mental health specialist on one of our medical response teams, Karen counseled disaster survivors. Many had been without water or power for three months at that point and were enduring painful separations from loved ones who had relocated following



Volunteer Karen Beetle helped bring healing to children and families following Hurricane Maria.



the hurricane. “The two most striking things to me were the level of exhaustion — and how difficult it was for people to be separated from the people they cared about.”

At Project HOPE, we’re proud to have Karen’s skilled help and exceptional generosity in support of our lifesaving work.

If They Could Thank You...

There are people around the world whose lives are saved or forever changed because you

generously support

Project HOPE. On their behalf, we offer our sincere thanks. You make our work possible!



Making an Impact for Generations to Come

Creating an enduring legacy of hope is easier than you think. Project HOPE’s lifesaving work delivers medicine, supplies, expert volunteers, and training to communities around the world that need them most.

A smart way to help is by leaving a gift to Project HOPE in your will. To learn more, please request our publication, *Easy Ways to Create Your Legacy of HOPE*, by contacting the Office of Planned Giving at 800-540-HOPE (800-540-4673) ext. 219 or giftplanning@projecthope.org.

DOUBLE MY IMPACT to save more lives today and tomorrow!

I’m making my gift to Project HOPE before May 31, 2019 — which will be doubled in impact to help heal suffering children and families with medicine, supplies, and more!

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$500 Other \$ _____

YES, I'd like to make my donation a monthly gift.

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THANK YOU. Please detach this form and return it with your gift. To donate by credit card, please call (844) 349-0188 or **give online at ProjectHOPE.org**



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