25 Years – And More to Do...

President's Dispatch

Nineteen Hundred Eighty-Six was the International Year of Peace. Jean Claude “Baby Doc” Duvalier left Haiti. After 37 years, the U.S. Senate approved a treaty outlawing genocide. Hands Across America created a human chain of at least 5 million people that stretched from New York City to Long Beach, California to raise money to fight hunger and homelessness.

In 1986, INMED Partnerships was founded—initially to ensure that basic, essential medicines and preventive health care reached sick and dying children, getting through to more than 100 countries in its first three years. Health is a fundamental prerequisite to delivering on the goal of peace. But delivering health and medical care was not enough to change the plight of these children. By 1990, INMED’s basic health and safety, education and skills-building programs were helping disadvantaged children in the U.S. as well as in developing countries, rescuing children from immediate and irreversible harm and at the same time helping to develop opportunities for this and the next generation.

Partnership efforts have brought considerable improvements since 1986. The World Health Organization reports that the percentage of underweight children declined from an estimated 25% worldwide to 16%, and HIV infections fell by 16%. Literacy rates and access to clean drinking water also have improved. In all cases, there is a strong correlation between these improvements and economic development.

But some things have not changed. “Baby Doc” is back in Haiti, which has remained the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, even before last year’s earthquake. Genocide continues in Darfur.

At the Embassy of Brazil Polo Cup in Poolesville, MD. It’s a beautiful afternoon to be raising money for the children!
Homelessness has increased significantly in the U.S. At the same time, new challenges face our children, including increasing rates of obesity and youth violence, and threats to their livelihoods exacerbated by climate change.

Two Thousand Eleven is the International Year of the Forests. A healthy environment and adaptation to climate change are crucial factors in developing economic opportunities that can lift the children of today out of poverty tomorrow. We cannot neglect their basic needs today—but at the same time we can address these new challenges through innovations such as INMED’s Adaptive Agriculture Program.

The next decade can make the difference. From prenatal care to child development to mentoring youth to improving education and building skills through innovative and adaptive strategies, INMED Partnerships for Children looks forward to continue to evolve and work with our partners to make 2021 the International Year of Opportunity, where barriers of inequality are broken down and children everywhere have the opportunity to thrive.

Sincerely,

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About INMED Partnerships for Children—Since 1986, INMED Partnerships for Children has built alliances with public- and private-sector partners in more than 100 countries to rescue children from the immediate and irreversible harm of disease, hunger, abuse, neglect or violence, and to prepare them to shape a brighter future for themselves and the next generation. Through a broad range of health, social, education, violence prevention and community development programs, INMED is helping to create opportunities that inspire hope, build self-reliance and encourage community collaboration to sustain positive change. For more information, visit www.inmed.org.