



bochildrenshospital

SIERRA LEONE, WEST AFRICA

WWW.BOCHILDRENSHOSPITAL.ORG.AU

NEWSLETTER, November 2016



Ending Poverty Through Health Care

*By Vandi Sombie,
Medical Superintendent, Bo Children's Hospital*

Hello Everyone,

We want to sincerely thank everyone who has contributed and also wanting to contribute to the Bo Children's Hospital. You are all special in saving children's lives in order to end poverty.

In this newsletter you will see:

- How patients gain access at the Bo Children's Hospital through the triage centre,
- A child who had a Malaria attack immediately after her Nursery School Graduation,
- Different cases of patients before and after their treatments,
- Medical nurses who are fighting hard to see that we save lives of sick children in the provinces of Sierra Leone.

After years of debate, in April 2010 our nation realized a tremendous milestone in how we provide health care in Sierra Leone with the rollout of the **FREE HEALTH CARE**. It's one of the most controversial pieces of legislation in recent history and the largest overhaul of our health care system since the creation of Medicare. Despite the challenges and controversies, the struggle has been worth it. The **FREE HEALTH CARE** is one of the most significant pieces of anti-poverty legislation passed. In theory the Free HealthCare System is free but in practice many health care service delivery units in hard- to-reach communities around Bo District don't have well trained and qualified health practitioners who offer a comprehensive investigation to sick patients

especially children. Also the free health care system does not make provision for SPECIALISED DRUGS e.g. hydrocortisone, 3rd generation antibiotics etc. **The BCH therefore complements Government's efforts in closing these two gaps by providing trained and qualified medical officers for treatment and provision of specialised drugs.** We at Bo Children's Hospital, the only children's hospital in the three provinces of Sierra Leone, know this fact only too well. **For over 4 ½ years**, we've provided health care services to those who have been forced to make those choices and who are suffering under the weight of acute and chronic illnesses.

We know that a life of poverty is one on the edge, with a lack of comprehensive health care acting as a major contributor.



Ward at Bo Children's Hospital

We've learned that good health requires both acute and chronic preventative health care, resolving life-threatening emergencies. At the same time, BCH provides counselling and education as well as job preparation services to teach our participants (staff, patients/parents, visitors) on how to practice a healthy lifestyle living. With health and stability on their side, they're able to prepare for their future, healthy, housed, and employed.

PATIENT RECORDS – The Hospital desperately needs a computerised patient admission and records system. This will free up valuable time currently taken up by medical staff in completing records and viewing past documentation. This system will be cost effective in the long run by saving on time consuming paperwork and increasing efficiency.

See below records filing room at BCH



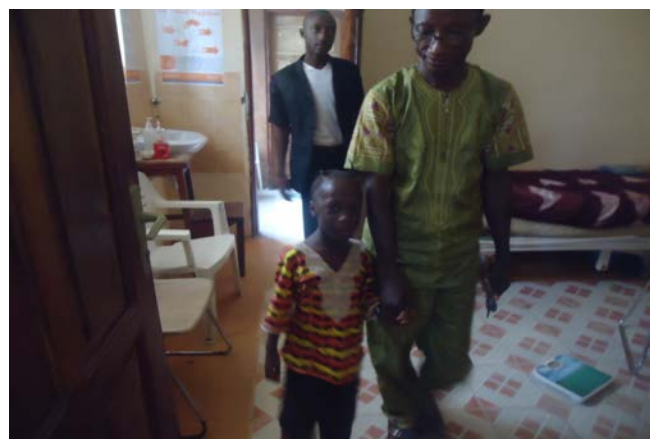
MEASLES OUTBREAK - The photo below shows a nurse treating a child with Measles in the BCH Isolation Ward. The Isolation Ward has been a much needed addition to the hospital and was built by funds raised by our wonderful donors.



MALARIA ATTACK – Precious Fobay had a Malaria attack immediately after her nursery school graduation. See pictures below on a checkup visit with her parent after she was treated for 2 weeks and then discharged from the hospital.



Precious Fobay with Vand Sombie



Leaving the hospital with her father

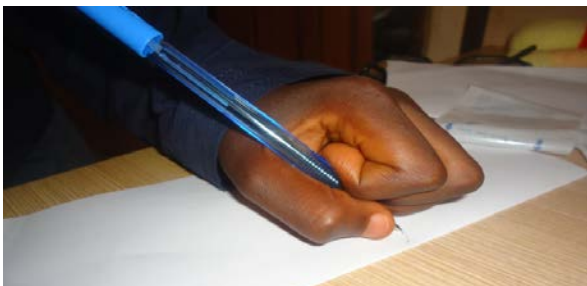
Below - picture of a baby boy having a blood transfusion due to malaria complication. He had been closely monitored in the ward with the mother being very stressed doubting whether the child will recover from the illness. Thanks to the treatment and care at the BCH he was able to return home.



Ibrahim M Madie (below), CT Scanned results shows **ASTOCYTOMA**. The effect of his problem has totally disturbed his schooling in this past academic year. He had the attack when he was in his Junior Secondary School and now he has lost some senses and unable write his name and even to continue academic exercise. For the past one month Ibrahim has had a persistence headache.



Astocytoma surgery cannot be done at the BCH and even in Sierra Leone; only overseas. We are therefore asking for any assistance to help carry out his surgery overseas, in order to save his life and eradicate poverty out of his life.



X-RAY MACHINE – The capacity of having investigations at the facility has promoted a high level definitive diagnosis for patients, thereby reducing the cost on patients to go elsewhere for treatment. See below how X-rays are being done at the BCH.



Demonstration of chest X-ray been done on a child suspected of aspiration pneumonia.

DEDICATED NURSING STAFF - Nurses are fighting hard to take good care of sick children. The Head Nurse stays part time at the hospital to make sure that the standard is kept up and continues to improve. The Hospital operates on three (3) shifts. The shifts are: Morning, afternoon and night shifts.



VISITING AMERICAN DOCTOR, Dr Gary Johnson (below far right) and staff after welcome meeting. Dr Johnson is doing volunteer work at the hospital 1 day a week. In Gary's words to the BCHF *"I am richly blessed to be working at Bo Children's Hospital! Vandi is a new medical hero of mine, thank you for the opportunity!"*



The Bo Children's Hospital Foundation is a non-profit organization and is run entirely by volunteers, every dollar donated goes directly to the running costs and salaries for the Bo Children's Hospital. If you would like to save costs in postage by receiving your newsletter by email, you can advise us by sending an email to:

bochildrenshospital@bigpond.com



BUILDING a brighter future for the children of Sierra Leone, West Africa

With your donation and support we can secure the future work of the Bo Children's Hospital

\$40 provides clinical treatment for 25 children per month –

\$60 provides clinical treatment for 50 children per month


\$110 provides bandages, swabs and sutures package for 1 month -

\$120 supports full hospitalization for 5 children per month

\$240 can support full hospitalization for 10 children per month

\$1000 replacement medical equipment

Donations for a single amount or for a monthly commitment can be made on the form below or on our website at

<http://www.bochildrenshospital.org.au/donate.php> or find us on facebook  bo children's hospital

YES, I would like to make a gift:

\$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ My choice ☐ \$..... I would like to give a regular monthly donation of \$.....

DIRECT DEBIT: Please note that this form **MUST** be completed and sent to: P.O. Box 623, Balgowlah NSW 2093 or emailed to bochildrenshospital@bigpond.com even if donation is made by Direct Debit in order to issue a receipt.

Bo Children's Hospital Trust Bank: Westpac BSB: 032 089 ACCT# 273051

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***The Quiet Ones* – CD Gift for that Someone Special - Only \$20 each!**



Laurie Facer, retired CEO of the Bo Children's Hospital Foundation, is a longstanding member of the band, **The Quiet Ones**. The band has kindly donated their CD at no charge to raise money towards a **Computerised Patient Record System**. The band, The Quiet Ones was formed in the early sixties. Thirty five years later they reunited to play a gig with the Aztecs (of Billy Thorpe and the Aztecs fame) and Vince Maloney lead guitarist for the Aztecs and the Bee Gees.

Name.....QuantityAmount Enclosed.....

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