

# Enabling disabled children to walk again

By Nancy Hopkins  
Stouffville This Month

At a June 2 press conference at its Stouffville Head Office, with a team of Ugandan Doctors present, Christian Blind Mission International (CBMI) announced the

launch of the Enable Club Foot Project.

A joint initiative with Canadian International Development Agency, University of British Columbia, Makerere University of Uganda and Ministry of Health Uganda, the six-year project will

allow Ugandans to bring effective new medical treatments to their people as well as provide training to health professionals.

CBMI is the world's leading agency in the prevention and cure of blindness and disabilities in developing countries. It is present in 100 developing countries, providing health services through 1,000 projects. The ECFP matches donors with a child in need of treatment. Donors receive an initial photograph of the child and a follow-up photograph and progress report when the treatment is complete.

Clubfoot is a congenital deformity that causes the foot to point downward, with the toes and the bottom of the foot turned inward. Walking is difficult, painful and for many, crawling is the only means of moving around.

In Uganda there are over 10,000 children afflicted by clubfoot and each year brings 1,000 new cases. While the cause is unknown researchers believe it to be a combination of genetics and environmental factors.

A disproportionate

number of the estimated 100,000 children born worldwide with clubfoot each year live in developing countries with few orthopaedic surgeons.

The vision for the Enable Club Foot Project was born in the early 1990s. "We saw the need and knew that Canadians had the resources to help," says CBMI Canada Executive Director Dave McComiskey.

Knowing that in most of cases the deformity could be treated for only \$300, the organization created a team including Canadian pediatric orthopaedic surgeons Dr. Norgrove Penny and Dr. Shafique Pirani. Their project has since become a model for similar initiatives around the world.

At the press conference Dr. Edward Naddumba, Head of Orthopaedics at Makerere University Kampala, Uganda explained that in addition to the lack of mobility caused by clubfoot, there is also a stigma, lack of respect and isolation that is equally painful for the children affected. Implementing the project has brought dramatic

results to the children who have attended his clinic. "Now we see them crawl to the gate and three to six months later they walk

out," he said.

To assist the CBMI Enable Club Foot Project call 905-640-6466 or visit [www.cbmicanada.org](http://www.cbmicanada.org).

## Newcomers Club welcomes residents both old and new

By Dianne Reddy

Members of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Newcomers Club celebrated their spring banquet at the home of their new president, Laurie Mountford. The gala evening of gourmet cuisine catered by Lisa Darchiville of Stouffville, surrounded the home with warm hearts, stories, news and laughter and clearly defined what the Newcomers Club is all about.

The organization was founded on April 30, 1986 by Dianne Darling of Welcome Wagon and new area resident Ginny Burrow. It was then, and is today, an enriching group for women of all ages to gather together to learn, share and enjoy each other's company.

The membership and

activities expanded to include a spectacular ladies' lunch out, the opportunity to share thoughts at the stitch 'n' talk, or to extend literary knowledge in the book club. The women also challenge each other with games of euchre or bridge and enjoy festive sharing at pot luck dinners and many other social activities.

Newcomers offers an opportunity to meet new friends in the community. Whether you are a long-time resident or new to the neighbourhood, the ladies extend an invitation to become a member and celebrate with them in this year's upcoming events. For more information contact Laurie Mountford at 905-642-6444 or Rochelle Lyons at 905-640-0291

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