

News Release

"Sunshine saving lives" project wins first **UBS Optimus Prize**

Zurich/Basel, 28 May 2015- Dr. Laura Stachel, a CNN Top Ten Hero of 2013 and co-founder of We Care Solar, will be awarded today the inaugural USD 100,000 UBS Optimus Prize for saving the lives of women and newborns through Solar Suitcases. The award will be presented at TEDWomen 2015.

We Care Solar Suitcases capture the sun's energy during the day and provides a reliable source of electricity at night in health clinics in poor rural areas. These areas lack even the most basic energy infrastructure, and the results are all too often tragic. Each year, over a quarter of a million mothers die of pregnancy-related complications and two million babies die in the first month of life, often in health centers without reliable electricity. And that's where Solar Suitcases come in.

This low-cost and easy to use green technology, coupled with training for local health workers, has helped improve mother and infant survival rates significantly in some of the poorest regions of the world. Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization, has described the solar suitcases as "sunshine saving lives". And the United Nations is building upon We Care Solar's work by launching a "High Impact Opportunity on Energy for Women and Children's Health." Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations, said about the program: "As we know, a pregnant woman can go into labor at any time. Her survival should not depend on daylight. That is why new initiatives like the solar suitcase are so valuable."

Accepting the award, Dr. Stachel said, "I am honored to receive the first UBS Optimus Prize. I would like to dedicate this to the countless health workers who work through the night in remote areas helping save the lives of vulnerable women and their newborns. But they cannot save those lives – and preserve those families and communities – without support. With medical lighting, cell phone charging, and fetal monitoring provided by the Solar Suitcase, health clinics can function through the night...and lives can be saved."

Disaster relief in Nepal

The UBS Optimus Foundation is funding 100 solar suitcases, some of which are already being used in Nepal helping to deal with the terrible aftermath of the recent earthquakes. The suitcases will be used by local partner organization One Heart Worldwide for emergency medical care with a focus on obstetric and maternal needs in remote locations. In the longer term, the suitcases will be used to serve rural health outposts without access to electricity.

"To date, UBS Optimus Foundation has committed over 1.5 million Swiss francs to We Care Solar programs across Africa and Asia. And we are proud to be supporting the development of the next generation of suitcases that will move them from being good to great news for mothers and newborns," said Phyllis Costanza, CEO UBS Optimus Foundation.

Notes to Editors

About the UBS Optimus Prize

The award will be presented by Phyllis Costanza, CEO UBS Optimus Foundation, at this year's TEDWomen 2015 event held in Monterey, CA (May 27-29). The USD 100,000 unrestricted grant will be awarded every other year to the UBS Optimus Foundation grantee who has demonstrated remarkable

innovation which has measurably improved children's health, education and/or protection and positioned to scale.

About this year's winner

Dr. Laura Stachel, the co-founder and Executive Director of We Care Solar, was one of the CNN Top 10 Heroes in 2013 and has also received the Katerva Award ("Nobel Prize for Sustainability") among others. A board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist with fourteen years of clinical experience, her life changed when her research project on maternal mortality in Nigeria in 2008 alerted her to the deleterious effects of energy poverty on maternal health outcomes. Along with Hal Aronson, she co-founded We Care Solar to bring simple solar electric solutions to maternal and child health care in regions without reliable electricity. We Care Solar has equipped more than 1000 health facilities in over 25 countries with the Solar Suitcase, a compact solar energy system providing essential lighting and power. Most recently, Solar Suitcases are being used to support medical relief efforts in Nepal.

About TEDWomen 2015

TED is a global community, welcoming people from every discipline and culture who seek a deeper understanding of the world. TED is a nonprofit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks. TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment and Design converged, and today covers almost all topics — from science to business to global issues — in more than 100 languages. TEDWomen 2015 is a three-day conference about the power of women and girls to be creators and change-makers. The event is being held in Monterey, CA (May 27-29, 2015).

About the UBS Optimus Foundation

At the UBS Optimus Foundation we provide UBS clients with a unique philanthropic offering focused on improving children's lives. Because all our administrative costs are covered by UBS, our donors know that 100 percent of their investment will go directly to the project they wish to support.

Our vision is simple: a world where all children reach their full potential. To make this a reality, we concentrate on high-impact projects that help ensure children are safe, healthy, educated and ready for their future. We break down barriers that prevent children from thriving by funding innovative programs in places where children face adversity. We currently support 128 programs across 4 continents reaching 1.8 million children directly.

UBS clients have easy access to the expert advice of our people in Germany, Hong Kong, the UK, the US, and Switzerland. Furthermore, clients' chosen projects benefit from our ability to leverage their donations through our global networks, including international donors and funding partnerships.

Our grant-making specialists apply a rigorous, evidence-based approach to selecting cost-effective projects that deliver measurable results. So, our donors can rest assured their investment will help achieve the best possible outcomes for vulnerable children.

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