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Events Calendar

| January 2009 | | | | | | |
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Upcoming Events

- 1/12 [Oratorio society rehearsal](#)
- 1/12 [Webcast with the Experts: the housing and mortgage crisis in Virginia](#)
- 1/12 [James Wood High Indoor Track Meet](#)
- 1/16 [Introduction to "The Law of Attraction" class](#)
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Nonprofit helps victims of May quake in China

By Jason Kane
The Winchester Star

Millwood — Earthquake victims in China will soon be on the mend with the aid of two giant health-care companies and a Clarke County nonprofit.

Project HOPE, a Millwood-based international health education and assistance organization, has received grants from Johnson & Johnson and The Baxter International Foundation to help Chinese citizens heal from a massive earthquake that struck last May.

The quake in Sichuan Province registered 8.0 on the Richter Scale and killed 69,000 people — 15,000 of whom were children.

It also left behind 370,000 injured Chinese citizens. Seventy thousand of them require long-term rehabilitation services.

Johnson & Johnson provided an unspecified amount of funding for a 16-month project that will develop and test training materials and certification guidelines for rehabilitation professionals.

The initiative will also pilot a community-based rehabilitation model that can be replicated at the national level. Officials hope the effort will better position China to respond to disasters in the future.

The Baxter International Foundation — the philanthropic arm of the health-care company Baxter International Inc. — donated \$175,000 for Project HOPE's ongoing efforts to train medical personnel and care for victims of the disaster.

The HOPE efforts will begin just in time, officials say.

"There are many people moving back now after the earthquake," said Qian Geng, Project HOPE's regional director of China. "Currently, there is almost nothing [in terms of support services] on the ground."

Geng said equipment for the rehabilitation services will be installed this month, training will begin in March, and services will kick off immediately afterward.

"We want to try to build the capacity of the system to make sure rehabilitation services will be standardized across the country by the end of the three-year program," she said. No such standards exist at the moment, she added.

Throughout the process, Project HOPE plans to implement its signature "training the training models," in which medical personnel teach their peers the most effective health-care techniques so that the program becomes sustainable.

When an earthquake in 1988 leveled entire cities in Armenia, HOPE

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workers provided emergency relief and arranged airlifts for dozens of the most seriously injured children to the United States.

Officials and volunteers, meanwhile, stayed in Armenia to improve long-term care for the other children, establishing pediatric rehabilitation units and training Armenian colleagues in the latest advances in rehabilitative therapy, orthopedic surgery, and critical care.

The organization's volunteers rushed humanitarian aid to war-ravaged Bosnia in 1992, and later established a physical therapy rehabilitation program to help hundreds of people get well.

For the past 25 years, HOPE has been training Chinese medical personnel and conducting a variety of humanitarian missions.

Last year, it celebrated the 10th anniversary of Shanghai Children's Medical Center, which its staff helped to open in 1998.

www.projecthope.org

— Contact Jason Kane at jkane@winchesterstar.com



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