



December 18, 2014

Dear Friends,

This year, in March 2014, the Cambodian Health Committee/Global Health Committee celebrated its **20<sup>th</sup>** anniversary as an organization. From our start in three remote district hospitals in Cambodia's Svay Rieng Province in 1994, which at the time had one of the highest rates of tuberculosis (TB) and one of the lowest per capita incomes in the world, we have cured tens of thousands of patients of TB or drug resistant TB, or have treated thousands for AIDS. And remarkably, this work, rooted in Cambodia, a country emerging from three decades of war and a genocide, has led to approaches to cure or successfully treat TB and AIDS that have proven to be global game changers.

In the past 20 years, as we confronted TB, HIV, and drug resistant TB in Cambodia and later Ethiopia, we were often met with skepticism of the idea that patients would be able to stick with the long (and in the case of HIV, lifelong) therapies that were necessary for cure, and indeed, life itself. With your support, we have proven these fears unfounded and have shown that everyone can make it through even a very long and difficult treatment. We have shown this by:

- the creation of a community-based treatment for TB in Cambodia in 1994 and a subsequent new community TB treatment program, which was expanded nationwide by the Cambodian Ministry of Health.
- the beginning of rural treatment for HIV/AIDS in Cambodia in 2004.
- the start of the Cambodian national program for drug resistant TB in 2006.
- the opening of the Maddox Chivan Children's Center in 2006, initiating treatment for Cambodian children with HIV while providing them with education for the futures they would now have.
- the demonstration in a clinical trial by simply shortening the time interval of starting AIDS drugs after starting TB treatment when patients have TB and AIDS, mortality can be reduced by 34%. This knowledge has now been accepted as a new standard international practice, and thought to save approximately 500,000 lives a year globally.
- the initiation and scale-up of treatment for drug resistant TB in Ethiopia achieving the highest successful outcomes for treatment of drug resistant TB ever reported in Sub-Saharan Africa within the first 5 years of the program.

In this past year in Cambodia, our HIV and TB/HIV programs in the villages and cities continued to thrive, reaching over 4000 children and adults. In Phnom Penh, we provided the primary HIV care for almost 500 children at the Sullivan Center of the Khmer Soviet Friendship Hospital, integrating the counseling and social programs of the Maddox Chivan Children's Center. The unique approaches developed at the Maddox to help children understand their illness and to keep them healthy are lessons that we will take to the Zahara Children's Center when it opens on the outskirts of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia in the next months. We eagerly await the life-saving services it will provide to Ethiopian children infected with or affected by HIV and TB, including drug resistant TB. Children, who will not only have the best care possible, but will also be able to continue their education throughout their illness and cure.

Since we started the first patients of the Ethiopian national program for drug resistant TB in 2009, 1200 patients have received this life-saving therapy and likely another 12,000 children, mothers and fathers, have been saved from new infection. The program, modeled on our experience in Cambodia, has been successfully expanded and now reaches patients in the north of the country in the Amhara region and in the south, in Sidama. The program has set a new bar for what can be achieved in Africa and is becoming a roadmap for scaling up care for the millions suffering from drug resistant TB in Africa and other resource-constrained areas throughout the world.

Our accomplishments this year and over the past twenty years have been possible because of your steadfast support and partnership, which has afforded thousands of people on two continents "...the right to life, liberty and security of person..." **... and the right not to die of a curable or treatable disease.**

With great appreciation to you and with wishes of joy and health in the new year to you and your families,

Anne Goldfeld, M.D.  
President and Co-founder GHC/CHC