



May 2011

Hello Friend of CMF!

This May, as we celebrated mothers around the world at CMF (including our own), we also thought of the families in rural China who are able to celebrate Mother's Day because of the life-saving work of the staff and hospitals of our neonatal care network. This month, our newsletter is dedicated to phenomenal moms everywhere.

At CMF we've been busy with the continued implementation of our comprehensive programs in Guizhou Province. We've also begun the beginning stages of implementation of two new Neonatal Care Units and two new sites for our additional comprehensive programs (Neonatal Resuscitation Training, Mobile Emergency Response Unit and our Save-A-Baby

Program).

In this month's newsletter, you'll be able to find out more about some of these programs: we'll have an update on a set of twins who received life saving treatment in the fall of 2010 through our Save-A-Baby program in Guizhou, China; you'll learn about our Mobile Emergency Response Unit Program and how it works; and we've profiled of a member of CMF's generous family, the law firm, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer.

CMF would not be able to do its work without the generous support of people in our extended family – and to continue to do this work, we still need your support. For more information about our programs and to donate, please visit our website, [www.cmf.org.hk](http://www.cmf.org.hk).

We hope you enjoy our newsletter. Happy reading!

Melissa Moi  
Executive Director,  
Children's Medical Foundation

## A happy Mother's Day, times two

*CMF's Save-A-Baby Program pays for the life-saving treatment of newborn babies whose parents are faced with the decision of ending their medical treatment due to financial difficulty. The following is a story from one of our doctors in Guizhou Province of a set of twins that were helped through our program.*



Today Gong Hongxia came to visit us with her twins who had just turned 9 months old: she wanted to thank the Children's Medical Foundation for their support. As we looked at the smile on her face, we couldn't help but remember when their family arrived with their twins at the hospital shortly after their birth.



Gong's twin sons were admitted to our ward at the end of summer, 2010. Born at less than 30 weeks gestation, the older twin weighed 1000 grams and the younger twin 1500 grams. They were both fragile and weak and were unable to breathe on their own; they both required the help of ventilators. Feeding also became a problem – because they couldn't keep food down, they were having problems growing and putting on weight. With such unstable conditions, the twins' parents were torn between feeling

happy and sad. Mom was often crying, while Dad was often seen helplessly watching the twins.

After one month in the NICU, Dad Zhou Zhitao finally approached me and said: "Doctor, we have no more money at home and we want to be discharged and take the twins back home." I knew that if the twins left the hospital at this point, there was no way they would be able to adapt. The older brother still weighed only 1500 grams and was having trouble digesting milk. What would happen if they went home?

At this point, we had just partnered with CMF and their Save-A-Baby Program so we immediately filed an application on behalf of the family. Without any hesitation CMF approved the application and the twins remained in hospital care for another 3 weeks.

The twins are very lucky and became the first recipients of our Save-A-Baby Program. We finally saw Mom's smile as both the twins reached weights of 2000 grams and were safe to be discharged.

Today, seeing their healthy growth and Mom's heart warming smile again, we want to thank CMF from the bottom of our hearts for their generous support. Gong Hongxia has told me that the child's father has gone to work in Xiamen, and that they will work hard to provide the best care in raising the twins, to thank those that helped them along the way.

*Dr. Chen Juan, Zunyi Medical College Hospital, Department of Neonatology*



*The happy family on their return visit to the hospital.*

## **Mobile Emergency Response Unit: transporting critically ill babies safely**

When CMF evaluated its programs in 2008, we realized that in order to maximize the impact of our Neonatal Care Units in rural areas, we had to tackle a number of other basic problems that were limiting these babies' access to health care. In our conversations with health care workers in our network of hospitals, it became apparent that one of the barriers to accessing advanced care for sick newborn babies was in the trip to the hospital: babies born in remote rural areas were being transported in the arms of their parents in motorcycles or cars, on public buses, or were not able to make the trip at all.

With this in mind, CMF's comprehensive neonatal health program includes a specific program to develop an emergency transport system with the hospitals which house our Neonatal Care Units. Our Mobile Emergency Response Unit (MERU) Program provides a support system for the region within a 4 hour travel radius surrounding our hospitals. CMF funds the set up and management of the unit, training of staff in the hospital and surrounding health care facilities served by the program in the preparation of newborns for transport, and the purchase of specialized equipment (a neonatal ventilator, incubator and monitor) to be installed in the hospital's ambulances.





CMF's pilot project site at Zunyi Medical College Hospital has seen the MERU in operation for a number of months. Recently the MERU was able to transport a premature baby, from Renhuai City 120kms to the north of Zunyi to the hospital. This baby boy was born at 30 weeks (2-3 months early) and was in respiratory failure. Medical staff from Zunyi Hospital were able to use the equipment provided to them to safely intubate the baby and transport him to the NICU in Zunyi. They noted that the travel conditions were terrible as large coal trucks had ruined the roadway,

but the baby survived the voyage and they were able to continue his treatment in the hospital's NICU. He is the first baby in the history of Guizhou Province to have been intubated and on a ventilator while being transported – he's the first baby ever in the province to be able to make use of this technology that is relatively accessible elsewhere in the developed world.

## CMF Family Profile: Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer



Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer has been a strong supporter of the Children's Medical Foundation for many years – both as generous donors of our programs, and as supporters through their pro bono work. Through their Final Hour Appeal program, in which Freshfields' staff are asked to donate the final hour of their billing for the year to a charity, Freshfields has been able to fund the establishment of an NICU in Zhaotong, Yunnan Province, and the Save-A-Baby program in Zunyi, Guizhou Province.

In addition to their program contributions, CMF is lucky to have a unique partnership with Freshfields' CSR programs, that allows us to benefit from their employee's skills in finance, translation, editing, intellectual property and on legal matters. TK Chiang, Vice-Chairperson of CMF adds:

"The generosity of organizations like Freshfields and the talent and heart of their staff allow CMF to focus on the impact and effectiveness of our programs – as CMF has very limited staff, the pro bono support of Freshfields is an immense help."

Freshfields' Corporate Social Responsibility Manager, Thai MacDonald tells us that they too are appreciative of their relationship with CMF: "Our relationship with CMF is one that we value particularly because of the sense of pride our staff have from knowing how their donations, in terms of funds, time and skills, are being leveraged to create immediate and profound change. Our firm is honoured to play a small role in supporting CMF to bring about positive change through our pro bono legal work, volunteer time and financial donations."

The generosity of partners like Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer is vital to the work of CMF. We are privileged to have them and others like them in our CMF family.