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LIVES TRANSFORMED THROUGH TALENTS OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIANS

*Area Groups Use Creativity, Skills and Passion to Raise
Money to Help Disabled Children in the Developing World*

Lemoyne, Pa. March 30, 2009: Even in these tough economic times, there are Central Pennsylvanians who are proving that with a little creativity, talent and hard work, people can still make a difference for those less fortunate.

Over the last few months, people at schools, churches and other area organizations have danced, swam, fasted and traveled abroad to benefit CURE International.

Based in Lemoyne, Pa., CURE International provides life-changing medical care to thousands of disabled children every year in the developing world through its 10 hospitals and various programs and partnerships. Thanks to the collective efforts of Central Pennsylvanians, more than \$10,000 has been raised for the organization.

“We are grateful to have so much support from businesses, churches and schools in the Central Pennsylvania area,” said Lisa Wolf, CURE International’s vice president of communications and donor relations. “What really impressed me is the number of young people who have committed themselves to raising money for CURE. Many of them acted on their own initiative and came up with some really unique and terrific fundraisers. Whether it was dancing, swimming or traveling to one of our hospitals, their hard work and talent have benefitted children all over the world.”

Some of these young people were from the McGinley School of Irish Dance.

Lena McGinley, who owns and operates the school, said when she learned about what CURE is doing overseas, she knew she had found the perfect service project for her school's students.

“As dancers, my students rely on their feet and legs,” she said. “But there are so many children in the developing world who are not able to walk. So, I thought using our feet would be a meaningful way to help CURE International reach these kids.”

McGinley's project involved her 120-plus students dancing a routine known as the “jump 2-3” for a specific period of time. Donations were raised by each student to sponsor his or her individual dance routine.

Others have also danced for CURE, like the students at Red Land High School, whose Valentine's Day dance was centered on the theme of “Dance for Kids Who Can't.”

CURE International inspired three students at Northern High School in Dillsburg to feature the organization as the subject of their public relations project for DECA, an international association of high school and college students studying marketing, management and entrepreneurship.

Josephine Hall, a junior at Northern, said she and two fellow students, juniors Grant Cole and Tyler Billman, chose CURE International because it was a local organization that makes a difference globally.

“Working on this project has given us an appreciation for what we have,” said Hall. “Here's an organization right here in our local area that's giving children in the developing world the advanced medical care we have long taken for granted in America. CURE's impact is so powerful. It has been very inspiring for us.”

Another group of students inspired by CURE was the 24 members of Northern High's swim team. They raised money for CURE by each swimming a mile in the school pool.

Senior Molly Handley said it was a rewarding experience for the team: "I really liked how CURE is committed to reaching these kids. It makes me happy to know we are getting to help give some of these children a better life."

At West Shore Evangelical Free Church in Mechanicsburg, approximately 60 students participated in a "Foodless Feast" during which they fasted and did community projects for 30 hours. Part of the money they raised benefitted children at CURE International's hospitals.

Students at Messiah College in Grantham took a significantly different approach as 16 talented eaters squared off in a cookie-eating contest to raise money for the organization.

Putting together events is not the only way Central Pennsylvanians have been able to help CURE International reach the world's disabled children. Hillside Christian Fellowship, a church in Millersburg, sent a team of teenagers and adults to the organization's hospital in the Dominican Republic.

Kim Messinger, a youth leader at the church, said she was inspired to take teenagers from her church to the hospital last summer after learning about the volunteer opportunities CURE International offers.

The teenagers went all out to raise money to fund their trip, organizing haircut-a-thons, car hops and auctions.

"It was amazing how joyful the children were in the D.R., despite having nothing," recalled Messinger. "We were all truly touched. After my experience there, I see how

important it is for others to know about what CURE is doing to make sure disabled children in the developing world are getting the medical care they desperately need.”

About CURE International

Founded in 1996, CURE International is the largest provider of pediatric specialty surgical care in the developing world, transforming the lives of disabled children and their families through medical and spiritual healing. To date, it has performed more than 54,000 surgeries and seen more than 800,000 patients. Visit www.cureinternational.org for more information.

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