


**JANUARY 2009 - ISSUE 5 CONTENTS:**

- Forging Ahead through Difficult Times
- HealthyKids International Programs: An Update on Our Continued Success
- The CHANEL Fashion Show: An Evening to Remember

**The President's Report:**

## Forging Ahead through Difficult Times

Like everyone else, HealthyKids International is feeling the effects of this economic downturn. As a result, SickKids Foundation as a whole is making some significant changes to prepare for the challenging market conditions. These changes have been designed to cut costs across the board while maintaining a relentless focus on our fundraising goals.

And yet it is often the darkest times that beget the most brilliant inspiration. They force us to tackle challenges in perhaps less conventional yet more resourceful ways. Over the last few months, the HKI team has invested a significant amount of energy developing, nurturing and presenting some incredibly innovative and exciting fundraising opportunities. The first of our initiatives to bear fruit was the CHANEL fashion show, held on November 27th. Inarguably, it was an overwhelming success. The glamorous evening (which will be discussed in greater detail below), served as HKI's "coming-out party", and raised \$1M for our program. The event proved that unconventional thinking, a partnership with maverick collaborators, the overwhelming generosity of a world-renown brand and the goodwill of a community can yield the most fantastic of results. Thank you so very much to everyone who helped make the night such a hit!

The CHANEL event certainly gave us excellent traction. And as you will read in this newsletter, we continue to develop and expand our Fellowship Program, and we are currently applying for CIDA funding (in conjunction with the Hospital's Office of International Affairs) to develop the Global Child Health Program - currently consisting of four new African programs. In the end, we must remind ourselves that all things are cyclical, and the economy will eventually come back. While we await that day, we must continue to be creative and persistent in our fundraising efforts. As seasonal celebrations continue all around the planet, we remain motivated by the important role HealthyKids International maintains in the global pursuit of Healthier Children. A Better World.

In addition to wishing you and your family a safe, happy and healthy New Year, this newsletter allows me to share that I am leaving my role as President of the SickKids Foundation and HealthyKids International at the end of January. I have decided to pursue my life-long dream of returning to academic life and am pursuing a Masters Degree in Theology. Of course, I will continue to support fundraising efforts at SickKids, as well as other meaningful causes, in any way I can.

Thank you for believing in SickKids.

Michael O'Mahoney

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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HealthyKids International Programs:

## An Update on Our Continued Success

### Fellowship

Dr. Manish Parakh, HKI Indian Fellow



HealthyKids International is very happy to announce that our fourth Indian Fellow, **Dr. Manish Parakh**, started his Fellowship at SickKids on the 1st of November. Dr. Parakh currently holds the title of Assistant Professor of Pediatric Medicine at the Dr. S.N. Medical College in Jodhpur. He will be spending his Fellowship in the Department of Neurology and his objectives for his fellowship include acquiring increased knowledge and skills to manage paediatric epilepsy, to perform paediatric neuro-diagnosis, and to learn about interventional neurology. Dr. Parakh would also like to gain the skills to develop clinical facilities to create a developmental neurology program for spastic children at his home institution.

HKI is also currently going through the recruitment process for the next cycle of in-country Fellows, from India, Rwanda, China and Kenya. As well, we are presently working with SickKids Program Directors in the Division of Cardiology and the Department of Ophthalmology to identify promising and committed Fellows – from India, Jordan and Guyana – who have already been accepted by the Hospital in the sub-specialties of their fields. These Fellows have already demonstrated significant achievements, performance and contributions to clinical care at SickKids, and have requested an additional session of training to further advance their skills prior to returning to their countries of origin.

### HKI and the Global Child Health Program (GCHP)

We are very excited to announce four new community health programs in Africa!

The GCHP is a collective strategy of international outreach activities undertaken by SickKids, as part of a global solution to improve children's health and strengthen health systems worldwide. Our primary focus is to develop innovative, effective and sustainable projects that meet the child health needs of our partnering organizations in Africa. The four programs within this initiative are: Benin, where we will be working to create the Global Sickle Cell Disease Network; Ethiopia where we will develop capacity in surgery and paediatrics; Ghana, where we will drive paediatric nursing training; and Tanzania, where we will concentrate on improving overall child health.

Activities within the GCHP will focus on developing capacity in paediatric education and training, leadership in applied health research and improving the dissemination of health care knowledge between institutions, health care workers and communities to improve the delivery of care to children. With this approach we can strengthen institutional relationships and align our global child health initiatives with the strategic priorities of our developing nation partners and international health and development agencies.

As the weeks progress, we will be providing you with more detail with regard to the individual programs. The GCHP's affiliation with SickKids Foundation, HealthyKids International and the University of Toronto contribute to an ability to engage with NGOs, the private sector, and individual Canadians in knowledge transfer activities. Through our expertise in paediatrics and our ability to support sustainable development and strengthen health systems, we are uniquely positioned to achieve our vision of *Healthier Children. A Better World.*

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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The CHANEL Fashion Show:  
**An Evening to Remember**

CHANEL Foyer (Photo by George Pimentel)



On November 27th, CHANEL held their first fashion show in ten years, with proceeds raised going to support HealthyKids International. Organized by a fabulous committee of co-chairs and orchestrated by an amazing team of volunteers, it was a truly glamorous and magical affair. The evening, hosted by fashionista Jeanne Becker, was attended by approximately 600 guests, who enjoyed a sumptuous meal, an exciting live auction and a spectacular fashion show.

CHANEL Lounge (Photo by George Pimentel)



Irit Shay, Founding Chair (Photo by George Pimentel)



Guests were also entertained by the incredibly talented Canadian Tenors, who delivered a beautiful performance during dinner. Acknowledgement and appreciation must go to George Friedman, who not only donated the food for the evening, but also made a \$40,000 gift to HKI through the live auction. Special thanks must also go to Mrs. Irit Shay, a member of our Board of Directors and the Founding Chair of the event, who deftly orchestrated the collaboration between CHANEL and HKI.

The CHANEL event proved that even (possibly especially) during trying economic times, a philanthropically-minded community will rally around a worthy cause. It is because of the overwhelming generosity of these individuals and organizations – chairs, committee members, sponsors, and attendees alike – that over \$1M was raised to benefit HealthyKids International.

We are tremendously grateful.

CHANEL Dinner (Photo by George Pimentel)



[\[Return to top\]](#)

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