

# FONDATION MMS

Mères du Monde en Santé  
Healthy Mothers of the World

## **PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2014- 15 Presented to the MMS Foundation General Assembly in June 2015**

Our foundation has its seasons and its winning teams, just like the NHL. The 2014-2015 year has produced successful results which I will present to you this evening.

First of all, I would like to congratulate this winning team: the 13 men and women who sit on Board of Administration and take our foundation to heart. Their efforts, devotion and achievements are the backbone of the MMS Foundation. Their efforts are continuous and intense at best, intermittent and moderate at times, but that's the reality of relying on a team of volunteers.

Another winning team is composed of professionals who participate in our medical missions. Once again, we carried out one single surgical mission this year, due to the ebola epidemic and political turmoil in the region. However this mission was a great success. It also had an ethnological component that allowed us to complete our study.

Our third team is composed of our donors who support what we do, year after year. Here again, we rely on their good will. The funds we raise may vary from one year to the next in response to the level of our fundraising efforts.

The fourth and final team, perhaps less visible than the rest, is our membership on whom we can count to support our foundation.

I would like to thank you all for your hard work and solidarity.

To draw a global portrait of the 2014-2015 season, I will refer to our strategic plan for the 2012-2015 period in order to evaluate if we are on track.

This plan covers four major areas.

- Prevention
- Training
- Social reintegration
- Awareness

Our main objective, that which really reduces the number of fistula cases, is attained in partnership with the Association for Research and Training, (ARFOD), under the leadership of its president Salam Kouraogo. We help this association, financially and in an advisory capacity, to cover the region's numerous maternity clinics and villages to educate, conduct awareness sessions and recruit women for surgery.

To continue our training objective, on our last mission in February we brought along on two McGill residents and fellows, Michael Sourial et Shachar Aharony. We really appreciate their teaching efforts and participation in

our humanitarian mission. They are now preparing presentations based on their experience to be delivered at a future assembly.

The social reintegration aspect of our strategic plan is ongoing. The good news is that Julie Desalliers and her team have terminated the data collection phase of their 3-year study, They will soon provide us with a unique authentic perspective on this aspect of the lives of the women who have undergone surgery with us.

During our one mission this year, we operated on 12 patients and the mid-term results point to a 70% success rate, one of the best scores our medical team has attained so far.

Our foundation was enhanced by several important communications events this past year. The excellent film produced and directed by Erica Pomerance faithfully documents one of our missions in Boromo. Our revamped website, while not yet complete, has significantly improved our online image and visibility. Thanks to Maria, Ikram, Amyn and all those who helped with this achievement.

All these activities were possible thanks to our fundraising efforts. A beautiful Christmas concert was proposed and organised by Claudette Dionne and Stephanie Breton. Another concert was organised at Vincent Dindy by Daniel Varon, Stephanie Breton and Gregory Chaverdian. Finally, a benefit African supper-concert organised by Anne Millamen and the Chadian community brought in considerable revenue along with a generous donation from the order of Oblates.

We must also mention a significant donation from the Zakat Foundation, thanks to Julie Desalliers' efforts, which helped cover the cost of our last mission.

Special thanks go out to Chantale Guerin and the Semafo Foundation who contributed to our financial campaign in who response to our request to evaluate the Boromo operating room electrical installations. They generously offered to repair the air conditioning and electrical systems, a project completed last June.

So once again, thanks to all for your involvement and hard work.

What does the coming year hold in store?

Our collaboration with ARFORD will continue. Surgical missions are planned for November (a joint mission with the French) and February 2016.

The most complex issue is that of construction. On one hand, we propose the total make-over of the operating room in Boromo. Even more ambitiously, we hope to build a fistula hospital that would serve the northern sector of West Africa. We are considering building this hospital on the outskirts of Ouagadougou, but we are open to any country where we find the necessary political will and support. We will continue to work on these important projects in collaboration with the government of Burkina Faso and our French colleagues from EFE-Burkina.

We will continue to organise activities to finance our 2015-2016 missions and for this we will need your help.

Before I conclude my report, I would like to thank those Board members who left us recently. Catherine Coulombe has just given birth and Janik Jacmain had to leave us to devote more time to her family. I would like to offer a warm welcome to our new treasurer, Renée Mahfoda.

I wish you all a good year in 2015-16.