



From Linda's Desk



INMED Partnerships for Children President and CEO Linda Pfeiffer describes the state of charities under today's difficult economy, how INMED continues to reach more and more children despite that economy, and plans for the new year with the help of friends and supporters.

That was a New York Times headline – no, not in 2005, when our economy was booming, but in 1937, right in the midst of The Great Depression.

If we are not in a depression now, it sure feels like it. When was the last day you haven't heard of another major corporation cutting 10, 12, 20 thousand jobs? What will tomorrow bring?

Charities are also suffering, most recently when some had to turn away thousands of people because there was not enough food for everyone in need during the Thanksgiving season. Charities face the undesirable task of now having to serve more people while faced with shrinking resources.

We at INMED Partnerships for Children also feel the pain and are challenged to do more with less. Clearly, we recognize these are indeed difficult if not frightening times for us all. Sadly, for far too many children, every day is frightening whether the world is in good or bad economic times.

What will tomorrow bring? Far too many children will die from causes that we can prevent: starvation, disease, violence. Every day, 29,000 children under the age of five die from these and other preventable causes. Add in those older than five, and the yearly death toll is staggering: in the millions.

Many of those who do survive still face the same struggles, often falling beyond our reach and left to fend for themselves as will their children and then their children, from one generation to the next – unless we intervene, unless we do more.

While there are many organizations dedicated to the welfare of our children, few are focusing on an entire generation of children to end the cycle of poverty and violence now and in the future.

We are.

Our mission at INMED Partnerships for Children is to not only address the multitude of issues threatening children's lives, but to also influence a generation of children and leave a legacy of positive and sustainable change so that future generations no longer suffer from the same issues that threatened those before.

As a result, we are on a trajectory to rescue tens of thousands more children and put them on the path to self-sufficiency in 2009: Training more teachers in Brazil, providing more medicine and education on immunizations and AIDS prevention in South Africa and mentoring more children of prisoners in South Los Angeles, for starters.

We will also advocate for stronger, healthier lunch programs in our schools while also influencing other policy changes in our children's interest. And we will begin to expand our network of supporters in the next year through new councils designed to utilize their expertise

and resources to build our individual and organizational partnerships across the globe.

Knowing how important it is to keep you well informed about how your partnership with INMED is making a difference in children's lives, I am very pleased to announce our new monthly e-newsletter beginning in February. In addition to providing you information on how we can help more children, the newsletter will also provide a forum for you to share with us your thoughts and suggestions for building a new tomorrow.

I also hope you will join INMED in building a new tomorrow by giving a tax-deductible donation by visiting www.inmed.org. Check this issue of the newsletter for ways to give online.

Indeed, it does take a village to raise a child, but it takes all of us to raise a generation, especially during these times of economic turmoil.

What will tomorrow bring? It is through our children that we build a new tomorrow. It is through them that we recover from our own struggles. And it is to them that we leave our legacy.

Thank you in advance for your generous commitment to our children and best wishes to you and your family for a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

Warmest regards,



Linda Pfeiffer, Ph.D.
President and CEO

Keeping You Informed

Knowing how important it is to keep our friends and supporters informed of new developments at INMED Partnerships for Children, we are announcing the launch of a monthly e-newsletter beginning in February to share our news with you on an ongoing, regular basis.

The newsletter will feature profiles on our programs, the children and communities we serve across the world as well as information you can use to further the cause we all care about: the well-being of our children.

This information will include news about upcoming events as well as post-event news, tips on making a difference in a child's life, for instance; mentoring, healthy eating recipes and more.

It will also feature regular columns from INMED President and CEO Linda Pfeiffer to keep you up to date on our mission objectives to influence positive, sustainable change at the community level, and profiles of our many partners who we depend on day in and day out.

Beginning in February 2009, the e-newsletter will be sent to your-email on a monthly basis, but we of course encourage you to visit our website for additional INMED news.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter, and invite you to share your own thoughts and suggestions with us on new ways we can better serve children and their communities as well as suggestions for the newsletter.

You can send your suggestions to Mary-Lynne Lasco, Director of Development at contact@inmed.org.

And please be sure to share our news with your family and friends and urge them to subscribe. After all, it might take a village to raise a child, but it takes all of us to raise a generation.

INMED's Year in Review

We've been busy at INMED Partnerships for Children reaching millions of children and families in more than 100 countries around the world to build a legacy of healthy, thriving and safe communities for today's and tomorrow's generation of children.

Below are a few of the highlights, whether in Brazil, South Africa, South Los Angeles, the Amazon Forest or elsewhere. We've accomplished much toward achieving our mission with tremendous support from staff, volunteers, funders and those we serve, all of whom are

gearing up for new accomplishments in the new year. Without them, none of the below would be possible.

Please click the link to see more information about each of the programs.

- **Sustaining Health:** More than 100,000 children in Brazil and South Africa gain improved nutrition through school and community garden programs that produce vegetables for school lunches. See how one woman influenced an entire neighborhood to start gardening.
- **Business Development:** Unemployed adults near Johannesburg learn small business development principles and soybean processing to produce nutritious milk and yogurt for children in local day care facilities, while utilizing the soy byproducts to make and sell baked goods to generate income.
- **Healthy Children Means Healthy Futures:** More than 90,000 Brazilian children take part in Healthy Children, Healthy Futures program, combining treatment for parasitic infection; education on health and hygiene, sanitation, nutrition, gardening, oral health, HIV/AIDS and environmental health; and community action to create positive change. Four new Healthy Children, Healthy Futures sites launched.
- **Combating Parasites:** 367,000 children and family members received deworming treatment, combating the epidemic global health problem of intestinal parasitic infection. INMED's deworming activities in Brazil are featured in a BBC World News program, *The Hidden Invaders*.
- **Training Teachers:** New grant supports training in best practices in literacy instruction for all 750 primary school teachers in Tobago.
- **Overcoming Culture of Low Literacy:** Student in **Ready to Teach, Ready to Learn** program in Brazil wins bronze medal in Portuguese Language Olympics. Read Natanael's story.
- **Self-Esteem through Music:** Expanded **IAMusic** youth development program launched during Bob Marley Week in Jamaica, bringing music instruction and self-esteem development for at-risk youth in Latin America and the Caribbean. New project sites launched in Peru and Brazil.
- **From Gangs to Jobs:** Two-thirds of gang-affiliated youth in Compton, California who complete "Earn Honest Money" job training through the **Earn Respect Intervention Program** secure new employment.
- **Removing Medical Language Barriers:** Spanish-language perinatal health education introduced in Loudoun County, Virginia to address gaps in local health resources.
- **Opening Doors:** Case management program launched to help homeless families move from emergency shelters to transitional housing, gain stability; establish and pursue individualized goals, and achieve the self-sufficiency that will allow them to maintain permanent housing.
- **Healthy Babies:** Baseline data on **Healthy Babies** child survival program in Peru published by the Pan American Health Organization.
- **Community-Level Obesity Program:** Launched in Compton, California, where close to one-third of children are obese and more than two-thirds of adults are overweight or obese, addressing the root causes of obesity in the community, organizing parents to promote positive changes in the school food environment, and helping other local nonprofits promote good nutrition and healthy lifestyles.

Harvesting Hope From a Garden in Brazil

Through INMED Brasil's *Healthy Children, Healthy Futures* program, Solange Pires learned the skills to not only keep her family of 11 children from going hungry, but also to help hundreds of other children.



A single mother with children ages 4 to 28, and only a fifth-grade education, Solange, 44, could only piece together odd jobs – selling used clothing or cleaning houses – but it was never enough to feed her children and infant granddaughter every night.

In her hometown in the state of Bahia, one of the poorest areas in Brazil where fresh food is considered a luxury and where the only meal for many children is at school. Nearly 350 children in her town live in poverty.

It was at school in 2006 that her children learned about the Healthy Children, Healthy Futures' gardening and nutrition training program and urged their mother to get involved.

At first reluctant because of the time the program would take from supporting her family, Solange would ultimately realize the benefits of the program. Not only would her own garden be enough to feed her family, she was able to sell the surplus for a steady income that would eventually lift her family to a new standard of living. She also volunteered at the school to maintain its garden.

"With intensive work and dedication, Solange has shown that it is possible to find solutions to overcoming hardship and improving her family's quality of life," said INMED Brasil Executive Director Joyce Capelli. "Her goal now is to share her knowledge to help her community enjoy the same gains she has."

The Healthy Children, Healthy Futures program, implemented in partnership with INMED Brasil and the Monsanto Fund, provides a platform for mobilizing communities to address a wide range of concerns, including family health and hygiene, nutrition, food security, environmental health, reproductive health and education about HIV/AIDS.

To date, the program has reached more than 1 million children, trained more than 15,000 teachers, cafeteria workers and community health workers, and led a process of positive change that has engaged more than 2.5 million family and community members across Brazil.

Through people such as Solange, the program aims to train people in need who then can teach others similar skills to sustain a way of life so that new generations of children do not have to endure social ills such as hunger.

Solange did not stop with just her own garden. The following year, in 2007, she learned that another Healthy Children, Healthy Futures project school needed a gardener, and she immediately applied for and was offered the position.

This job would be her first formal employment, and each month she receives a package of staple foods such as rice and beans from INMED Brasil.

Soon after, Solange began to work with others in her neighborhood to build more gardens; many other families have started their own as well.

By this time, Solange's reputation as a gardening expert was well known. With the help of her eldest children, she ventured out to expand her professional services.

First, a local family hired her to build a garden for them and now pay her a monthly fee to maintain it. Next, a teacher from her children's school recruited Solange to revitalize an abandoned garden at her home, and she and the teacher split the profits from the produce they harvest.

Solange's tireless work has caught the attention of the municipal government, which plans to hire her to develop gardens in schools that do not yet have one.

"Solange epitomizes exactly what we try to achieve at INMED Partnerships for Children," the international arm of INMED Brasil, Capelli said. "That is, to empower children, their families and their communities with the knowledge and tools needed to sustain a healthy, thriving and safe community for all generations."

Partner Spotlight



Jorge Muñiz of the Peru law firm Muniz, Ramirez, Perez-Taiman & Luna-Victoria gives up precious time to help INMED navigate the complex registration process to establish as a non-profit there and to help bring medicine to children.

Muñiz, Ramirez, Pérez-Taiman & Luna-Victoria (Estudio Muñiz) is the largest and one of the most prestigious law firms in Peru, with a global clientele that includes many of the world's most recognizable corporate names.

Estudio Muñiz, led by founder and principal Jorge Muñiz Ziches, has provided essential *pro bono* legal services to INMED's Peruvian affiliate, INMED Andes. Dr. Muñiz led INMED through the lengthy and normally expensive process of registrations to establish INMED Andes' legal presence as a tax-exempt charitable organization in Peru and qualify its donors for tax deductions. He and Estudio Muñiz also guided us through the appropriate legal channels to facilitate the import of medicines donated for INMED's deworming campaign for more than a quarter-million residents of Peru's remote Amazon forest region, as part of its Healthy Babies program.

Dr. Muñiz currently serves on the Board of Directors of INMED Andes and continues to provide ongoing legal and tax assistance.



Jorge Muñiz

To learn more about Estudio Muñiz's commitment to INMED and INMED Andes, visit its [website](#).

Overcoming History of Low Literacy

Although many students his age in this small city outside São Paulo quit school without being able to adequately read or write, 10-year-old Natanael da Silva Santos chose to write poetry rather than follow many of his peers' footsteps.



Recently, he and his fourth-grade teacher, Luciana Alves dos Reis Silva, a participant in INMED Brasil's *Ready to Teach, Ready to Learn* program, were recognized by the Brazilian Ministry of Education at the Portuguese Language Olympics for his poem, *Tracing the Path of Memories*.

"We are very proud of Natanael and Luciana for their accomplishment, especially given the history of low literacy throughout Francisco Morato," said INMED Partnerships for Children President and CEO Linda Pfeiffer. "His teachers have done a remarkable job to begin changing the culture to one that embraces reading and writing for an entire generation and for generations to come."

Ready to Teach, Ready to Learn was developed in partnership with the GE Foundation and launched by INMED Brasil in 2005 in Francisco Morato and São Paulo as a school excellence initiative that combines teacher training, development of instructional modules, and improved school management.

"It is only fitting that, through the voice of one of its students, *Ready to Teach, Ready to Learn* has been recognized for its impact on education in São Paulo," said Bob Corcoran, president of the GE Foundation. "The GE Foundation is delighted to work with INMED as it enables students around the world to learn and grow with their communities to sustain positive change."

The program was needed to address what INMED Brasil Executive Director Joyce Capelli said was a shortage of teachers with little or no formal training in the two cities, leading to a high rate of illiteracy among children.

"Too many students are unable to read or write adequately by the time they reach the fourth

grade," Capelli said. "Since many students leave school after the fifth grade because it is the last year of compulsory education, they are unprepared to achieve long-term success."

INMED Brasil is the regional program initiative for INMED Partnerships for Children, an international children's welfare organization working in more than 100 countries to ensure children's health, education and safety from prenatal care and infancy through adolescence and to inspire communities to invest in positive, sustainable change for today's generation of children and those to come.

Today, the RTRL program reaches 17,000 students by working with 750 teachers in more than 50 schools, Capelli said. Although it is too early to report data on the program's effectiveness without multiple year comparisons, teachers are reporting improvements, she added.

Natanael's poem traces his affection for his growing but little known hometown and his own growth's attachment to the community and its people.

"As I grow I trace the path of memories, of this beloved town, that holds many stories, traditions, culture and life," wrote the fourth-grader, whose favorite poet is Manuel Bandeira. Going to São Paulo to receive the award was an adventure, his first outside his hometown.

Advanir Aparecida Ferreira da Paixao Bonifacio, vice-principal of Natanael's school who participates in the *Ready to Teach, Ready to Learn* program, said the school is proud of the student-teacher accomplishment.

"We were very happy, fulfilled," she said. "It is very good to see our work bearing fruits."

INMED Featured on BBC World News



The scourge of intestinal parasitic infection—and how organizations like INMED are tackling it in Brazil—was the focus on an episode of the BBC World News global health documentary series, *Survival*.

Watch "[The Hidden Invaders](#)" on BBC World News online about INMED's work to protect children from intestinal parasites.

The scourge of intestinal parasitic infection—and how organizations like INMED are tackling it in Brazil—will be the focus of an upcoming episode of the BBC World News global health documentary series, *Survival*.

INMED's Healthy Children, Healthy Futures program will be featured as an effective community-based approach to combating intestinal parasites through a combination of medical treatment, participatory education for children and community action to improve hygiene and sanitation.

Watch "The Hidden Invaders" on BBC World News at **8:10 and 17:10 GMT on November 29 and at 1:10 and 14:10 GMT on November 30 (in the Eastern time zone, 3:10 a.m., 12:10 p.m. or 8:10 p.m. on November 29; 9:10 a.m. on November 30)**. **Or watch online;** the program will be available at <http://survival.tv/> as soon as it airs on television.

[New Ways to Support INMED](#)

Through Internet searches, shopping online and getting rid of unwanted vehicles, there are a number of new ways you can join INMED provide a better world for our children.



[Meet our New Partners](#)

Thank you to our most recent Partners. We are grateful to the partners, individuals, families and companies who have most recently contributed to support INMED Partnerships for Children's work around the world. See who has recently joined INMED with their financial support.

About INMED Partnerships for Children

Since 1986, INMED Partnerships for Children (www.inmed.org), an international non-profit humanitarian development organization, has worked in more than 100 countries to fulfill a wide

range of health, nutrition, education, violence prevention and community development projects that create a continuum of care for children from the prenatal period through adulthood by empowering families and communities to support the development of healthy, educated children for increased opportunities for the future.

For more information or to submit questions and comments, please contact Director of Development Mary-Lynne Lasco at contact@inmed.org.

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