

# Celebrating 25 Years

## Task Force sees the faces of global health

By KYMBERLEE ESTIS

As you enter the lobby of the colonial building on the edge of campus, you are immediately aware of the heart and mission of this non-profit organization.

A gallery of photos graces the entry. There are large photos of families, children, elderly, a mother and child. A list of programs faces those photos in the lobby. As you look around and take it all in, you may be surprised to learn these are the faces of people who live in communities just a pill away from being ravaged by blinding and debilitating diseases which are widespread among the poor in Africa, Latin America, and Asia while essentially eradicated in the richer countries. In fact, facilitating the donation of drugs necessary to fight disease is only one aspect of the Task Force for Global Health, whose programs reside in this building.

The Task Force is also home to a national program to help public health agencies exchange and apply best practices in the design of information systems, a program to develop a network among public health practitioners and students in developing nations, a program to train health professionals and caregivers in parenting skills critical for child development, a global polio eradication initiative involving collaboration among the world's leading health organizations, a Center focused on convening organizations, leaders, and communities to improve global health policies, and an organization dedicated to improving global road safety in developing countries.

There is a quote on the wall of the lobby, reigning above the photos. It is attributed to Dr. Bill Foege, global health leader and founder of the Task Force. It reads: "If the Task Force is to maintain the reputation it now enjoys, it will be because in everything we do, behind everything we say, as the basis for every program decision we make – we are willing to see faces." This quote gets at the heart of the Task Force. "These faces in our lobby keep us focused on our mission and our values," notes Task Force



At the Task Force Open House, Director Mark Rosenberg presented a plaque naming a conference room in honor of Walter Dowdle, director of the Global Polio Eradication program.

Executive Director Dr. Mark Rosenberg. "They mark a very important place. The building needed a lot of renovation to accommodate staff, but we also knew that our story and legacy needed to be evident from the moment a visitor entered our building."

The organization chose the phrase Seeing the Faces as the theme of the Capital Campaign and 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Task Force, both of which are taking place this year.

In honor of the Anniversary, the Task Force invited partners and friends to an Open House in May. Task Force staff greeted old friends and colleagues at the event, including longtime partners from the World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The Carter Center, CARE, as well as a host of Emory colleagues from several campus departments.



Dr. Foege addressed the gathering of nearly 140 guests at the Task Force Open House, noting the value of the Task Force in building coalitions throughout global health.



Board members Jane Thorpe and Pete McTier, and Task Force advisor Bo Spalding were on hand for the Anniversary event.



Mark Rosenberg and Task Force founder Bill Foege discussed the initial vision and 25-year legacy of the organization.



Joe Arnold (SunTrust Bank) and Bo Spalding (Jackson-Spalding) joined in celebrating the legacy of the organization as a convener.

## A year of firsts for Task Force

By KYMBERLEE ESTIS

The Task Force is celebrating 25 years and a year of firsts in 2009.

This year, the Task Force saw the number of drug treatments coordinated through its longstanding partnerships exceed 600 million treatments.

This year, the Task Force launched the second phase of its first ever capital campaign— a three-year \$1.5 million campaign for building renovations. And, this year, two established international programs joined the organization: Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET) and the International Trachoma Initiative (ITI). These are just a few of the many milestones that this quar-

ter-century old organization can use to describe its impact on the state of global health today.

Though its programs, the Task Force is also contributing to the eradication of polio, to the strengthening of public policy for road safety worldwide, to an innovative approach for developing public health information systems, to training 1700 child care providers in parenting skills and child development, and to protecting communities and generations from the deadly and disfiguring neglected tropical diseases.

All of this happens under one roof. And, in fact, theirs is a relatively new roof – the Task Force recently celebrated its first anniversary in the only building it has ever owned.



The former Task Force logo was moved from the lobby to make room for the new logo.



CAMPAIGN MILESTONE

Task Force reaches halfway in first capital campaign



The Task Force honored donors to its first ever Capital Campaign. L to R: Joseph A. Arnold; Edward T. (Tom) Summers; Paula Lawton Bevington; Jane Thorpe; P. Russell Hardin and Mark Rosenberg. Bevington chairs the task Force Capital Campaign and Thorpe chairs the Board.

In 2007, the Task Force purchased a building to house the growing number of programs and emerging projects of the Task Force. “The Task Force has traditionally been very low key because we have always felt it more important to give the credit to our partners,” noted Dr. Rosenberg. “This Campaign will help us introduce the Task Force, and explain our role in supporting effective public –private partnerships in public health. Every one of our programs leverages resources for global health. For example, we house several programs that partner with pharmaceutical companies to match underserved people around the world with the drugs that are necessary for them to fight life-threatening infectious diseases Last year, the Task Force helped to secure a commitment from Pfizer to donate as much Zithromax as would be needed to eliminate blinding trachoma around the world, a donation valued at one billion dollars for this year. This is due, in part, to our ability to

bring organizations and programs together under one roof and generate the discussion and collaboration that changes lives. Our new location and the proximity to partners helps us generate new synergies among our own programs and outreach outside of the Task Force.”

The building renovations include:

- Environmentally — friendly carpet and paint, along with energy-efficient lighting, insulated windows, and proximity to public transportation and Emory shuttle services
- Recycling centers located on each floor
- Staff offices arranged in “neighborhood clusters” of similar programs or programs with similar audiences - to encourage exchange and collaboration among program staff
- Gathering spaces for informal team meetings on each floor



Bill Foege points out a feature of the Task Force timeline mural to Jim Curran. The Task Force timeline mural was a project of newly retired staff member Mary Ann Fenley, who combed through hundreds of photos and documentation to chronicle the history.

- Large conference room designed for training, workgroup or advisory meetings, or web presentations
- Exhibit areas to showcase the work of Task Force programs, in terms of the people engaged and supported through the organization’s mission, including a timeline mural chronicling the milestones of the organization.

The training facilities, meeting spaces, and floorplans of the new building encourage collaborative and innovative decision making. Each renovation supports the partnerships and working relationships that are the foundation of the Task Force. These renovations give each program the opportunity to convene people affected by this work and the people that can help achieve larger goals for global health.

“The renovations allow us to realize our campaign tagline, ‘Seeing the Faces’” said Paula Lawton Bevington, member of the Task Force Board and

chair of the Capital Campaign. “The reconfigured work space lends itself much better to collaboration. The old building design did not express our culture, which is one of teamwork. Now our people in programs focused on similar communities, or those who do their work with similar partners, can take advantage of that synergy. The people we help and the other global health programs rely on us to understand the issues and leverage the right resources. We work best when we see the faces-the ultimate beneficiaries of our work.”

Dr. Rosenberg added, “With every program, and with new partnerships in global health, the Task Force increases the depth and breadth of outreach to those most in need, i.e., the bottom billion. Our impact is in our ability to reach out to people and organizations.

When we succeed in bridging the gap between resources and people in need, we help other organizations see opportunity for success as well.”

PROGRAMS

We have 10 programs housed at the Task Force. All have a common theme of working collaboratively in global health – either through partnerships, training, or providing resources for underserved populations:

- Center for Child Well-being
- Center for Global Health Collaboration
- Children Without Worms
- Global Polio Eradication
- Global Road Safety Forum
- International Trachoma Initiative
- Lymphatic Filariasis Support Center
- Mectizan Donation Program
- Public Health Informatics Institute
- Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network

For more information about the impact of our work, or to learn more about our programs and the Task Force Capital Campaign, please visit our website: [www.taskforce.org/anniversary](http://www.taskforce.org/anniversary)



THE TASK FORCE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH – AT A GLANCE

- ADDRESS: 325 Swanton Way, Decatur, Georgia  
WEB SITE: [www.taskforce.org/anniversary](http://www.taskforce.org/anniversary)
- 55 Employees (as of June 2009) with 11 M.D.’s, 3 Ph.D.’s, and 25 staff with Master’s Degrees
  - 10 Programs focused on building coalitions to improve global health
  - Founded in 1984 by Bill Foege, Carol Walters, and Bill Watson
  - Previously known as The Task Force for Child Survival and Development
  - Organization renamed in 2008 to better reflect a broader mission of global health
  - New anniversary webpages launched in April, with a rotating display of photos to present an overview of the work and legacy of the Task Force

THE TASK FORCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Board Members:**  
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Partner, Alston and Bird Law Firm
- Paula Lawton Bevington**  
Principal, Bevington Advisors, LLC; Chair, The Task Force Capital Campaign
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