Stopping Seizures, Saving Lives

For families living in poverty, caring for a disabled child can be difficult if not impossible. Without the necessary therapies, equipment or medicines, families are easily overwhelmed. And many developing countries provide little or no government support.

Sadly, unable to care for their disabled children, some families simply abandon them. In the Dominican Republic, some families leave their children at Casa de Luz ("House of Light"), a private facility that cares for children with a variety of disabilities.

While raising a disabled child themselves, pastor Lucas Carvajal and his wife, Tempora, realized how few resources were available and decided to create a loving home for these children. Selling their own home, car and belongings in order to support this mission, the Carvajals started Casa de Luz in 2006.

Casa de Luz now cares for 40 severely disabled children with autism, down syndrome, multiple sclerosis, and other conditions. Support for the home and care of the children comes from private donations and money is always tight. Most of the children need regular therapy and anti-seizure medicines, which are expensive in the Dominican Republic.

Recently MAP provided additional anti-seizure medications to Casa de Luz just as they were running out. Without these critical medicines, children suffer painful and even life-threatening seizures. "We’re so glad that we are able to support this important ministry to these precious children," said Steve Stirling, MAP President and CEO.
PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Love-A-Child and MAP Bring Hope to Haitians

Love-A-Child founder Sherry Burnette and MAP CEO and President Steve Stirling.

Rose easily recalls the day she met Sherry Burnette and the team at Love-A-Child. When the doctors told her they had to remove her leg, Rose says it was the Love-A-Child team that gave her hope. They prayed with her and gave her medicine from MAP International. “I did not want to live, but because of Love-A-Child, I am here today. And because of the medicine, I’m alive,” Rose said.

Bobby Burnett reflects about the role MAP medicines play in the service of their mission. “We could not do what we do without MAP,” Bobby says. “All of the doctors we work with say MAP medicines are better than gold.”

Today, Rose lives in the Miracle Village initiated by Love-A-Child. Many of the 2010 earthquake victims reside there now. When she or her neighbors need medical attention, they visit the health clinic on the campus. And, if they need medicine, it is provided by the supporters of MAP International.

In 1985 when the Burnette’s founded Love-A-Child, they did so with the premise of sharing Christ’s love to reduce poverty for children and help families in Haiti become self sufficient. As Sherry Burnette often says, “Love is something you do.”

To see the stories of how Love-A-Child and MAP International work together to give hope for the people of Haiti, visit www.MAP.org/storiesofhope. Mellissa’s Story, Rose’s Story and Magdeleina’s Story – these are all wonderful testimonies to the power of partnership.

When the earthquake struck Haiti on January 12, 2010, Rose found herself covered in the darkness of what had been her home, a house that was shaken to its foundation.

She felt the excruciating pain from her leg that had been punctured by a rebar from the concrete ceiling. But she was helpless to move and laid in agony until someone finally found her in the debris. In the days that followed, Rose was pulled from the rubble and carried in the back of a truck to a field hospital 60 miles away.

At the makeshift hospital, Rose was met by an extraordinary team of Harvard University trauma surgeons and caring doctors who had taken up temporary residence thanks to the Christian ministry known as Love-A-Child. Rose received the best care possible from medical teams in the Love-A-Child triage tents. And these teams were working with the highest quality medicines and medical supplies available, thanks to MAP.

The founders of Love-A-Child, Bobby and Sherry Burnette, opened their campus for Harvard’s medical teams to serve victims of the devastating earthquake. A few short hours after the tent stakes were put in the ground, they received a call from Kipp Branch at MAP International offering medicine and medical supplies to serve those injured in the earthquake.

At that moment, Rose’s story became the story of how MAP International and Love-A-Child found each other and began a new life in service, working as partners for more than nine years.

View this newsletter online and share it at www.map.org/newsletter.
Antibiotics for a Special Child

The family lives in a humble home with dirt floors and walls made of compressed mud bricks. Although she keeps her home clean, it's easy for insects to enter the house. And because of his restricted movement, it's hard for Froilan to protect himself from bug bites.

"Froilan suffered from a terrible infection from bites," said Dr. Yusmil Carranza, a doctor who travels to homes in the area to attend to children in need. "Without antibiotics, I could only keep him comfortable with topical treatments."

Fortunately, MAP supplied pediatric antibiotics to the clinic where Dr. Carranza works. She was able to provide some to Froilan, who responded well and began to heal.

"Raising a disabled child is never easy, no matter where you live," said Dr. Carranza. "And without resources it's particularly difficult. But this family is so full of love and they do everything they can to help their son thrive."

Albertina cried with gratitude as she told us about how the medicine helped her son. "I am so grateful to God that my son is feeling better. Thank you to all of the people who made this medicine available to us. We cannot afford to pay for expensive medicine but I would do anything to help my son," she said.

To learn more about MAP's pediatric antibiotic program, go to www.map.org/antibiotics.

Monthly Giving Saves Lives

Somewhere in the world right now someone needs your help. And saving that life takes less than you think but helps more than you can imagine. You see, someone is dying right now because they don't have the medicine that would save their life. Medicine that is available here in the U.S. but not in many resource-poor countries.

Medicine that would stop an infection from spreading. Stop high blood pressure from causing a stroke. Heal strep throat before it caused heart disease. That medicine is available here. But we need to get it there. And we need your help. Will you do it?

As a monthly donor, you become part of a life-saving team. You help us become even more efficient in our mission. Your gift provides us with predictable cash flow to make more plans and distribute more medicines. It's worry-free giving that also saves postage and printing costs. Everyone benefits.

Visit www.map.org/monthly to enroll. If you would like to enroll over the phone, please call Lauren at 470-275-6049.
Singing a Song of Healing

When singer and banjo-player Michael Ricks performs, he does more than sing and play. He likes to tell some of his own story so the audience understands why music is so very important to him.

Recently, Michael became part of the MAP CurePack Program, in which performers help spread the word about MAP’s medicine to the audience. For Michael, talking about the healing power of medicine is personal.

Growing up in a cult that forbade members to seek medical treatment, Michael saw his own baby brother grow sick and then die because his parents would not seek medical treatment. After his parents were charged with neglect, Michael and his other siblings then went to live with their grandparents.

He later became part of a church in Nashville where he was able to heal from the pain of his difficult childhood and embrace his faith fully. He even became the worship leader at the church.

Now a successful performer, Michael is excited to be part of a program that helps provide medicine to those in need. “Now that I am walking in freedom and healing I am so thankful to see the tables turned. I am so thankful to be an artist advocate for MAP and use my story and music to help others who need medication,” he says.

Q: What is Oral Rehydration Therapy?

A: Oral Rehydration Therapy, commonly known as ORT, is a type of fluid replacement used to prevent and treat dehydration. Packets of sugar, sodium and potassium, known as Oral Rehydration Solutions or Salts (ORS), are mixed with water and administered to those suffering from the effects of diarrhea, vomiting or high fevers. Use of ORT decreases the risk of death from diarrhea by 93 percent, according to the World Health Organization.

MAP supplies packets of ORS to many of the poorest countries in the world, especially for the treatment of children, whose low body weight makes dehydration a life-threatening condition within hours or days. ORS is some of the most requested medicine by clinics and some of the most effective in saving lives. One packet costs only 10 cents and a course of treatment costs about 70 cents. To learn more about how MAP supplies packets of the simple, life-saving treatment of ORS, go to www.map.org/ORS.