



Volunteer Report / Fall 2020

# Healthier Lives, Together

## *Volunteer for Change*



**cmm**  
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Healthier Lives Worldwide

[cmm.org](http://cmm.org)

# A Letter from CMMB Peru Country Director



Dear Friends,

CMMB Peru is very fond of the volunteers who have shared in our mission. We serve families on the outskirts of Huancayo (Peruvian Andes) and Trujillo (coastal) cities. There are hundreds of thousands of people marginalized from essential services, such as water, legal documentation, access to dignified work, healthcare, and education. CMMB volunteers become members of our teams. They become part of us.

Although it demands an adaptation period, the love and passion of the work from staff helps the volunteers assimilate into our field teams and recognize the immensity of the needs of the families we serve. Volunteers give their best, teaching nutrition education classes to community members, training and mentoring community health workers, supporting children living with disabilities, and engaging with various local health entities. Their kindness, passion and commitment for the health of mothers and children create a better understanding of the cruel and stark inequalities which define our countries, the need of implementing a comprehensive primary healthcare approach to address social determinants of health and improve their opportunities. We want women and children to enjoy their right to health and to understand the importance of their role and contribution.

As volunteers give, they get enriched. We keep in touch with our CMMB volunteers. We are happy to know that the work we have shared not only created a deep connection with the

communities, it also strengthens the skills of local healthcare workers for when they return home and continue their professional development.

Moreover, knowing Peru's dire situation as a result of the COVID-19 rigid lockdown and unmanageable pandemic extension, many of our former volunteers have supported their communities from afar, fundraising for our emergency response.

Throughout the present publication, you will learn more about our CMMB Volunteer Program. I wish some of you could also be inspired to join us in the future, for a fantastic professional and personal experience. We invite you to become valued members of our CMMB family. You will be most welcomed!

Blessings to you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ariel Frisancho', written in a cursive style.

Ariel Frisancho  
Country Director  
CMMB Peru



We are happy to know that the work we have shared not only created a deep connection with the communities, it also strengthens the skills of local healthcare workers for when they return home and continue their professional development.



CMMB Volunteer and RN, Brynn Macauley, teaching expectant mothers in Peru how to care for their newborns using dolls, 2019

# We Love What We Do, but We Can't Do It Alone.

## Last Year, We Did All This Together:



**97**

volunteers served in 12 sites in 9 countries



**44,970**

hours served by volunteers



**\$2,509,669**

worth of hours served by volunteers



**391**

healthcare workers formally trained by volunteers



**19,058**

patients seen by volunteers



**3,040**

babies delivered by volunteers

We know that a lack of access to basic health services often means the difference between life and death for women and children living in poverty. In addition to a shortage of medicines and medical supplies, one of the biggest barriers is a critical shortage of skilled healthcare workers.

Our Volunteer Program works to address this shortage by pairing professionals with CMMB programs, both through hands-on experiences in the field and remote opportunities.

Learn More About Our Volunteer Opportunities at [cmmb.org/volunteer](https://cmmb.org/volunteer)



# CMMB Introduces Remote Volunteering

In times of great disruption and closed borders due to the COVID-19 crisis, help us fight this pandemic and its aftermath by remote volunteering.

Put your skills into action by remotely supporting the work of our headquarters staff in downtown New York or that of our teams in Haiti, Kenya, Peru, South Sudan and Zambia.

Remote volunteering allows you to donate your skills and time to change lives, all from the comfort of your home. All you need is a laptop and a good internet connection.

## Apply Today

Start by completing the online application at [cmm.org/volunteer](https://cmm.org/volunteer) or email us at [volunteer@cmm.org](mailto:volunteer@cmm.org) with any of your questions.



A mother and her newborn are screened for COVID-19 before getting care at the Bishop Joseph Sullivan Center for Health in Haiti, August 2020

## You can volunteer across three areas:

### Program Support

Support our programs staff in New York and in the field while completing your degree, for a minimum of 50 hours/month.

Or share your expertise by working on a specific project with a predefined deliverable in collaboration with our technical staff.

### Educators

Share your skills and knowledge remotely with in-country medical professionals and program managers by becoming a CMMB Educator.

Supported by our technical team, you will design and deliver training sessions to staff from our community-based programs or partner facilities.

### Mentorship Program

The Mentorship Program gives you the opportunity to have an interactive relationship with our teams in the field. By pairing experienced professionals from the U.S., Europe, and Oceania with healthcare programs staff, we build technical capacity and improve service delivery.



Working with the Country Directors has been a real gift, and I'm excited by the challenge of translating and operationalizing COVID-related resources into their diverse global contexts.



— M. Therese Lysaught, PhD

## Volunteer Spotlight:

# Dr. Joseph Sclafani, OB/GYN



Dr. Sclafani (center), CMMB Volunteer and former Director of Global Women's Health for Baylor College of Medicine with colleagues in Malawi

**Dr. Joseph Sclafani is an OB/GYN from Brooklyn, New York and one of our experts in the field. Just days before Dr. Sclafani was set to board a flight to South Sudan for his volunteer service, the COVID-19 pandemic had closed international borders and grounded flights. Dr. Sclafani's service in South Sudan would be delayed indefinitely.**

The CMMB volunteer team searched for a way that Dr. Sclafani could help remotely from the United States. We knew that there was an enormous need for staff education in CMMB partner hospitals to adequately prepare for the ensuing pandemic. In-country medical teams consulted with US based teams, identifying best practices to prevent and treat the spread of COVID-19 infected mothers and their newborn babies. There was also a need to redesign the hospital and maternity clinics to minimize the infection risk to staff and patients.

Dr. Sclafani collaborated with Dr Claudia Llanten, CMMB MCH specialist, to create a live educational webinar for CMMB's doctors and nurses across Africa, the Caribbean and South America. The program provided in-country staff with

the knowledge and tools to make the necessary changes on the ground when providing antenatal care, assisting during child birth and postpartum care during this pandemic. The webinar has now been translated by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists into French for staff in Haiti, Spanish for staff in Peru, and has been made available to other healthcare workers in West Africa, the Congo and Madagascar.

The impact is felt by our in-country teams. Our program coordinator in Kenya, Jesse Kihuha said of the training: "It was hugely helpful, it addressed critical gaps of information, and it directly helped an analysis that we were preparing, identifying areas to strengthen and what needs to be addressed. We will continue to use the video and create other sessions

**“As a CMMB Educator, I have developed new and enduring friends, a new sense of global community, and an abundance of gratitude for the opportunity to give back to those most in need.”**

— Dr. Sclafani

going deeper on it. We plan to continue to share it and set up other training sessions.”

We're thankful for volunteers like Dr. Sclafani, who continue to serve with us in impactful ways—even when thousands of miles away from those we serve.

**Apply Today at  
[cmm.org/volunteer](https://cmm.org/volunteer)**

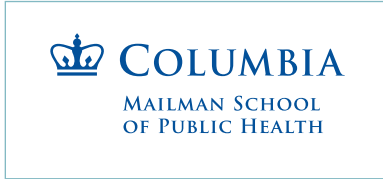


# Our University Partnerships: Research for Good

**CMMB has, for decades, built relationships with top university programs specializing in public health, public administration and humanitarian affairs. These include Fordham University, Fairfield University, Notre Dame, St. Catherine's, and Regis University among others.**

Within this core group is the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. Since 1922, the Columbia Mailman School has been at the forefront of public health research, education, and community collaboration. Addressing everything from chronic disease to HIV/AIDS to healthcare policy, the School tackles today's pressing public health issues, translating research results into action.

CMMB's partnership around student practicums with Columbia Mailman began in 2014. Students and faculty contribute in areas of research, practice and training, gaining international experience and directly impacting the work that we do.



"Our students are able to both serve and learn, while fulfilling their skills and competencies-based practicum requirements" says Ana Jimenez-Bautista, MSW, Director of Field Practice at the Columbia Mailman School.

These partnerships are key components of our Volunteer program, providing us with a valuable resource, increasing our capacity, and the breadth and depth of vital information we gather while providing in-the-field research opportunities to students at these top educational institutions.

[Read the Full Blog: cmm.org/columbia](https://cmm.org/columbia)

**Nandita Rajshekhar,**  
alumna, Columbia University  
Mailman School of Public Health

*"I did a mixed-methods research study looking at the barriers that prevent women from accessing antenatal care from the health facilities in Kitui South, Kenya.*

*Over six months, I conceptualized the study design and protocols, facilitated the focus groups with women, and completed the analysis and final report, with support from in-country and US-based CMMB teammates*

*We are even looking for opportunities to publish our findings in academic journals. I learned a lot about what it takes to implement this kind of research study in a low-resource or global health setting. I learned how to apply my academic methods to real, human challenges.*

*I believe doing a research project is an incredible opportunity for public health students, at my alma mater Columbia University and in other programs."*



Nandita with Mary and Faith during a household assessment, 2019

# CMMB x Hunter Club: Our Student Advocates



CMMB x Hunter e-board members at their first college club fair, September 2019

**We know motivated, young people are essential to the future of public health. Students at Hunter College in New York City are joining our mission as student advocates through their club, CMMB x Hunter. The club brings interactive events to their university, from conversations with world-class humanitarians to advocacy-driven photo exhibitions.**

## **Priya Singh, the founder and President of CMMB x Hunter shares why she decided to get involved:**



*Love, collaboration, excellence, and respect: these are CMMB's core values. They are also my personal values.*

*I first came to know CMMB as an intern while I was in high school two years ago. I became inspired by CMMB's mission and approach to providing sustainable healthcare solutions to women and children in developing countries. As a student looking to one day become a medical doctor, CMMB's work deeply motivated me. I saw throughout my internship how CMMB's programs were truly making a difference in the world and I wanted to continue to be a part of that change.*

*I am a pre-health student at Hunter College in New York City. I knew that I wanted to continue being involved with CMMB and I thought, "why not start a CMMB club here at Hunter?" I reached out to friends and classmates and assembled a team of interested students.*

*CMMB x Hunter debuted at the Hunter Club Fair in the beginning of September 2019 where we had almost 200 students sign up to learn more about our club and upcoming activities! It was great to see so many students interested in the work of CMMB and women and children's health.*

*The work that CMMB does has increased my commitment to helping make a difference in the lives of others. We look forward to continuing to bring inspiring events and advocacy opportunities to students at Hunter!*

**Interested in becoming a student advocate? Email us at [info@cmmb.org](mailto:info@cmmb.org)**



# We Believe in the Power of Partnership

Our partnerships play a key role in our efforts to tackle the urgent gaps in human resources for health and to strengthen health systems. We deliver broader, longer-lasting impact in our work through collaboration with a wide range of extraordinary partners, including universities, health systems, corporations, and foundations.



- Academic Internship Council
- Advocacy for Global Health Partnerships
- Authority Health Pediatrics and Family Medicine Residency Programs
- Bon Secours/Mercy Health
- Catchafire
- Catholic Health Association of the United States
- Catholic Volunteer Network
- Columbia University
- Fairfield University
- Fordham University
- Notre Dame University
- Nurses with Global Impact
- Regis University
- Sisters of Charity, NJ
- St. Kate's University
- Volunteer Match

Join our team: [cmmb.org/volunteer](https://cmmb.org/volunteer)

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