Forty students beamed in anticipation as they gathered together at the University of Ghana on May 30, 2011. They were going to be the first class enrolled in a new program at the school. They were going to be educated by professionals. They were going to save lives.

And their enrollment in this program couldn’t have come at a better time.

Thousands of children die every year in Ghana from preventable diseases, with approximately 5,000 children under the age of five dying from malaria each year. To address this situation, the Ghanaian Ministry of Health has predicted that, over the next 10-15 years, Ghana needs an additional 1,000-1,500 pediatric nurses.

These students were a part of this summer’s launch of The Ghana-SickKids Paediatric Nursing Training Programme. The program, developed by the University of Ghana and SickKids International, was created to address Ghana’s low rate of child survival and a nationwide nurse shortage.

“The first cohort of students radiated with pride as each speaker approached the podium, challenging the nurses to increase the health of children in Ghana,” said SickKids International’s Pat Malloy, an advanced practice nurse.

International Aid is actively supporting The Ghana-SickKids Paediatric Nursing Training Programme, which seeks to educate nurses in pediatric knowledge, skill and judgment; improve availability of nurses and pediatric medical assistance across Ghana; improve child survival; and improve the ability to train and retain nurses. The students will be trained by a combination of SickKids International employees and Ghanaian health professionals.

International Aid has assisted by providing medical supplies for The Ghana-SickKids Paediatric Nursing Training Programme such as incubators, IV supplies, pediatric resuscitators, vital signs monitors, nebulizers, scales, thermometers, hand sanitizer, pediatric cribs and mattresses, blood pressure gauges and much more.

SickKids International project manager Dylan Walters couldn’t be more grateful for the help.

“I can say that the University of Ghana and SickKids are both grateful for the efforts of International Aid to provide affordable equipment and supplies in a timely manner to our partners in Ghana,” Walters said.

“Certainly, without [International Aid’s] experience and efforts, the essential Pediatric Nursing Skills Training Lab at the School of Nursing, University of Ghana would be incomplete.”

Trudy Kernighan, Canadian High Commissioner paid a visit to Ghana on June 23 to support the development of the program. She was ecstatic to see the results of the program underway.

“Simply put, pediatric nurses save children’s lives,” she said.

The Pat Malloy and Trudy Kernighan quotes were taken from articles at these websites:

Caring for Cancer Patients
International Aid teams up with
The Cancer Fund of America

There are some organizations that International Aid can’t help but partner with. Their hearts for ministry move us to action, their mission resonates with the calling God has given our organization, and the people who receive their aid linger in our hearts, minds and prayers.

One of those partners is The Cancer Fund of America.

The Cancer Fund of America provides assistance to cancer patients who live in poverty and cannot afford to meet basic needs due to the financial strain placed on them by cancer treatment costs. According to their website, the nonprofit “provides aid to thousands of cancer victims and their families every day.” This aid is given free-of-cost.

Some of these patients are elderly and alone. Others are parents to young children. Others are elementary students who just want to feel normal again. Others are infants whose parents simply can’t pay the both the medical and grocery bills.

These people are in great need, and International Aid is committed to serving them.

For years, International Aid has proudly supported The Cancer Fund of America by connecting them with socially-conscious organizations and providing them with aid at a minimal service fee. In the past two months alone, International Aid has shipped the Cancer Fund of America assorted over-the-counter medications, protein bars, mouthwash, burn gel, antibiotics, hydrocortisone, hand wipes, soap, body wash, shampoo and conditioner.

According to CFA’s Lance Connaster, International Aid’s partnership with his ministry has been “a true blessing.”

“International Aid assists our organization greatly by helping us locate products that we need to provide to our cancer patients and their families,” he said.

We are so thankful for the opportunity to work with The Cancer Fund of America, and we pray that God continues to use our ministry to bring relief and comfort to these patients.

INTERNATIONAL AID’S FIRST QUARTER BY THE NUMBERS

$34 million
The amount of health products and medical equipment shipped to partners serving in countries all over the world between July 1, 2011 and Sept. 30, 2011.

39 The number of countries International Aid sent health products and medical equipment to between July 1, 2011 and Sept. 30, 2011.

65 The number of missions, organizations and other partners actively serving the poor worldwide that received shipments between July 1, 2011 and Sept. 30, 2011.

We could not have done this without you.
International Aid has been able to accomplish more than we could have ever dreamed because God has given us donors who are passionate about our ministry. Thank you for joining with us to minister to a hurting world.