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# Newsletter

 **Special Envoy**  
for Women & Children

## THE PAEDIATRIC INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

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### DONATE!

Support the construction of the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital! Donations can be made to Belize Bank account: 695-1-1-74982 or cheques made out to "NCFC Special Envoy" can be sent to 4792 Coney Drive, 6th Floor Withfield Tower, Belize City, Belize.

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# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Construction of the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit is progressing at a promising pace. The foundation and flooring were first to be completed. All beams, including those for the roof have also been casted. Brick work has now begun and almost all exterior walls have been completed. Interior walls are now being started and the roof will be cemented shortly. Aside from the progress of the concrete structure, plumbing works have also begun. Despite delays caused by the weather in the last months of 2013, construction is back on schedule.



# EQUIPMENT DONATION

## The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency donates to the PICU

The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) is making a generous donation of US\$100,000 in new equipment to the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU).

In 2013, the office of the Special Envoy for Women and Children, Mrs. Kim Simplis Barrow, reached out to the Belize Honorary Consul in Turkey, Mr. Mustafa Cikrikcioglu, who offered to assist with garnering support for the project.



Mr. Cikrikcioglu met with the President of TIKA, Dr. Serdar Çam, and secured a donation that includes patient beds, a defibrillator, ventilator, nebulizer, pulse oxymeter along with other medical equipment and accessories that will be needed for the PICU.

The equipment were packed and shipped from Turkey in December 2013 and arrived in Belize in early February, 2014. The equipment is being stored at the KMHM until the construction is completed.



While visiting Turkey in February, 2014, Mrs. Kim Simplis Barrow had the opportunity to meet both Honorary Consul, Mr. Mustafa Cikrikcioglu and TIKA President, Dr. Serdar Çam and personally thank them working together to make this donation a reality. The equipment being given to the PICU will help to ensure that the unit can provide the specialized care needed by the precious patients that will be cared for.

Once again, a big thank you to TIKA and Belize's Honorary Consul in Turkey!



## Dr. Adrian Coyo Director of Medical Services KHMH

### Q. How important is this new Paediatric Intensive Care Unit to the country of Belize?

A. The KHMH is the only Tertiary Care level Public Hospital for the country of Belize. It has to fulfill this role for the Neonatal and Pediatric population. In fulfilling this role, patients are referred for Intensive Care services, including mechanical ventilation. The historic construction of a specially designed, modern PICU /NICU will transform the way in which these patients are managed here at the KHMH.

### Q. What gaps in services can this unit fill?

A. Historically and currently, these two groups of patients have had to undergo this type of care in areas that were not designed for such

specialized services. Despite this and the additional constraints of limited space, these patients have been getting the care. Occasionally, pediatric cases may end up in the adult ICU or even being ventilated on the ward. This has been a result of true need and though not ideal has resulted in the successful management of complex cases. Neonates have also had to be ventilated in a room with a mixed population of ventilated and non-ventilated cases, with the limitation of space being a significant risk for nosocomial infections.

### Q. How will this unit benefit the KHMH as an institution and particularly the staff working in paediatrics?

This will result in having each subgroup of the population (Paediatric/Neonatal) being

managed in a dedicated clinical area rather than in multiple locations and avoiding situations of overcrowding. This new environment and the attendant upgrade of the staff involved in the care for these very precious individuals will give them the best possible chance of surviving the many challenges resulting in their being there in the first place.

### Q. Since the KHMH does not have a dedicated Paediatric Intensive Care Unit, what kind of provisions are currently in place for critically ill children and babies?

With the closure of the “old NICU”, an area on the Pediatric ward had to be converted to house the neonates. This has certainly been an upgrade from the older situation but will be a bridge until the new PICU/NICU is completed.

