



bochildrenshospital

SIERRA LEONE, WEST AFRICA

WWW.BOCHILDRENSHOSPITAL.ORG.AU

NEWSLETTER, November 2015



## Update from Bo

The past year has seen a lot of changes at Bo Children's Hospital. The Ebola outbreak was a devastating blow to Sierra Leone and we had to close the hospital for 3 weeks at one stage so the virus did not contaminate the hospital. Thanks to our many wonderful donors and Rotary we now have the much needed Isolation Ward for the containment of infectious diseases.

The virus also caused an economic disaster impacting on businesses, food production and stifling growth, it will take a long time for the country to recover.

*At the time of writing no further cases have been reported, as at 7<sup>th</sup> November 2015, Sierra Leone has been declared Ebola free.*

The Bo Children's Hospital continues to grow and maintain its services despite the current economic conditions. This much needed hospital has treated over 12,000 children since it opened in June 2012 with only a few mortalities. However we would be able to treat many more children if we had the funds to expand.

## Foundation Board Appointments

Julia Krattli and Ros Madden have been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Bo Children's Hospital Foundation. Both are members of SUIHAA (Sydney University International House Alumni Association) and bring a wealth of knowledge to the Board.

## Stories from the Staff at Bo Children's Hospital

**Amie Sillah is my name**, I am 45 years old, I joined the staff of BCH since its inception of operation. I love dealing with kids in my nursing practices because they are considered a good agent of God. I grew up in the village called Tisana where I was born. Tisana is in

Moyamba District in South West Sierra Leone and the main occupation of the people there is fish farming.



Amie Sillah – Nurse SECHN

At the age of 14 when I was hoping to enter in to the junior secondary school, a close friend who I had admired so much because of her intelligence in school, was discovered pregnant by her relative and the act was perpetuated by one of the fishermen in the village. The traumatized girl was so stressed she went into premature delivery and the baby later died because of poor care.

This undesirable event got me so scared that I had to urge my mum to take me out of the village to a bigger town to continue my education.

I completed my senior secondary school education as well as my nursing education while I stayed in the city. Today I am a trained and qualified community health nurse (SECHN) and I am proud to be a staff member at BCH, I am married with a child.

### Vandi Sombie – Hospital Superintendent

A six week old baby sustained very severe burns on her face, classified as more than 18% burns, caused by hot water in a flask. She was rushed into the Out Patients Department with a huge crowd of over 15 people, the mother was shouting "I think she has died, please let my baby survive". .....continued /2

Vandi Sombie continued..



As this case was an emergency the baby was hurriedly taken to the resuscitation room and cool water was applied to the face and all resuscitation with regards to the management of burns was administered. After three days of effective treatment she was able to open her eyes and able to successfully breast feed. The mother later was advised to get her immunized as she was due for the second dose of her immunization. After two weeks, she was discharged home with smiles on her face.



Picture showing mother (centre) waiting in the queue for her baby's turn to get vaccinated.



Patient going through examination by Vandi Sombie with probable case of congenital heart disease.

## Vale: Peter Matthews

This year saw the passing of one of our truly dedicated workers for the Bo Children's Hospital, Peter Matthews. Peter was integral in setting up the Bo Children's Hospital Foundation in Australia. He also completed the Rotary Global Grant for the hospital.



Peter is pictured on the front right side of the photo

Peter organised 3 containers to be sent to the hospital including obtaining an x ray machine. He was a Director and active member of the Foundation and will be greatly missed for his tireless work.

## Sydney University International House – Charity Night

A most successful Charity Night was held to raise money by SUIHAA for the Bo Children's Hospital – "A big hope for small people". A total of \$1,580.00 was raised by the students, a wonderful result.



Students in the hot dog eating competition!

**"We sincerely thank all our wonderful donors who have contributed to the hospital and made a lifesaving difference to the children of Sierra Leone".**

**Donate today online at:**  
**[www.bochildrenshospital.org.au](http://www.bochildrenshospital.org.au)**

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