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PROJECT HOPE CELEBRATES A HERITAGE OF HEALTH CARE



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For 50 years, Global Impact charity **Project HOPE** (Health Opportunities for People Everywhere) has taken both its name and its logo from the S.S. HOPE, the world's first peacetime civilian hospital ship, which sailed around the world on medical missions of mercy for over a decade. Although the ship may be gone now, its mission sails on.

William B. Walsh, M.D., a doctor who had served as a U.S. Navy medical officer in World War II, founded Project HOPE in 1958. During his military service, he saw firsthand the needless deaths that resulted from poor health conditions in the developing world.

Walsh envisioned a civilian medical ship that would provide health care and education to communities worldwide that lacked modern health care. With \$150 and the support of President Eisenhower, Walsh chartered a mothballed Navy hospital ship; he then created the People to People Health Foundation to raise funds to equip it and to seek volunteer doctors, nurses and crew to operate it.



Photo: Project HOPE
The S.S. HOPE was the world's first peacetime hospital ship, and it sailed from 1962 to 1974.

From 1960 to 1974, the S.S. HOPE made 11 voyages to countries in Southeast Asia, Central and South America, the Caribbean, Africa and the Indian Ocean.

Developing Local Health Infrastructure

Although the ship was retired after a long and successful career, the mission of Project HOPE—"to achieve sustainable advances in health care around the world by implementing health education programs and providing humanitarian assistance in areas of need"—continues.



Today, through its land-based programs, Project HOPE delivers over \$1 billion in medicines, vaccines and medical supplies to people in more than 100 countries. Its



Photo: Project HOPE

A Project HOPE volunteer works in the emergency room of the John F. Kennedy Hospital in Monrovia, Liberia.

volunteers operate medical centers worldwide, including children's hospitals in China, Poland and Iraq.

These facilities support Project HOPE's six key focus areas:

- infectious disease, including HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis
- women's and children's health
- health professional education
- health systems and facilities
- humanitarian assistance
- Health Affairs Journal

Project HOPE's goal is not only to provide urgently needed medical assistance, but also to help impoverished countries develop modern and sustainable health care infrastructures.

Local medical professionals work alongside Project HOPE's doctors and nurses, learning disciplines ranging from birth attendant and community health volunteer to cardiac surgeon and biomedical engineer. When these local professionals complete their training and go to work in the field, they exponentially extend the reach of medical aid farther into the country.

Partnerships Ensure Efficiency

The organization raises more than \$150 million annually for its programs; that money supports pre- and postnatal health services; microcredit programs combining small loans and biweekly health education sessions; reproductive health instruction around the world; emergency relief; and HIV/AIDS education, screening and referral.

Project HOPE volunteers work closely with local Non-governmental Organizations and government agencies to design and implement unique, non-duplicating programs, which helps ensure these programs are as efficient and effective as possible.

Project HOPE also partners with corporations to deliver vital goods and services. For example, since 1998 it has partnered with medical equipment manufacturers BD, Eli Lilly and Roche Diagnostics to operate the China Diabetes Education Program (CDEP) which establishes and runs diabetes training and education programs and centers throughout China.

You can support Project HOPE today—and help keep the spirit of the S.S. HOPE afloat for tomorrow.



Photo: Project HOPE

A Project HOPE volunteer helps doctors treat an infant at the John F. Kennedy Hospital in Monrovia, Liberia.