

### How you can help:

This brochure is your invitation to join the effort to reduce maternal and newborn mortality among the under-served. Mercy In Action has been establishing birth centers and training midwives in urban squatter areas and isolated rural communities for decades. All our birth centers, clinics and midwives are supported by donations, so that there is no cost to the patients. Your donations allow us to provide free midwifery and medical services to the poor and indigent women who could otherwise not afford to have a trained birth attendant. Donations are what help us keep childbirth safe by operating clean and well-stocked birth centers, attending homebirths in rural areas, and providing emergency care when needed to save lives.

**Vicki Penwell**, LM, CPM, founded Mercy In Action to utilize the midwifery model of care in reducing the shockingly high mortality rates of both mothers and babies during childbirth in the developing world. She and her family have worked in the Philippines since 1991, and have to date provided more than 12,000 deliveries free of charge for the poorest of the poor. Vicki also

teaches midwifery and primary health care skills all over the world. Here Vicki is holding baby Nicole, who delivered breech due to a spinal meningocoele. Mercy In Action is paying all medical expenses.



### Money Donations:

Mercy In Action is very grass-roots; we depend on individual people who hear the needs and determine to care by donating money. Your monetary commitment can be a one-time gift, or even better, an ongoing amount to be auto-withdrawn monthly from your checking account or credit card. Loyal monthly contributors are the heartbeat of this organization, allowing us to budget for the needs as they arise. Of course one-time gifts are always welcome for special projects. Please see the back of this brochure for ways to donate. All donations are tax-deductible and much appreciated.

### Supplies Donations:

Another way you can help Mercy In Action save lives is by sending donations of supplies. Your donations are critical because our patients cannot afford vitamins, medicines or other supplies for their prenatal care and delivery.

The following items would be much appreciated and can be mailed directly to the Philippines, see back page for our local address:

- ▶ Gloves sterile and non-sterile
- ▶ Cord clamps
- ▶ Vitamins Prenatal, Multi-vitamins, and Iron
- ▶ Chux underpads
- ▶ Sutures (absorbable)
- ▶ Lubricating jelly, (K-Y)
- ▶ Syringes (1cc and 3cc)
- ▶ Goldenseal capsules
- ▶ Antibiotic ointment

**The Megan Allen Memorial** was started after Vicki's 3-year-old niece died in a tragic accident. In Megan's honor, this memorial provides three things: surgery for babies born with birth defects such as cleft palate or spina-bifida; warm coverings to prevent cold stress (a common cause of death among newborns in developing countries); and the assurance that no unwanted baby will be thrown away if we can prevent it. Money raised pays for surgeries, hospitalizations, and costs involved in doing whatever we can to give a newborn baby a fighting chance at life. See back page for ways to donate.

### Blanket and Hat Donations

Proper warmth for newborns has been proven to be a factor in infant survival. As available, we try to give each baby we deliver a new baby blanket and a hat. We have groups and individuals who knit, crochet, or sew these items for us, and we can always use more. Store-bought or hand-made items can be shipped directly to Philippine address.

