

The Cameroon Twinning Project



A project of
CHICA-Eastern Ontario



Presented October 20, 2011 to CHICA-Central East Ontario chapter

The Cameroon Twinning Project



❖ WHAT?

- Support for ICPs in Cameroon, West Africa

❖ WHEN?

- First contact October 2010
 - Chapter approval November 2011
 - CBCHB approval November 2011
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❖ HOW?

- Chapter subcommittee formed
 - Letter of Understanding between both parties
 - Needs assessment from CBCHB requested
 - Goals developed for first year
 - Fundraising by chapter
 - Division of labour
 - Communication
-

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❖ Chapter Subcommittee

- Interested chapter members
- Meet over lunch on chapter meeting days
- Provide support, advice, assistance, suggestions
- Facilitate initiatives in their local areas/sectors
- Summary report to chapter in the afternoon

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❖ Letter of Understanding (LOU)

- List of parties involved
- Program goals (long-term)
- Objectives 2011-2012
- Program Administration
- Term of LOU
- Signatures

❖ Legal assistance obtained 'pro bono'

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❖ Letter of Understanding (LOU)

LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING
Between
CHICA EASTERN ONTARIO (a Chapter of CHICA-Canada)
And
CAMEROON BAPTIST CONVENTION HEALTH BOARD

This letter of understanding (LOU) is dated this 10th day of June, 2011 between CHICA Eastern Ontario (CHICA-EO), P.O. Box 20053, Belleville, Ontario, Canada K8N 5V1 and the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Board (CBCHB), P.O. Box 1, Bamenda, Northwest Region, Republic of Cameroon.

WHEREAS CBCHB and CHICA Eastern Ontario (collectively "the Parties") desire to increase international cooperation between CHICA-EO and CBCHB, they agree as follows:

Establishment of International Infection Control and Prevention "Twinning" Program:

CHICA-EO and CBCHB hereby establish an affiliation for the purpose of fostering improved Infection Prevention and Control (IP&C) within CBCHB health care facilities initially; and with the aim of promoting improved IP&C practices throughout the Republic of Cameroon and, potentially, other African nations. From time to time during the term hereof, the Parties will agree upon: 1) assessing IP&C needs of various CBCHB facilities and staff, and 2) developing projects, programs, documents, standards of care, and educational opportunities to address those needs.

Program Goals:

The Parties intend for this arrangement to foster collaboration on:

1. regular assessment of IP&C needs by CBCHB Infection Prevention (IP) staff in CBCHB facilities;
2. collaborative "Focus Projects" in IP&C to be accomplished on a year-to-year basis, to improve IP&C practices in multiple CBCHB facilities;
3. development of IP&C Standards of Care for CBCHB facilities of varying levels, ranging from remote Primary Health Centers (PHCs) in villages to large multi-specialty referral hospitals;
4. development of IP&C surveillance activities for CBCHB facilities;
5. consultation on specific IP&C problems or challenges;
6. training of trainers (TOT) for CBCHB IP nurses in IP&C practices, both on-site in Cameroon and through online communications and email or telephone discussions; and
7. provision of IP&C training equipment and supplies to assist CBCHB ICP staff in promoting and training other CBCHB staff in upgraded ICP practices.

Priority Objectives for Years 2011-2012:

1. Sponsorship of one CBCHB staff member to join CHICA-Canada and CHICA-Eastern Ontario;
2. Development of a one-on-one electronic mentorship program to match Canadian Infection Control Professionals (ICPs) with Cameroonian IP nurses;
3. Exploration of means for the development of an electronic discussion group to allow Canadian ICPs to assist Cameroonian IPs with problems and provide professional support;
4. Collection of IP&C equipment and supplies, including books, journals, computer software and AV materials for annual shipment to Cameroon;
5. Fundraising for shipment of IP&C items to Cameroon;
6. Information exchange concerning teaching, research and surveillance;
7. Provision of resources and links to continuing education opportunities for CBCHB staff;
8. Planning of joint research projects;
9. Preparation of joint manuscripts for publication, including one on hand hygiene; and
10. Cooperation on the development of other activities which will benefit mutual understanding and strengthen the fellowship between the Parties.

Program Administration:

1. CHICA-EO and CBCHB will keep records and reports on the educational experiences of the CBCHB IP staff;
2. Each Party will designate a liaison who shall be responsible for the coordination and implementation of this arrangement and specific activities hereunder;
3. Any reports or publications regarding this Twinning Project must be reviewed and approved by both CHICA-EO and CBCHB prior to reporting or publishing;
4. Expenses for travel, lodging and board (including airfare, transport within Cameroon, lodging, and meals) for CHICA-EO volunteers will be paid by CHICA-EO. Arrangements for travel within Cameroon, lodging and meals for such volunteers will be the responsibility of CBCHB.
5. CBCHB IP nurses who are members of CHICA-EO can apply for financial assistance from CHICA-EO for travel (including airfare), lodging, and meals to attend IP&C conferences in Canada or other countries (e.g. IPEC, CHICA-Canada conferences), but it will be up to the discretion of CHICA-EO to determine whether CHICA-EO will award any or all of such assistance. International assistance cannot be provided by the parent organization, CHICA-Canada.
6. Volunteers from either CHICA-EO or CBCHB will be responsible for funding their own health care needs when traveling to the other country and during the performance of duties in that country. No insurance coverage will be supplied by either institution or by CHICA-Canada for accidents or illness occurring during travel for CHICA-EO volunteers or CBCHB IPs.

Term, Termination, and Modification of this LOU:

The initial term of this LOU shall be one (1) year, commencing 1 July 2011 and ending 30 June 2012, but the goal is for a long-term, multi-year agreement. This LOU may be modified upon request of either Party and with the written consent of the other Party at any time. This LOU may be terminated by either Party without cause upon 90 days' written notice.

Assignment:

Neither party shall assign, transfer, convey, or otherwise dispose of this LOU, or any right, title, or interest herein without the written consent of the other Party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each Party has caused this LOU to be executed by duly authorized officer.

CHICA Eastern Ontario Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Board

Name: Sally MacInnis Name: Tih Pius Muffih, Ph.D, MPH

Title: President, CHICA Eastern Ontario Title: Director of Health Services, CBCHB

Date: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Signature: _____

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❖ CBCHB Needs Assessment

- ABHR containers
- Surgical supplies
- Housekeeping supplies
- Training materials
- Computers, printers, projectors
- Trolleys, trash cans

❖ Sent out to chapter members

Cameroon Needs Assessment – June, 2011

1. Usable Items:
 - a) Elbow taps
 - b) Trash cans with foot pedals
 - c) Liquid soap server
 - d) Disposable hand wipes and the server
 - e) Portable alcohol hand rub containers
 - f) Alcohol hand rub container for trolleys and tables
 - g) Disposable aprons
 - h) Original housekeepers' gloves
 - i) Examination gloves
 - j) Disinfectants
 - k) Hand towels
 - l) Protective wears for housekeepers
 - m) Masks
 - n) Dressing trolleys
 - o) Vital signs trolleys
 - p) Medication trays
2. Training Items:
 - a) Portable computers
 - b) Projectors
 - c) Printers
 - d) Manuals
 - e) Flip charts/Slides (prepared with I.P. procedures)
 - f) Posters
3. Theatre Items:
 - a) Plastic boots for scrubbing
 - b) Abdominal sponges
 - c) Electric heater
 - d) Plastic covers
 - e) Garbage can (kick bucket)

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❖ CBCHB Needs Assessment



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❖ First Year Goals

- Fundraising *****
- Sponsor one Cameroonian ICP as a CHICA member
- Develop an electronic mentorship program
- Develop an electronic discussion group
- Collect and ship medical and IPAC supplies

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❖ Chapter Fundraising

- Developed information brochure
- 25th anniversary dinner & silent auction
- Sale of African artifacts at 2011 CHICA conference
- Sale of African artifacts at chapter education days
- “Pass the Bucket” at all chapter meetings
- Exploring donations from industry

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❖ Division of Labour

- Chair/co-chair – coordination of initiatives
- Treasurer – keep records of funds and expenses
- Collection points – wide geographical area
- Warehousing and shipping
- Mentorship initiative coordinator
- Donations acknowledgement coordinator

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❖ Communication

- Designate “go-to” or lead person for communications from Cameroon
- Designate lead person for communications to Cameroon
- Involve committee members in email discussions
- Maintain contact lists and email distribution lists
- Create project website as part of chapter website

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- ❖ Results to Date...if you build it, they will come...
 - Jacob Nkwan 2011 CHICA-Canada member
 - Shipped 4 skids of medical supplies October, 2011
 - Predominately needles and syringes
 - Facilitated donation of plastic bottles for ABHR
 - Raised \$\$\$\$ to cover shipping costs

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❖ Future Plans

- Several members plan to visit Cameroon in 2012
- Obtaining visa for Jacob to come to Ottawa conference in 2013
- Encourage other chapters to “twin”
- Promote project in CJIC and prepare poster
- Present project at CHICA, IFIC and APIC

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❖ Questions?



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