



# INMED Partnerships for Children

"Inspiring Communities, Creating Opportunities"

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**SPECIAL MOTHER'S DAY/FATHER'S DAY ISSUE**

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## CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF INMED'S MOTHERS AND FATHERS

### MOTHERNET: CHANGING LIVES, ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

For Deysi, a Salvadoran immigrant, the emergency Caesarean delivery of her premature twin sons in May 2001 was a frightening and traumatic event. Alex and Cristian, born during her 26<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy, had heart problems and were immediately put on oxygen. Deysi did not understand what the doctors were telling her about her fragile infants' conditions or about how to care for them because she did not speak any English.

MotherNet, a program provided by INMED Partnerships for Children, jumped in to make a dramatic difference in Deysi's life and has been helping the family for more than three years.

MotherNet's family support workers provided essential translation and transportation for medical appointments, as well as education and support that helped Deysi take an active role in providing her children with the care they needed to survive and to thrive.



Deysi and Sebastian teach their twins, Alex and Cristian, with flashcards. INMED family support worker Glenda Velasquez (center) joins in.

Deysi has moved beyond her early goals of learning to care for the boys and is now focusing on problems related to delayed speech and language, a result of their premature births.

*Excerpts from this story were taken from the Feb. 10, 2005 Washington Post, Loudoun Extra.*

### EMPOWERING PARENTS TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS

MotherNet works to strengthen at-risk families, help parents give their children a healthy start in life, and increase the capacity of underserved communities to sustain positive change.

Currently, INMED operates two successful initiatives: MotherNet L.A. in Compton, a city in South Central Los Angeles, and MotherNet/Healthy Families Loudoun in northern Virginia's Loudoun County, where INMED has established its global headquarters.



MotherNet emphasizes the importance of fathers' active, positive involvement in their children's lives.

Both Compton and Loudoun are home to families who face a litany of risks that compromise their health, quality of life and opportunities for success. These families have the same hopes and dreams for their children that all parents share - they want to raise children who are responsible, productive, caring citizens who will make a positive contribution to society.

Over the past decade, the MotherNet programs have been transforming lives, one family at a time. During the course of their participation in the program, children are born healthy, families utilize health care resources effectively and parents learn to promote their children's optimal development, improve their parenting skills and increase their daily living skills. Many families then extend these positive changes to other areas of their life by returning to school, building literacy and language skills, gaining employment, and making healthy relationship choices.

INMED is proud to celebrate the accomplishments of its participants whose lives have been transformed by their participation in the MotherNet program.

## CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF INMED'S MOTHERS AND FATHERS (continued)

**"Carlos"** - Compton, California

### ***Turning His Life Around for His Child***

"Carlos" is a former gang member referred to MotherNet from a drug treatment facility. When Carlos was referred, his daughter was in foster care because a domestic violence case was opened against him and his partner.

As Carlos began his journey in sobriety, his involvement with the gang decreased, and he began to recognize the harm that his past behavior had caused his family. Carlos was interested in obtaining legal rights to his daughter again, so Carlos' home visitor met with the family support worker, including attending court, on Carlos' behalf. Over time, Carlos proved his commitment to change, and regained custody rights to his daughter.

Carlos was a dedicated member of MotherNet L.A.'s fathers' support group, and he successfully completed English parenting classes. The facilitators of these two groups found Carlos to be a model participant. Carlos' achievements were so impressive to MotherNet L.A. staff that they arranged for him to receive an achievement award from the City of Compton.

**"Ana Rosa"** - Loudoun County, Virginia

### ***Developing Skills for Economic Self-Sufficiency***

When "Ana Rosa," a recent Latin American immigrant, came to Loudoun County, the only work she could find was a minimum-wage job at a local fast food restaurant. For Ana Rosa, who had been a head nurse at a hospital in her country, her menial job seemed like the end of the world. However, with the support and encouragement of her family support worker, Ana Rosa realized that she had the ability to make a fulfilling life for herself.

She wanted to get back into nursing, but needed to work on her English skills in order to attend nursing school in the U.S. Her family support worker referred her to the Loudoun Literacy Council for English as a Second Language classes. After gaining the English language skills she needed to succeed in school, Ana Rosa applied and was accepted into nursing school. She is now making excellent grades in her courses, and her future employment opportunities as an experienced, bilingual professional in the understaffed medical field are promising.

## MOTHERNET'S STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

INMED's MotherNet programs utilize several strategies to improve the health, lives and opportunities of at-risk children and families:

- **Intensive Case Management**
- **Case Management for Chronic Health Conditions**
- **Mentoring Activities**
- **School-Based Services**
- **Community Health Access**
- **Direct Outreach**
- **Information Outreach**

"We are there to give children the most optimal start in life," said Dr. Judy Hanley, INMED's Director of U.S. Programs. "We connect with pregnant women and teens who have stresses, concerns, histories or problems that may affect their ability to raise a child. We provide education and support to parents in greatest need to empower them to become the best parents possible."

## MOTHERNET PARENTS EXPRESS GRATITUDE

*"Over the last years I have seen my life and my family change for the positive and would like to share with all of you my major accomplishments: I have three beautiful, healthy and happy daughters and I feel so complete as a mother. I married the father of my children soon after my first daughter was born, and we have a stable and happy marriage. After so many efforts we were finally able to buy our own house. I am capable of providing the best care for my family by myself."*

*"This program has helped me learn how to take care of my children... My workers have been with me in the good times and the bad times, ready to help me."*

*"The help provided by these people, in the raising of our child, cannot have a price put on it. Almost every visit from our family support worker has brought a packet of facts, statistics, and tips for raising a happy and healthy child."*



Through their participation in MotherNet, mothers like these receive the education and support they need to give their babies the healthiest possible start in life.

## Help Families in Their Time of Need!

### Make a Tax Deductible Donation in Honor of a Special Mother or Father

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Mother or Father to be Honored: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make your check payable to INMED Partnerships for Children and mail to INMED Partnerships for Children, 45449 Severn Way, Suite 161 Sterling, Virginia 20166. If you would like your contribution allocated to a specific project, please indicate the project on the memo line of your check. We will send an acknowledgement of your donation to the mother or father being honored.*



#### CETT STUDENT PROVIDES HIS MOTHER AND COMMUNITY WITH GIFT OF LITERACY

At the beginning of the school year in Peru, the Minister of Education of Peru, the U.S. Ambassador to Peru and a former Chief Executive of the nation's largest extraction company jointly visited a Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training (CETT)\* elementary school in Ventanilla, Peru. Their purpose was to talk with the first, second and third-grade children, to review the progress of the CETT program and to show that business and government should work together to give children the life skill of literacy.

Second-grade students read stories and poems to their families and distinguished guests. Among the students demonstrating their newly achieved literacy skills was Erick Matos, a 9-year-old boy whose uncle worked in a mine deep in the Andes. Erick, his mother and his three brothers migrated from the town of Huanuco in search of a better life when his father abandoned them. The marshes and birds in Ventanilla remind him of the lake in his home town. "I want to be a lawyer when I grow up," states Erick, "so that I can defend children from abuse and innocents from injustice." Erick now reads and writes at a higher level than his mother, who received a third grade education.



Erick Matos reads "The Miner Who Did not Obey."

The story he chose to read, "The Miner Who Did Not Obey," is a cautionary tale about miners who perished because they did not honor the spirits of the mountain in which they worked. Through his reading, Erick has provided a way for both himself and his mother to remain connected with their past, while providing them with the opportunities for a promising future.

#### INMED PROVIDES CRITICAL RELIEF TO MOTHERS AND FAMILIES IN AFGHANISTAN

Today, thousands of Afghans live without shelter and the means to survive. Many have died since extreme cold descended on the country, and over 4000 homeless families are crowded into tents in several camps around Kabul. The desperate poverty of many Afghans reflects the need to find long-term solutions for the homeless.

INMED Partnerships for Children, in collaboration with Arlotta Enterprises of New York, recently coordinated a shipment of nearly 1000 high quality mattress pads to help ease some of the suffering. Paxton Companies of Springfield, Virginia shipped the pads directly into Kabul via ocean container. The pads will provide ground cover and will also be used as blankets for people in exile in Charman-e-Babrak, Charman-e-Hazuri and Waisalabad refugee camps. In addition, distribution will be shared with many overcrowded Kabul hospitals, Indira Gandhi Pediatric Hospital, Maiwand Hospital and Rabia Balkhi Maternity Hospital.

INMED is following up this shipment in May with a donation of high priority antibiotics to hospitals and clinics serving the refugees' families in Afghanistan.



A mother at Rabia Balkhi Maternity Hospital benefits from INMED's donations.

\*The Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training (CETT) is a Summit of the Americas education initiative supported by President George W. Bush that focuses on giving teachers in Latin America and the Caribbean the training they need to teach reading more effectively at the earliest grade levels.

# VIEWPOINT



Dr. Linda Pfeiffer  
President and CEO

It is through and with parents that communities are inspired and opportunities are created for the next generation. From overcrowded inner cities to the rural poor in the U.S., from refugee camps in Afghanistan to the “favelas” of Brazil, parents dedicate their lives to providing a better future for their children. INMED Partnerships for Children recognizes and salutes mothers and fathers worldwide working to provide new opportunities for their children, and we renew our dedication to helping them in this most important role.

## MOTHERS IN BRAZIL ADVOCATE FAMILY HEALTH

At the Ensino Especial “Casinha Feliz” school in Santa Helena de Goiás in the state of Goiás, Brazil, Maria Aparecida da Silva was invited to participate in a mothers’ training session organized by INMED so that she could learn about the risks of parasitic infection and the proper hygiene and health habits that can help prevent disease.



A Brazilian family enjoys a healthier life as a result of INMED’s training.

Nearly 2 billion people worldwide suffer from parasitic infection, which the World Bank has identified as the number one health threat among school-age children. In Brazil, intestinal parasites have long constituted the single largest health problem among school-age children, infecting up to 90 percent of children in rural areas.



Participants in the Healthy Children, Healthy Futures program learn about proper hygiene.

A year before starting the project, Maria’s daughter Ana had been hospitalized due to a parasitic infection. Maria was unaware of the fact that if her children walked barefoot, drank unfiltered water and ate without washing their hands beforehand, they could get infected. After INMED starting talking to her about the risks of parasitic infection and preventative health habits, Maria started to change things at home.

“Even though it’s very difficult to take care of our children since we don’t have a lot of money and live in places without basic sanitation, we still fight for our health,” states Maria. “The Healthy Children, Healthy Futures project provided by INMED has been excellent, since it not only provided us with training, but also provided the medication that the children needed.”

Maria is now sharing her knowledge with other members of her community, enthusiastically inspiring her neighbors to practice proper hygiene. As a result of INMED’s Healthy Children, Healthy Futures program, parasitic infection rates have been reduced from 90 percent to 25 percent in rural areas in Brazil and 50 percent in the slums of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.



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