Message from the President

Dear FNIF Friends,

As the 2012 comes to a close, we look forward to the graduation of another cohort of GCEF girls. Some of those who will be completing secondary school this year have been part of the project since it began in 2006. We are proud of the fact that this project has given these girls the chance to complete their secondary education and open up the door to a better future. In this newsletter we are pleased to bring you news of some of our graduates. We also share a moving story about one of the Mobile Nursing Libraries, and announce the release of a new ICHRN publication. Happy reading!

Sincerely, Rosemary Bryant, FNIF President

GCEF receives the ‘Connecting Nurses’ Corporate Social Responsibility grant

The GCEF recently received a €2000 grant from the Connecting Nurses project, initiated by Sanofi and developed in partnership with the International Council of Nurses, the Nurse Practitioner Healthcare Foundation, the Secrétariat International Des Infirmières et Infirmiers de l’Espace Francophone and the Association Française pour le Développement de l’Education Thérapeutique.

Connecting Nurses has the global mission to bring nurses together to share ideas, advice and innovations, online and in the real world. ICN staff were present at the CSR Award Lunch held in September 2012 at the Sanofi headquarters in Paris to receive the donation.

“We are both impressed with the accomplishments of the Connecting Nurses initiative in bringing nurses together and grateful for this generous support for the Girl Child Education Fund”, stated David Benton, ICN’s Chief Executive Officer. “I want to emphasise that this is not the first donation the Connecting Nurses project has conferred upon the GCEF, as the project has integrated innovative advocacy and fund raising for the GCEF in many of its activities. Connecting Nurses continues to personify its goal to build a network of sharing and caring to enhance nursing’s leading role in advancing health care.”

Sanofi are generous donors to the Girl Child Education Fund and have partnered with ICN and FNIF to promote the GCEF and the Florence Nightingale Teddy Bear.
Mobile Library donation in memory of young American

The most recent delivery of a ICN/MSD Nursing Mobile Library has a touching story behind it. The Library was sponsored by The Emily C. Specchio Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to supporting scholarships, fellowships and mentoring for youth who want to change the world for the better. The foundation is named after Emily C. Specchio, a young American woman who sadly passed away at the young age of 21. During her life, Emily was involved in many charitable organisations and was also very active in the Foundation for Peace, travelling twice to the Dominican Republic to help improve the water quality and health in the areas surrounding Santo Domingo.

In her memory, the Foundation aims to encourage, identify and financially support youth who pursue study and/or programmes underlying the values of social justice both nationally and internationally. The Mobile Library sponsored by the Emily C. Specchio Foundation arrived at its destination in Monrovia, Liberia on 15 May 2012 – six years to the day of Emily’s death. This generous donation will have an enduring impact on the health and wellbeing of citizens now and into the future.

The ICN/MSD Nursing Mobile Library brings up-to-date health information to nurses working in remote areas of developing countries. Individuals, groups and organisations are encouraged to sponsor one or more Nursing Mobile Libraries to support nurses in improving health care for the most burdened and vulnerable people. Sponsoring an ICN/MSD Nursing Mobile Library will bring precious resources to nurses who are providing vital services to needy populations. The name of the sponsor will be printed on the trunk. If you would like to sponsor a Mobile Library, please write to Nadia DeCarlo at decarlo@icn.ch

The ICN • FNIF Florence Nightingale Teddy Bear

GCEF supports the primary and secondary schooling of the orphaned daughters of nurses.

Thank you for helping to keep the girls in school and for giving them the chance of a brighter future by purchasing a GCEF Florence Nightingale Teddy Bear.

www.gcefbear.com
Each year FNIF brings together the Coordinators of the GCEF in Kenya, Swaziland, Uganda and Zambia, for a skill building and strategic planning workshop, alternating between Geneva and one of the implementing countries. This year the workshop was held in Geneva and supported by an educational grant from Pfizer External Medical Affairs.

The agenda for this year’s workshop included: development of country-based and international networks for the graduates of the GCEF programme; strategic planning for local resource mobilisation to support the girls currently on waiting lists; refresher course on financial and audit management; monitoring and evaluation session; country reports, problem sharing and solving. Results included a step by step plan for the development of a GCEF Graduate Network to be initiated through 2012-13; strategic planning for local resource mobilisation to support the inclusion of girls on the waiting lists for GCEF; submission of an abstract to the ICN Congress on the impact of access to safe solar lighting on educational outcomes; and, budgeting and planning for the country-based Nurse Volunteers capacity building and recognition symposium.

The GCEF Coordinators, Faith Mbehero (Kenya); Tiny D’lamini (Swaziland); Amandi Simon Ongua (Uganda); and Jennifer Munsaka (Zambia) have developed an innovative platform of professional skill sharing, strategic planning, problem solving and friendship, which is highly effective in supporting and evolving the Girl Child Education Fund. Without their dedication and constant efforts to improve the lives and futures of the GCEF beneficiaries, this programme would be simply impossible and many orphaned daughters of nurses would be denied the opportunity for education and a brighter future.

Where are they now? A look at the GCEF graduates

Many of our FNIF friends will remember Nondunduzo D’lamini, a GCEF graduate from Swaziland who was the keynote speaker at the 2009 FNIF Luncheon held at the ICN Congress in Durban, South Africa. Nondunduzo’s passionate speech moved many in the audience, as she expressed both her gratitude and her conviction that “education is the key to success and power.” Her warmth, poise and charm captivated everyone and her story touched deeply. A video of her presentation can be seen at www.fnif.org/FNIF_Luncheon.avi

Nondunduzo is the eldest of four children, orphaned when their mother, a nurse, died prematurely. At the age of 14, Nondunduzo became responsible for herself and her three younger siblings. School fees were completely out of reach. As Nondunduzo said, “I thought my life had come to an end”.

Fortunately, the nursing network in Swaziland went into action and Nondunduzo and her sisters were accepted into the Girl Child Education Fund. Today Nondunduzo is 22 years old and in her second year of Technical Financial Accounting at Boston College in Pretoria, South Africa. Her education costs are supported by a Canadian nurse, who was in the audience when Nondunduzo made that captivating presentation at the ICN Congress. Her sister completed high-school last year with support from the GCEF and has been accepted for laboratory technician studies at the University of Swaziland. Thanks to global nursing solidarity and their own hard work, these girls have a chance at life and they are making the most of it.

**Illuminating Florence**

With a foreword by David Benton, CEO of the International Council of Nurses, **Illuminating Florence**, is a pocket guide to Florence Nightingale’s relevance to today’s nurses. Written by Alex Attewell, former Director of the Florence Nightingale Museum in London, this delightful little book is available for purchase on Amazon.
GCEF graduates in nursing

We are pleased that some of the GCEF graduates are following their parents’ footsteps and entering into the nursing profession. Miyanda Chila from Zambia is studying nursing at the Livingstone School of Nursing. Tasila Zyanmo and Taonga Mutoka, also from Zambia, are both at the Kitwe School of Nursing. Another graduate, Nanamana Kanondo, who is in her third year at the University of Zambia studying Development Studies is one of the leaders of a GCEF network of graduates. She said that she came up with the idea to form a network so that those girls who had gone on to obtain tertiary education could serve as role models for the other girls still on the programme. “We want to serve as ambassadors for the programme … we want to inspire the other girls to know that they too can make it in life.”

FNIF Luncheon 2013

We are happy to announce that registration is now open for the next biennial FNIF Luncheon to be held in Melbourne, Australia during the ICN 25th Quadrennial Congress. The Luncheon, which raises funds for FNIF projects, will be held on Tuesday 21 May 2013. The Luncheon will include a presentation by the recipient of the 2013 International Achievement Award. Tickets to the Luncheon can be booked at the same time as your registration to Congress. Tickets cost 75 AUD for one seat and 72 AUD per seat for 10 seats or more. Please note that this is a very popular event and tickets sell quickly, so please make your reservation as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Details can be found at: www.icn2013.ch/en/registration

New ICHRN publication on Flexible Work Practices

The latest publication from the International Centre for Human Resources in Nursing provides an overview of flexible work practices for substantive nursing staff – the stable core of the nursing workforce. Flexible work options, particularly those reflecting the voluntary choices of nurses, are associated with nurses’ greater job satisfaction, organisational commitment and intent to stay. If done well, flexible work options for substantive nursing staff can be a successful long-term human resource strategy for organisations. This paper explores the advantage and disadvantages of flexible work practices and looks at strategies to enable flexible work practices. Launched in 2008 by the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, ICHRN is dedicated to strengthening the nursing workforce globally through the development, ongoing monitoring and dissemination of comprehensive information and tools on nursing human resources policy, management, research and practice.

FNIF thanks its most generous donors in 2012

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FNIF also sincerely thanks everyone who supported the GCEF through the purchase of a Florence Nightingale teddy bear. If you would like to give the Florence Nightingale teddy bear as a gift for the holidays, we encourage you to get your orders in early!

The Girl Child Education Fund is now on Facebook!
Have a look at our new Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GirlChildEducationFund?ref=hl