



August 2011

Hello Friends!

We hope that you are having a wonderful summer; at CMF, it's been a busy but exciting summer so far!

We're working on the continued implementation of our Neonatal Care Units (NCUs) and Comprehensive Neonatal Health Care Program at sites in Guizhou and Sichuan Provinces. At

our two pilot sites in Guizhou Province, we're continuing to train doctors and nurses, transport critically ill infants and fund the life-saving treatment of newborn babies – you'll read the heartbreaking story of one family below.

In July, CMF also hosted our 2nd National Neonatal Network Conference, bringing together doctors and nurses from CMF's Neonatal Care Units from 12 provinces, partner teaching hospitals, and stakeholders together for 2 days of learning, information exchange and networking. At our conference, we were able to capture some stories of the frontline workers at our NCUs on film, courtesy of our Yale summer intern, Lisa Pan – we're happy to share with you in this month's newsletter the first in a series of short interviews.

We are also happy to announce two new additions to the CMF Family: Alice Rueda joins CMF as our new Officer, Communication and Administration and Jane Pau as Manager, Events and Fundraising. These two new additions bring experience, enthusiasm and a great energy to the team.

As fall approaches, we look for your support as we continue to implement and expand our programming. We would like to invite those of you in our Hong Kong family who are looking for a place to invest your 6000HKD from the HK Government's "Scheme \$6000" in the upcoming months to consider donating it to CMF – your \$6000HKD could be an investment in the life of a newborn baby in rural China. We can't think of a better return on investment.

With my warmest regards,

Melissa Moi  
Executive Director  
Children's Medical Foundation

## Save-A-Baby Program: An Unthinkable Choice

Imagine being faced with the choice of saving the life of your partner, or saving the life of your newborn baby. On what should have been a time of celebration, Dong Mingqiang was put in this unfathomable situation. His wife Chen Yan lay dying from complications from child birth – extremely hypertensive, she suffered severe complications during delivery and was admitted to the intensive care unit. Their son, born premature at 32 weeks, weighed only 1400g and was battling pneumonia. Both required costly hospitalization.



Mingqiang's family is from Baiyangwan Sub-village in a rural area of Zunyi Prefecture, Guizhou Province. A family with farming roots, Mingqiang did not have the chance to leave home and work as a migrant worker as he had to take care of this pregnant wife and elderly mother: his family's income relied entirely on farming. With the average yearly per capita income in rural Guizhou province (the poorest province in China) in 2010 at a meagre 3400RMB (530USD), many rural farming families cannot afford costly medical care. Mingqiang was no exception and had to ask family and friends for financial help. When he had exhausted all possibilities, the total amount of money he was able to borrow was unable to cover the costs of the medical treatment of both his wife and his newborn son: he had to choose to fund the treatment of one or the other.

Mingqiang had to do the unthinkable.

In the early hours of the morning, a guard found an abandoned tiny newborn baby wrapped in a blanket. He brought the baby to the hospital, where the doctors and nurses recognized him as Mingqiang and Yan's newborn son.

When they asked Mingqiang why he had abandoned his baby, he told them that he knew that if he did not pay for the treatment of his wife that she would die, but if their son was found abandoned, someone would pay for his treatment and save his life. Both his wife and son would survive, even if it meant that they would not be able to be together as a family.

Thankfully, the doctors at Zunyi Medical College Hospital knew that this was a perfect case for CMF's Save-A-Baby program. Through the Save-A-Baby Program, families can receive up to 5000RMB to use towards the life-saving treatment of their child. Mingqiang and Yan's newborn son was admitted to the NCU and with treatment partially funded by CMF, he received nutrition by IV, antibiotics, and the time he needed under the specialized care of NCU doctors and nurses. He soon gained the strength and energy to be discharged and join his father and recovering mother as a family.



## CMF National Neonatal Network Conference

CMF held its 2nd National Neonatal Network Conference in Guiyang, Guizhou on July 8-9th. Representatives from 16 of CMF's 20 NCUS attended, covering all 13 provinces where CMF has established programs. With learning and development opportunities for hospitals who work in low-resource areas in newborn health few and far between, CMF saw this conference as an opportunity to: a) provide up-to-date training, b) create a space for relationship and network building, and c) encourage the sharing of solutions for issues that are common amongst health care facilities serving large poor, rural populations.

Experts from CMF's family of training hospitals (the Children's Hospital of Fudan University, the Shanghai Children's Medical Centre and the Guangzhou Children's Hospital) presented on the medical transport of newborn babies, treatment of extremely low birth weight infants, and hygiene and infection control. Dr. Hu Bin, a specialist in public health project management in China, presented on health care administration and program management – a growing area of needed capacity development. Health care professionals from CMF's NCUs were also given the opportunity to discuss challenges that they are facing in their hospitals and collectively brainstorm solutions as well as share some of their successes and innovations.





The feedback from participants from our NCUs was positive:

"The conference strengthened linkages between NICUs. From the presentations, I learned about the rapid growth in the NICUs and their valuable experiences. I am encouraged, inspired and motivated."

"The conference allowed me to gain new technical knowledge related our work in the NICU through the invited speakers. I am very

inspired. The conference topics were very rich. I have also learned the importance of networking."

Moving forward, CMF will continue to cultivate the National Neonatal Network, and is working on building the network's connections outside of the conference setting.

## What Will You Do With Your 6000HKD?

This fall, the Hong Kong Government will be giving 6000HKD to all HK Permanent Residents through the "\$6000 Scheme".

What could CMF do with 6000HKD?

6000HKD could:

- Pay for the life saving treatment of at least one baby through our Save-A-Baby Program;
- Pay for 3 sets of newborn resuscitation equipment for rural county and township level health care facilities that have old or no resuscitation equipment;
- Buy 120 textbooks for doctors and nurses in our neonatal resuscitation training.



What will you do with your 6000HKD?

For more information on how to donate, visit [www.cmf.org.hk/donate](http://www.cmf.org.hk/donate)

## Voices From the Field

At our recent National Neonatal Network conference, CMF was able to interview some of the doctors and nurses who work at our NCUs. We asked them to share a bit about the impact that CMF has had on their hospital, and to tell us a story of a baby that they have helped that has touched them. The following [video](#) is an excerpt from an interview with Chen Juan and Hu Zuo Qian from Zunyi Medical College Hospital. For a transcript of the interview in English, click [here](#).



### Transcription

Chen: My name is Chen Juan. I am from the Neonatal Department of the Zunyi Medical College Hospital.

Hu: My name is Hu Zuo Qian. I am also from Zunyi Medical College Hospital.

Chen: Besides equipment and financial support, I think, the biggest help we got from CMF is the platform it provided for us to access outside world. This has great impact on our neonatal services.

Hu: For example, we had to ask anaesthetist to insert the ventilation tube in the baby. Now we can do it well ourselves. Also we are doing very well in transporting babies.

Chen: I have written a story called Mama's Portrait. It is about our first CMF sponsored infants. They are identical twins. They were about to be given up after 20 days of rescue. CMF heard of the story and provided funding to save the children. They are now growing very well. This is the first thing. The second thing is about patient transport. We are the first in Guizhou that have equipped with ventilator in the ambulance. This allows us to reach the local hospitals to provide medical service to premature babies within 15 minutes. This has greatly increased the survivability of the premature babies. This is the first ambulance in Guizhou that has a ventilator and is like a symbol. This is as exciting as if it symbolized our NICU establishment for the second time. The first one is the actual establishment of the NICU unit. The second one is establishing patient transportation. After we have the patient transport capability, it has improved the standard of our NICU rescue network.

Hu: For me, it is one time we went to a local hospital and found a newborn infant who had no heartbeat and stopped breathing. We inserted the ventilator right away. After we saved the baby, we were packing ready to transport the baby. We did not know we have saved a different infant. The infant that we were called for transport was at the other side. So, what I feel is that...

Chen: This is really needed. This is really needed.

Hu: Right. Right. If we didn't have the ambulance provided by CMF, for sure, both infants would die. I was a bit excited. Really. The infants were very well later.

Chen: They have recovered and discharged by the hospital.