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Dear friends and colleagues of CMMB,

If there is one thing that I’ve been blessed to witness after nearly a decade at CMMB, it’s the power of collective impact. The truth is that no single organization, however innovative or powerful, can impact global health on its own. By partnering with individuals, communities, faith leaders, foundations, corporations, and other non-profits, we are delivering on the promise of healthier lives for the most vulnerable women and children.

This issue of The Power of Partnerships highlights cross sector collaborations with partners who share CMMB’s core humanitarian values including USAID’s Global Innovation Lab’s work to reduce health facility infection, Teligent’s “Produce to Give” donation model, and Presence Health’s program expansion in Peru.

We are proud to be one of three partner organizations designated to share the Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity, awarded to long-time CMMB volunteer, Dr. Tom Catena. “Dr. Tom’s” story of heroism and dedication is truly inspiring. We’re also featuring an in-depth interview with former and current Mercy Health CEOs, Michael Connelly and John Starcher. Together, they explain how partnership turned a dream into reality when the Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan Center for Health opened in Haiti this year. I am honored to have been with them from the very beginning.

As a catalyst, convener, and strategic partner for a collective impact, CMMB works across sectors to serve the most vulnerable in Haiti, Kenya, Peru, South Sudan, and Zambia. We feel privileged to serve these women, children, and communities, and to partner with so many of you.

In appreciation,

Adrian Kerrigan,
CMMB Senior Vice President of Partnerships

Cover photo: (from left to right) Renan Coby, Fran Sullivan, and Archbishop Bernadito Auza celebrate the inauguration of the Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan Center for Health.
The Privilege of Partnering for Humanity
Dr. Tom Catena Wins Aurora Prize

“As a doctor in Sudan, let me tell you: foreign aid saves lives.”

In May, the Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity was awarded to Dr. Tom Catena, an internationally recognized humanitarian and Catholic missionary. Catena was honored for his courageous work as the first and only permanent medical doctor serving 750,000 people in Sudan’s war-torn, Nuba Mountains since 2008.

“Dr. Tom,” as he is known in Sudan, has relied on the assistance of many organizations to support his critical work. As the 2017 Aurora Laureate, Dr. Tom designated three key partners to share the $1 million prize:

- African Mission Healthcare Foundation (AMHF), USA
- Aktion Canchanabury, Germany
- Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB), USA

All three organizations are long-time supporters of Dr. Tom and the 300-bed Mother of Mercy Hospital. Through donations of pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, and with financial, material, and other logistical assistance, these three organizations work toward a common mission and shared goal—to enable Dr. Tom’s life-saving work in Sudan.

CMMB plans to fund three initiatives with its share of the Aurora Prize:

- Provide the Mother of Mercy Hospital with a year’s supply of essential medicine and medical supplies to support Dr. Tom’s life-saving work.
- Establish the Aurora Fellowship program, to support the placement of medical volunteers in high-risk conflict zones.
- To construct a high-quality operating theatre and blood bank at Saint Teresa’s Hospital in Nzara, South Sudan.

On being named the 2017 Aurora Prize Laureate, Dr. Catena said, “We all have an obligation to look after our brothers and sisters. It is possible that every single person can make a contribution, and to recognize that shared humanity can lead to a brighter future. With my faith as my guide, I am honored to continue to serve the world and make it a better place.”

The Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity was founded in 2015 on behalf of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide. The Aurora Humanitarian Initiative seeks to empower modern-day saviors to offer life and hope to those in urgent need of humanitarian aid and to continue the cycle of giving internationally.
Without all of our partners, none of this would have happened - the BJSH would not exist. When the doors of the hospital opened, we celebrated the end of the first phase of this project and the beginning of a strong health system in Côtes-de-Fer. Thanks to all who joined us on this journey.
—Dianne Jean Francois, MD, CMMB Haiti Country Director

Our mission in the United States is to extend the healing ministry of Jesus by improving the health of our communities, with an emphasis on those who are underserved. It is our prayer and hope that the grace of God will keep us here for many, many, many years to come.
—John Starcher, President and CEO, Mercy Health

We thank the community. They gave us the opportunity to share an idea that became a dream, that became a construction project, that is now a health center. We are grateful for the opportunity to live the journey to better healthcare with the people of Côtes-de-Fer.
—John Celentano, Retired, Senior Vice President, Bristol-Myers Squibb

CMMB is a great partner. It has built long-term, meaningful relationships in Haiti and the BJSH is a testament to this. CMMB ensures in-depth knowledge of needs and is able to harness local resources for sustainable service. We trust CMMB to make the best use of our medical supply and equipment donations. They have the connections, the know-how, and the heart.
—Georgia Winson, President and Executive Director, Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach.
On March 20th, 2017, CMMB officially opened the Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan Center for Health (BJSH) in Côtes-de-Fer, Haiti. It is the only hospital in this remote, poor community. The hospital provides facilities for safe deliveries and surgeries, prenatal and postnatal care, pharmacy services, and emergency care.

No single person or organization could have accomplished this feat alone. The construction and opening of the BJSH is an example of the power of partnership and the potential of a shared dream. Here we share testimonies from some of the partners that helped make this hospital a reality.

If you can translate hope into a concrete form, The BJSH was its best expression. As cathedrals represented heaven to the poor of the middle ages, this was the equivalent for the people of Côtes-de-Fer. It was more than a promise of healthcare, it was victory over the forces of darkness; it was testimony to the human spirit and to the conviction that together all things are possible.

—Fran Sullivan, sister of Bishop Joseph Sullivan

So often these days we are confronted with social problems that seem unfair and insurmountable. Both my mother and I left Haiti feeling optimistic that although we cannot solve all the world’s problems, there is a small corner of the world that maybe will be better off having been touched by humanity’s empathy. We were proud to be included in YOUR efforts. Congratulations for an amazing accomplishment.

—Grazia R. Svokos, Agnes Varis Trust and longtime CMMB supporter

I feel so blessed to be a part of this endeavor with CMMB. I believe all of my other missions to Haiti were somehow a preparation for the BJSH and the community of Côtes-de-Fer. While on this mission trip, we met extraordinary people who live in extreme poverty, many of which had no access to healthcare prior to the opening of the hospital. I am hoping to spread this passion to others in Mercy Health who are willing to donate their time and resources to this remote part of Haiti.

—Loretta Burgei, MD, Mercy Health, medical mission volunteer

On behalf of my community, on behalf of the diaspora, I am saying thank you CMMB for everything you have done.

—Lidia Coby, Côtes-de-Fer community leader
USAID Global Innovation Lab: Working on the Problem to Reduce Infection
CMMB is working to deploy Highlight - an innovative product developed by Kinnos - to help combat the spread of infectious diseases in health facilities. Developed at the height of the Ebola crisis in West Africa - where 1 of every 20 people who died was a health worker - Highlight is an additive combined with existing disinfectants. By giving disinfectant spray a distinct color, staff can ensure full coverage on surfaces and enforce real-time quality control. Healthcare associated infections are the most frequent adverse event in healthcare delivery worldwide. Through CHAMPS and Healing Help, CMMB will distribute Highlight to impact infection rates in the developing world. USAID has provided significant input regarding roll-out of Highlight through deep discussions during the past year regarding a potential joint venture as well as future funding; in the meantime, CMMB and Kinnos are seeking additional private and public partners for this endeavor.

Teligent “Produce to Give”
Teligent Inc. is a unique CMMB partner that dedicates a day of service to manufacture and donate needed pharmaceutical product through Healing Help. Teligent’s donations are tailored to fulfill specific requests and carry long dating for distribution in the developing world. Teligent shares CMMB’s goal to increase access to medicine and supports health system strengthening for better health outcomes. CMMB is grateful for the leadership of Teligent and the many pharmaceutical donors who help us reach the most vulnerable with essential, life-saving medicines.

Presence Health
United by a common mission to improve the health of the most vulnerable, Presence Health, the Sisters of the Holy Heart of Mary, and CMMB launched “New Opportunities” in Huancayo, Peru. The community-based program focuses on improving health outcomes for children under five years of age and the community’s elderly, two segments of the population that have diminished access to care and a higher risk of complications. Presence Health contributes resources and health management expertise, while the Sisters, who live and minister in the community, provide access to program beneficiaries and local stakeholders. CMMB completes the partnership, providing program design, implementation, and overall management expertise in marginalized communities within Huancan district.
Mercy Health is a long-time CMMB partner, with a shared goal of serving the poor. When Michael Connelly, former board chair of CMMB, retired as CEO of Mercy Health, he also stepped down as a key champion of the Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan Center for Health (BJSH) project. His successor, John Starcher, assumed leadership of the Cincinnati-based health system, and continued to guide the new hospital to completion in Côtes-de-Fer, Haiti. We recently had the opportunity to speak with Michael and John about our shared mission and the power of collective impact.

You were a key champion of the hospital project in Haiti. Why was it critical for you to bring quality healthcare to this community?

Michael: Our mission calls us to view health in a holistic way, and to address issues of poverty. The hospital project was inspired by a conversation with Dr. Dianne Jean-Francois, CMMB country director in Haiti. She expressed frustration with the neglect of rural areas, people suffering from extreme poverty and a lack of access to healthcare. That was the first real tug on the heartstrings. Eventually, Mercy Health made the commitment of a $2 million match grant to kick start the implementation of a full service hospital in Côtes-de-Fer. We made this a priority. These things don’t happen unless you look at yourself and your mission and inspire your team with your vision.

John, you were at the opening of the BJSH. What is the memory that you took away—the story you shared with others when you got home?

I was overwhelmed by the turnout and the pure joy in the faces of the community members. I was amazed by the way they marveled at things we too often take for granted—like running water and plumbing. The words of one community member struck a chord: “This shows the community and particularly the youth in our community of things possible—of what they could do with their lives. That they don’t have to think about things as they had always been, but what might be possible.” This isn’t only about meeting immediate needs, health, and wellbeing. It is about the future of their children. BJSH truly is a beacon for breaking the cycle of poverty.

What have you learned about partnerships in your 22 years of service at Mercy Health?

Michael: The first and most important thing is to pick the right partner. I think we were fortunate in picking CMMB. They know how to function in the countries in which they operate. That is what I have always appreciated about CMMB. They know how to make things happen.

John: Without corporate support, projects like the BJSH would never get off the ground. Corporate support is vital. It is part of being good corporate citizens, to our friends and neighbors, not only here, but abroad. We’re all in this together. To go back to the Bible, “To those that much is given, much is expected.”

Why is corporate support (expertise, time, physical resources, financial commitment) critical to making projects like this a reality in places like Haiti?

Michael: And when they go to serve, our employees have these experiences that make them better individuals and better leaders within the Mercy Health system. They have a better appreciation and response for challenges that people face.
people had access to improved nutrition, like receiving vitamins and deworming treatment.

462,860 people received critical health and social services

44,388 people had access to improved nutrition, including receiving vitamins and deworming treatments

$218,166,475 worth of donated medicines and medical supplies were distributed to 22 countries

98% donations invested in programs

$14.2 MILLION Cash received from private contributions, government, and multilateral grants

7,020 days of service were provided by nearly 600 volunteers in 12 countries

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