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The President's Report:  
**Spring is Here!**

Thankfully, even the current economic climate cannot stop the onset of spring. The arrival of nicer weather, greening grass and fresh buds carry with them an infectious sense of optimism and new beginnings. HealthyKids International is poised to embrace this energy with a new year of innovative events and exciting global initiatives.

And we're starting off in great shape. Last year, with your outstanding support, HKI successfully met our fundraising goal of \$1.5M in gross revenue! This is an exceptional result in the face of trying circumstances. My great thanks to both our dedicated supporters and to our fantastic HKI team!

This year, we have challenged ourselves to achieve a new, more aggressive goal of raising \$3.6M, and I have every confidence that this is possible. In the upcoming months, we expect to receive \$1.7M from CIDA to support our new Global Child Health Program. As well, HKI is presenting an exciting cadre of fundraising events and new community partnerships, some of which – like *ECHOage* and the *Christofle* sale – will be featured below.

I strongly believe that these innovative projects will inspire you to support our terrific programs. I encourage you to get swept up in our enthusiasm, and become involved in initiatives that have maximum impact today and will for years to come. If you require further motivation to participate, I invite you to read the following profile on Dr. Rubeena Khan. She is currently the *only* cardiac paediatrician in Guyana, and through her HKI Fellowship at SickKids, is leaning vital diagnostic and treatment skills that she will take back to help ease the suffering of her region's children.

HealthyKids International *is* making a global impact. Now is *always* the time to reduce child mortality around the world, and with your help, we can continue to do just that.

Thank you for bringing us closer to achieving our goal of *Healthier Children. A Better World.*

John Francis  
Interim President

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HealthyKids International Programs:  
**Spotlight on a Fellow**

**Dr. Rubeena Khan, HKI Guyana**

In numerous areas of the developing world, as many as 1 in 20 children experiences some form of heart disease, with little to no hope of treatment. The country of Guyana, for example, and its environs (which include the neighbouring country of Suriname and the Caribbean islands in the West Indies) suffer from an acute lack of overall cardiac care and currently offer no paediatric cardiac care at all. As a result, children from this region who require cardiac surgery are at present being sent to India to receive treatment.



In response to this deficiency, the Georgetown Public Hospital (GPHC) collaborated with the Guyana Ministry of Health, and in 2007, created the Caribbean Heart Institute (CHI) – the first Centre of Excellence for cardiovascular disease in the area. Through their work, the Centre identified that a major detractor from the quality of their region’s care was a dearth of local expertise in paediatric cardiology. As a result, GPHC and the Ministry of Health once again joined forces to create a facility designed to provide essential paediatric cardiac interventions.

As the only cardiac paediatrician in the region, Dr. Rubeena Khan has been tasked with establishing and maintaining this Pediatric Cardiology Unit at the CHI. Trained in general paediatrics in India, Dr. Khan has an impressive range of experience in various paediatric sub-specialties over and above cardiology, including: neonatology, hematology-oncology, and critical care. Currently, she is in the process of completing 18 months of clinical training in the Cardiology Department at The Hospital for Sick Children. During her Fellowship at SickKids, Dr. Khan will master skills in multiple areas, such as diagnostic assessments, interventional/surgical treatment, and post surgical follow-up and care (which include assessment for re-intervention).

Upon her return home, Dr. Khan’s aim is to transfer the vital skills she has been honing at SickKids to her colleagues in Guyana. Her ultimate goal is to train locally available doctors, nurses and healthcare practitioners so that in the future, they can autonomously manage the Centre, provide a full compliment of treatment for their own patients, and collectively help transform the lives of thousands of their region’s children.

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**Announcements**

**New Partnerships for HKI**

We are very pleased and excited to announce the following new community partnerships:

**HKI has become the latest charity to join ECHOage!**

Planning a birthday party or other celebration? Log on to [www.echoage.com](http://www.echoage.com) and do some good while you have some fun.

An ECHOage birthday party is a unique opportunity for parents and children to improve the world together.

Guests are invited to an ECHOage birthday party online. Instead of purchasing a store-bought present, invitees are asked to RSVP and give a secure contribution to the event online. ECHOage pools all of the contributions. The birthday child then chooses one special birthday present from all of his or her friends, and also makes a donation to the charity of his or her choice.

It’s an environmentally conscious way to celebrate, and a great way to teach kids about social responsibility. Help support HKI in a new and innovative way!

## HKI teams up with Benefaction!

Benefaction has chosen HealthyKids International as the latest beneficiary of their investment planning services. As an organization, Benefaction is a charitable public foundation that supports, rewards and inspires philanthropic investments in Canada. Benefaction's ultimate goal is to facilitate meaningful results – for donors, wealth management partners and charities – through strategic partnerships forged from a commitment to social responsibility.

[www.benefaction.ca](http://www.benefaction.ca)

## Christofle Invitation

[Click here](#) to download the Christofle invitation.



The graphic features a blue header with the Christofle logo (PARIS) and the HealthyKids International logo. Below the header, the text reads: "Invite you to Drop by the Christofle boutique on May 2nd for a special charity shopping day to benefit HealthyKids International. As a thank you for your support, shoppers will receive a \$25 gift card with purchases over \$200. 10% of the proceeds will go to HealthyKids International, a SickKids Foundation initiative dedicated to improving children's healthcare around the world." At the bottom, there is an illustration of a brown Christofle shopping bag and the store's address: "Christofle 150 Bloor St West Toronto, Ontario M5S 2X9 416.925.5534". A small disclaimer at the bottom right of the graphic states: "Valid on May 2, 2009 at the Christofle boutique in Toronto, Ontario. One per customer. Some restrictions apply. See store for details."

10% of the proceeds will go to HealthyKids International, a SickKids Foundation initiative dedicated to improving children's healthcare around the world.

[Christofle](#)

150 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2X9  
416-925-5534

[Click here](#) for map & directions.

**Valid on May 2, 2009 at the Christofle boutique in Toronto, Ontario. One per customer. some restrictions apply. See store for details.**

## HKI is now on Twitter!

Log onto [http://twitter.com/Healthy\\_Kids](http://twitter.com/Healthy_Kids) and see what we're up to.

HKI is also in the process of revamping its website and marketing materials. Do you have any feedback? Alternatively, do you have any questions or concerns about our programs or how you can become involved?

Email us at [info@healthykidsinternational.com](mailto:info@healthykidsinternational.com). We would love to hear from you.

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**HealthyKids**  
INTERNATIONAL

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