

Do women fear labor? Absolutely!

Pregnancy and childbirth are the leading causes of death and disability among women worldwide. In some countries, a woman's chance of death during childbirth is one in eight. Worldwide, there are 1,000 maternal deaths each day. Most of the deaths are preventable.

One in 10 newborns will require resuscitation at birth. Each year, millions of babies are poorly resuscitated, leading to lifelong disability or death. Simple training to assist a baby in breathing at birth could help prevent this.



Medical staff in many countries want to learn healthcare techniques that are routine in the western world. We have seen firsthand how expanding education with hands-on training can improve safety and enhance childbirth for many women.

Kybele (Key-bell-a) connects people globally to protect the health and dignity of pregnant women and newborns.



Teach him to fish: he'll eat for a lifetime."
ancient African proverb

Kybele... from the cradle of civilization



In 7000 B.C. Anatolia was the center of agricultural and community development. During this period, Kybele was known and respected as the Mother goddess. Hundreds of clay Kybele figurines have been found in archeological excavations in what is now Turkey. The statuettes depict the fertility goddess as a woman sitting on a throne, giving birth, surrounded by leopards.

Today, Kybele once again symbolizes hope for the future – a future that offers every mother the opportunity to experience childbirth in a supportive environment. Safe childbirth makes a difference in the lives of mothers, babies and families of the world.



In 1997 Dr. Medge Owen, Professor of Obstetric Anesthesia at Wake Forest University, received a Fulbright scholarship to teach in Turkey. During her teaching assignment, she helped implement programs in obstetric anesthesia and newborn resuscitation that have been sustained. After returning home, Dr. Owen searched for ways to continue to improve childbirth conditions in Turkey and in other countries. From that search, Kybele was founded.

Vision of Kybele

To ensure that every pregnant woman is provided a safe delivery with access to pain medication and compassion by well trained healthcare workers who can respond quickly and effectively in the event of emergency.



...for safe childbirth worldwide

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Kybele

Incorporated



...for safe
childbirth
worldwide

Everyday in some countries, an expectant mother faces a dilemma. Her joy may be overshadowed by pain and the fear of death during childbirth.



Imagine you are pregnant. You've received little prenatal education and don't know what to expect. Arriving at the hospital in labor, you are taken away from your family and put in a room alone, or with other laboring women who are strangers. Afraid and in tremendous pain, you have little privacy. You are in labor for a day without any medication to relieve the pain and are exhausted. When you finally give birth, your baby doesn't cry. Everyone looks around wondering what to do. The nurse slaps the baby in hopes he will cry but he doesn't. Your baby becomes limp and turns blue. You are terrified... Sadly, this is the reality for many women in the world today.

“Give a man a fish, he'll eat for a day.

Mission of Kybele

Kybele is a non-profit 501(c)(3) humanitarian organization dedicated to improving childbirth safety worldwide through medical education partnerships.

Kybele teams travel into host countries to work alongside physicians and nurses in their home hospitals to improve standards of care. Using evidence-based guidelines, Kybele teams develop country specific programs incorporating local infrastructure and culture. Volunteers model multidisciplinary teamwork and compassion during the actual care of patients in labor wards and operating rooms.



Formula for Success

The Kybele model works. We utilize:

- **International diversity** – Medical volunteers come from over 50 institutions in North America, Europe, and Australia. Many are repeat volunteers.
- **Multidisciplinary teamwork** – Anesthesiologists, obstetricians, nurses, midwives, neonatologists, equipment engineers, internists and others all work together.
- **On-site training** – We work within a country for 1-2 weeks providing didactic and hands-on training. We re-visit program sites and monitor improvements.
- **Cost efficiency** – We work within a country's existing infrastructure of medications and supplies, but bring donated equipment and textbooks when available. Volunteers donate their time and travel expenses and host hospitals bear some of the program costs.
- **Leadership development** – We identify and build healthcare leaders within a country, who are included in international symposia and outreach to other hospitals, promoting a spirit of equality and cooperation.

Kybele's innovative approach allows us to quickly implement sustainable interventions at a minimal cost, in a wide variety of cultures and conditions.

Evidence of Success

Initially, Kybele was dedicated to providing women less painful deliveries. Now, the organization utilizes diverse teams to train colleagues in whatever needs to be done to ensure safe delivery.



A few examples of the remarkable impact Kybele has made in host countries include:

- Ghana – There have been measurable reductions in maternal and newborn death and efforts are expanding to other facilities.
- Mongolia – An OBGYN laparoscopic surgery program was developed.
- Croatia – The use of regional anesthesia for obstetrics increased and national safety protocols were established.
- Republic of Georgia – Kybele lobbied the health ministry to gain essential medications, previously unavailable.
- Turkey – The Kybele program made national headlines in print and on television.

I wish to express my profound gratitude to all members of the Kybele team. We are already missing you. We believe we are making progress because of your support in diverse ways. The entire country, Ghana, will soon realize of the worth of Kybele. At the right time, Kybele will be written in gold in the history of maternity services in Ghana.

God richly bless you.

Dr. Emmanuel Srofenyoh

*Head of OBGYN,
Ridge Regional Hospital
Accra, Ghana*



Kybele – competence, compassion, commitment, collaboration and cultural understanding.



Your tax-deductible gift to Kybele will make a difference in our world.

Your donation will support Kybele programs worldwide.

Yes, I want to help Kybele in the quest to reduce maternal and newborn mortality worldwide through education and training.

- \$1000 \$500 \$300 \$100 \$50 \$_____
- I would like to support Kybele with my monthly donation of:
- \$100 \$50 \$25 \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please make checks payable to Kybele, Inc.

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For credit card contributions:

- Visa MasterCard

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Three Digit Security Number: _____

Signature: _____

Donations can also be made online through Paypal (Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover)

The accomplishments made since your previous visits are astounding. The reception of the Georgian people to the information and the willingness to change their practice is amazing.

*Julie Fritz, CRNA
Duke University,
Kybele Team Member*



Safe childbirth is a basic human right.

Our volunteer teams work hard to ensure higher health standards for women and newborns in the world. We also sponsor physicians and nurses abroad to visit U.S. hospitals to observe childbirth practices. These interactions have led to deepening relationships among academic institutions worldwide.

*Dear Shelma,
I don't know how to thank you for your wonderful compassion and cooperation during those heart breaking and tragic moments. I don't know what else would have happened if you hadn't been there. "The foot that travels abroad cannot afford to be clumsy" speaks volumes of your love, your character and compassion. You've left a print in our memory. My wife always speaks about you.* Seth Dogbe

A letter from a patient's husband, to Shelma Williams, labor nurse, and Kybele Team Member. The Dogbe's next child was named "Shelma Bell" in her honor.

Safe childbirth makes a difference in the lives of mothers, babies and families of the world.

Women and babies worldwide deserve the right to a safe birth.