



# Livelihood Infrastructure Food Education For Health

## Newsletter - Winter 2010/2011

### *Message from the President, Leah Stephenson*

It's hard to believe that 2010 is almost over and that the New Year will soon be upon us. It's been a busy and successful year for L.I.F.E. For Health. This year marks its 20th anniversary, but the organization is still growing like a teenager! With your help and invaluable support, we will continue to raise awareness of the impact of poor social determinants of health on the health of people in our beneficiary countries: the Philippines, Rwanda, as well as here at home in Canada. These determinants are livelihood, infrastructure, food and education, and our goals are to help people to improve their social determinants and contribute to a healthier, happier world.

Highlights from this past year include:

- o Good work continued with ongoing projects (details below);
- o Charitable status granted to L.I.F.E. For Health as of April 12, 2010;
- o L.I.F.E. For Health University of Toronto Club formed and recognized;
- o New website launched, which allows for online donations;
- o First membership drive during Thanksgiving;
- o Formation of three committees – fundraising, events, communications.

### *Fundraising Updates*

Fundraising efforts gained momentum in 2010 with revenue generated through an event, a generous donation from our corporate sponsor, our first membership drive, as well as the support of school clubs.

The 2010 Celebration of L.I.F.E. 20th anniversary gala had a net profit of about \$14,500. In addition, our corporate supporter, Rogers Communications, is generously pledging another \$10,000 to Sunshine Home to enable the purchase of a vehicle to transport the children to and from their rural location.

As a result of our membership drive, we are starting to receive personal donations and have issued our first charitable tax receipts to individual donors. Members who are students at the University of Toronto have successfully formed a U of T Club that has been officially recognized by the student union, while high school students in Georgetown are planning fundraising activities in their school.

Thank you one and all for your continuing support throughout 2010. We are thrilled to continue our vital work together and look forward to another exciting year of growth in 2011.

Warm wishes for a happy holiday season to you and yours.



*Volunteers prepare to welcome guests at the 2010 Celebration of L.I.F.E. 20th Anniversary Gala.*

## ***New Board of Directors Elected***

A new Board of Directors was elected at our Annual General Meeting, which was held on September 26, 2010. Congratulations to all new and returning Board Members:

- Leah Stephenson, President
- Louise Binder, Vice President
- Jin Wen, Treasurer
- Terry Atmosfera, Assistant Treasurer
- Lara Stephenson, Secretary
- Michelle Marchione
- Elizabeth Quijano
- Rosario Sabayle
- Roy Stephenson
- Samantha Tanner

## ***Lifeforhealth.org now LIVE!***

### *Online giving now available*

After much anticipation, we are thrilled to launch our new website. Our website is not only full of information about our organization and our projects, but now allows for online membership registration and online donations! Check it out today at: [www.lifeforhealth.org](http://www.lifeforhealth.org)

In addition, the site allows for donations to be made as a gift to another person (a great holiday gift idea)! While making your donation, you can choose to send a beautiful electronic or mailed gift card. December is a time for giving; please share your passion for helping children, women and men overcome poverty with your friends and family through tax refundable donations.

**This holiday season, give the gift of L.I.F.E.!**

## ***Project Updates***

As always, L.I.F.E. For Health remains 100% volunteer driven. All profits raised from our Reyna Elena fundraiser in 2009 and Celebration of L.I.F.E. 20th anniversary gala in 2010, in addition to generous corporate donations from Rogers Communications and individual donations from kind people like you, are helping a lot of impoverished children, youth and adults in the Philippines and Rwanda. Here are some highlights from this year's projects:

### *Livelihood & Food*

- The women's banana chip livelihood training program is off to a great start! This past spring we funded banana chip production training for 15 women in three rural Boholano barangays, and these women will go on to train others in their communities. Also, a facility is required for the production and packaging process. We are currently in talks with our partner agency in Bohol to determine funding requirements and building sustainability for the facility. The women will be able to tap into an established domestic and international banana chip market.
- A non-profit micro-loan to a farmers' cooperative, representing about 100 farmers, in rural, central Bohol, enabled them to buy needed equipment to increase yields and income. Two grants enabled two farmers' cooperatives to repair shared tractors used for rice field preparation.
- We are also excited to start a new livelihood project! This year we aim to fund a goat dispersal program to assist poor communities in Bohol. Stay tuned for more details!!



*Our new greeting card design for our holiday donation drive.*

## Project Updates cont'd

### Education

- We're thrilled to be expanding our scholarship programs in 2010/2011! The Dr. Honorata Stephenson Memorial Scholarship will fund six Boholano students' post-secondary education for one year, up from three students last year. Dr. Stephenson is the founder of L.I.F.E. For Health, who passed away in April 2008. We are also expanding our young Rwandan genocide survivors' educational support project from one to three students and will be naming it the Marie Claudine Mwizerwa Memorial Scholarship. Claudine was a dear friend who was an HIV+ young Rwandan genocide survivor, a peer leader, scholar and brilliant human being. She tragically died in a bus accident in July 2008.

### Health

- L.I.F.E. For Health provided medications to 10 impoverished men and women from Iligan City, Mindanao, who underwent emergency surgeries, but were unable to afford the medications they had to buy after their operations. We are currently investigating sustainable opportunities to improve healthcare access in areas where we work in the Philippines.



*The new overhang at the Sunshine Home allows wet laundry to dry on rainy days.*

### Infrastructure

- With the support of Rogers Communications, we helped Sunshine Home, an orphanage with 32 orphaned and abandoned children, build a laundry overhang to dry the children's clothes, during the rainy season and increasingly wet dry season. We are also supporting Sunshine Home, again with the assistance of Rogers, to purchase a vehicle to transport the children from the rural compound to school and medical appointments, as well as in medical emergencies.
- Colononto, Batangas is a Filipino barangay impoverished by lack of water access. On high ground, water is distant and deep. While neighbouring barangays flourish, this one founders. With our local partner, L.I.F.E. For Health is building a well in the centre of the barangay, on the property of the Colononto Elementary School, serving the school and neighbouring community.



Please feel free to circulate our newsletter to others who may be interested in our projects and organization. For further information, to donate or to become a member, please contact us at:

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Charitable Registration No. 89821 3376 RR0001