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## How are you inspiring change?

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### [Infante Sano Inspires Big Changes at Hospital Villa Fundacion](#)

Last month, we shared with you the exciting news of our sixth clinical partner site, Hospital Villa Fundacion. September has been a busy month for our field team in the DR; much of which has been spent focused on making Hospital Villa Fundacion a center of excellence of maternal, newborn and infant health. We have renovated and equipped the maternal/neonatal department of the Hospital to enable the staff to provide "*humanized births*" and improve the quality of care for both mothers and newborns. Women are now giving birth in labor beds in the seated position without episiotomies or unnecessary medical intervention and nursing their newborns immediately, accompanied by family members. This is a radical departure from previous standards of care and the care provided in other hospitals in the DR.



In the past eight years NO *primiparas* (women having their first baby) have delivered at Hospital Villa Fundacion because it was erroneously thought to be too risky. In the past month, we have had NINE births at the Hospital, THREE of which were women having their first babies. The community and hospital staff now know that it is not only safe, but desirable to deliver at the community hospital. We're bringing confidence back to Hospital Villa Fundacion through our programs. One of the staff physicians participated in the Infante Sano Neonatal Resuscitation Training one morning and needed to use their skills that same afternoon when a baby was born needing resuscitation. The doctor was able to perform the procedure with confidence and mother and baby are fine.

We're so inspired by the changes we are witnessing at Hospital Villa Fundacion and we hope you are too. Help us to replicate this model in new partner sites by contributing to Infante Sano online at <http://www.infantesano.org/donate.php>.

Thanks for all of your continued support!

## **New Projects Sponsored Through Kids to Kids**

Kids to Kids received over 50 grant applications in this September's grant cycle for projects supporting arts, sports and education in Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and El Salvador! Every application was reviewed by Kids to Kids Members and our Youth Advisory Board. We'll be announcing the grant awards and posting information about the projects we'll be supporting through this initiative very soon, so stay tuned in.

In the meantime, check out [www.kidstokids.org](http://www.kidstokids.org) for more information about the program. You might be inspired to get involved or pass that inspiration on to a kid in your life!



## **Inspiration from the Field: Empowering Nurses is Vital**

### **Naomi Pfohl, Infante Sano Volunteer**

During the past two months, I have had the great pleasure of working closely with the nursing staff at Hospital Villa Fundación in an effort to enrich their patient care practices and nursing skills. As a student nurse volunteering with Infante Sano, one of my tasks has been integrating routine vital sign checks into nursing practice. Monitoring a patient's vital signs is a basic standard of quality patient care, and especially important during pregnancy, labor and delivery. Previously, nurses did not follow a protocol for when to check vital signs and only consistently took temperatures.



This month, we held a one-day training seminar for the nurses of Villa Fundación. During this seminar, we reviewed each individual vital sign, including: heart rate, respiratory rate, temperature and blood pressure, and discussed how they are measured and why. We followed up after the training with a tutorial during which nurses were given time to practice taking blood pressures on each other. The nurses responded enthusiastically to our class and have been practicing frequently on each other and have incorporated routine vital sign checks into their clinical practice.

I look forward to watching the progress made in Villa Fundación over my next 3 months in the Dominican Republic and am confident that the changes will be positive ones.

*Naomi Pfohl is a nursing student at Northeastern University and in the midst of completing a 6-month volunteer experience with Infante Sano in the Dominican Republic. Naomi has been sharing her skills with the nurses at Villa Fundación and will continue as an integral part of our training team for the next several months!*

## **Phillips Beth Israel Begins School Year with IS Fundraiser!**

One of our partners, Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing (PBISN) kicked off the 2009/2010 school year with a fundraiser for Infante Sano!

PBISN has set a goal to raise \$5000 in support of Infante Sano's high quality programs before the end of 2009. New and returning students welcomed the beginning of the fall semester and learned more about Infante Sano's work to improve maternal, newborn and child health through school's Annual Picnic, and they are off to a strong start!



*Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing offers an Associate's Degree in Nursing*

program in Manhattan, the heart of New York City. PBISN and Infante Sano began a partnership in 2009 to establish a nursing cultural exchange program for students. A group of PBISN students spent a week in March of 2009 visiting Infante Sano's clinical partner sites and experiencing nursing in the Dominican Republic. The school is committed to increasing support and awareness for Infante Sano and our work to improve maternal, newborn and child health. A second group of nursing students is slated to visit the Dominican Republic in the spring of 2010.

## **September Supporter Spotlight: Lauren Nadeau**

Our Supporter Spotlight for September is on Lauren Nadeau, a 13 year-old from Cranston, Rhode Island. Lauren, a Kids to Kids Member, worked hard all summer long to raise funds in support of the Kids to Kids Initiative. She's raised enough to support SIX projects from our September grant cycle. Her fundraising efforts went so well she even caught the eye of her hometown newspaper, the [Cranston Herald](#).

Also, check out Lauren's blog, where she talks about the experience of being a Kids to Kids Member and what it means to her at <http://kidstokids.org/blog/>

Do you have an idea for a creative way to raise funds and support? You just might be our next Supporter Spotlight! Email Jacque at [jacquelyn@infantesano.org](mailto:jacquelyn@infantesano.org).



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