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Haiti Still Needs Medical Help
Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland
To Send Doctors, Nurses for 10 Day Medical Trip
Global Healing, Loma Linda University and Partners in Health to Assist with Travel and Ground Coordination

May 26, 2010 - Oakland, Calif. – Haiti has dropped from the headlines, but the need for aid is as strong as ever — and a group of Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland doctors and nurses are responding with a 10-day trip to Port au Prince. A specialized pediatric surgery team including a plastic surgeon, anesthesiologist, nurses and respiratory therapists armed with 35 boxes of donated medical supplies are set to deploy on May 27 to aid the children of Haiti in need of medical care. Global Healing, a Bay Area-based non-profit organization dedicated to bringing modern medicine to the developing world, is funding the trip.

When the earthquake hit in January, Haiti was flooded with humanitarian aid, but now almost six months later, the aid is dwindling but the need for medical supplies and services remain extremely high.

According to Children's Hospital Oakland pediatric intensivist and stateside team coordinator, Arup Roy-Burman, MD, "Now, months after the disaster, medical needs persist; however, these needs have evolved. Major acute general trauma and orthopedic injuries have been replaced by the aftermath of the initial injuries, including poorly healed and infected wounds. In addition, there has been a rise in communicable diseases such as diphtheria.

"In recognition of this evolution in medical needs, along with the waning of medical support, Children's Hospital Oakland and Global Healing are joining together to provide medical assistance to those still in need in Haiti," continued Dr. Roy-Burman, who is also chairman of the board for Global Healing.

In Port Au Prince, 10 of the 14 member Children's medical volunteer team will work at Adventist Hospital where the current patient population is almost 50 per cent children. The team will offer both pediatric and adult support in plastic and reconstructive surgery. The rest of the team will be stationed at the University Hospital of Haiti, where they will be assisting in both

basic pediatric and pediatric intensive care. Loma Linda University is coordinating the primary team at Adventist and non-profit health care organization Partners in Health is coordinating the University group on the ground in Haiti.

“Global Healing is happy to be working together with Loma Linda University and Partners in Health, and Children’s Hospital Oakland to support Haitians during this on-going state of current emergency,” said Cindy Basso Eaton, president of Global Healing. “With the onset of serious disease and the critical need for medical support, I am confident that the team from Children’s will help make a difference as the state of emergency in Haiti still exists.”

Children’s Hospital Oakland’s team will be curbside at San Francisco International Airport, Terminal 3 at American Airlines at 8pm on Thursday, May 27, for photos and interviews. Volunteers will also be chronicling their time in the earthquake-ravaged country at www.childrenshospitaloakland.org.

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About Children’s Hospital & Research Center Oakland

Children’s Hospital & Research Center Oakland is Northern California’s only freestanding, independent, and not-for-profit pediatric medical center. Children’s is a leader in many pediatric specialties including neonatology, cardiology, neurosurgery and intensive care. The hospital is a designated Level 1 pediatric trauma center and has the largest pediatric critical care facility in the region. Children’s Hospital has 190 licensed beds, 201 hospital-based physicians in 30 specialties, more than 2,600 employees, trains 70+ residents each year and has an annual operating budget of more than \$300 million.

Children’s research arm, Children’s Hospital Oakland Research Institute (CHORI), is internationally renowned for taking state-of-the-art basic and clinical research to the bedside with interventions for treating and preventing human disease. CHORI has 300 staffers, a budget of about \$50 million, and is ranked among the nation’s top 10 research centers in National Institutes of Health funding to children’s hospital research programs. CHORI is a leader in translational research, developing new vaccines for infectious diseases, and discovering new treatment protocols for previously fatal or debilitating conditions including cancer, sickle cell anemia, thalassemia, diabetes, asthma, HIV/AIDS, pediatric obesity, nutritional deficiencies, birth defects, hemophilia and cystic fibrosis. For more information, go to www.childrenshospitaloakland.org