



WORLD MEDICAL RELIEF, INC.

Serving the Sick & Poor Locally, Nationally, and Internationally Since 1953

CELEBRATING A DECADE FOR MY HEART YOUR HEART

Over a million people in developing countries die each year from heart conditions that could be treated with a pacemaker implant. Patients simply cannot afford the cost, which can run from thousands of dollars to tens of thou-



sands of dollars or the medical technology is not available. At the same time, pacemakers are made to last between five to fifteen years, but might be removed well before that limit. They are usually either destroyed as medical waste, or simply stored away by funeral homes that don't know what to do with them.

My Heart Your Heart (MHYH), which is per-

haps one of the most ingenious recycling projects, was founded in 2009 to help fill that gap. The project is an intricate collaboration between University of Michigan, World Medical Relief, Implant Recycling, Northeast Scientific, as well as funeral homes around the country. The majority of the pacemakers that are being tested were donated by Implant Recycling.

Ten years later, we can report that remarkable progress was made. Here are a few highlights:

- The process to recondition a pacemaker for the next patient has been meticulously researched and protocols have been developed.
- The view of the general public and patients on the reuse of the pacemakers was gauged and turned out to be overwhelmingly positive.

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Founding members: (From left to right)
Thomas Crawford MD, Sheldon Davis, Kim Eagle MD, George Samson PhD, and Brad Wasserman

CEO NOTES

George V. Samson, Ph.D.

As 2019 comes to a close, I would like to express our gratitude for your support. When I am writing this, we are still in the swing of things, but the year promises to be a record year for the number of volunteers coming through our headquarters to help with the mission. This can be attributed in part to Peter Tanaka who leads the operations in the medical supply sorting area and who is helping to make the volunteer experience a meaningful one. Peter was hired as the Executive Assistant to the President & CEO in June, 2018. His job titled changed to the Director of International Programs in August, 2019. When you see him in the hallways, please congratulate him with this promotion as he worked hard to earn it.

2019 was an exciting year for World Medical Relief's local programs. In August, we opened our doors



and hosted a very successful Senior Fest that provided free hearing, eye, cardiovascular, blood pressure screening as well as diabetes education. We served 150 seniors from Oakland and Wayne County who we, thanks to all the sponsors, could treat to a free lunch, dance instruction with the famous Fast Freddie and ice cream for dessert, sponsored by the United Dairy Industry of Michigan.

2019 was a pivotal year for World Medical Relief's local programs as our vision to strengthen the agency's local programs was shared by the DMC Foundation with a \$45,000 bridge grant, and with a \$50,000 grant from United Way to purchase insulin for low-income Michigan insulin dependent residents. The grants from the DeRoy Testamentary Fund (\$7,000) and \$50,000 from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation, will allow us to expand our local programs with educational and wellness programs as well as patient navigation for diabetes patients. It is exciting to think that we may assist many more with managing their diabetes while providing a pathway to better health for our clients.

It was ever so wonderful to host Steven Stirling, CEO from MAP, International, and his wife Sook Hee who visited us on the occasion of the 66th anniversary gala. I hope that this new friendship with these great humanitarians will lead to a collaboration between both organizations for years to come.

Our International Program is expanding in number of containers sent overseas. Volunteers did a great job in sorting and packaging medical supplies - the more containers we send out - the more lives we are saving!

This year's gala was a great success and I would especially like to thank Dr. Ned Fawaz, the honorary chair and Dr. Ernestina Mac and Becky Tungol, the co-chairs of the event for all their hard work, gathering so many people in support of the agency. Photos of the event can be found on our website: www.worldmedicalrelief.org

Last but not least, I am delighted to announce that Mike M. Baydoun is our newly elected board chair. Mike has been a fervent supporter of the agency for 24 years. Please visit www.worldmedicalrelief.org/board-of-directors for a wonderful newspaper article about him.

Wishing you a wonderful Holiday season and a very healthy and happy New Year!



From right to left:

*George V. Samson, President & CEO World Medical Relief,
Steven Stirling, President & CEO MAP, Int.,
Peter Tanaka, Director of International Programs World
Medical Relief*

CONTINUATION OF CELEBRATING A DECADE FOR MY HEART YOUR HEART

- In July, 2015, the FDA approved export of reprocessed pacemakers to Ghana, Nicaragua, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Sierra Leone but declined use in the USA.
- The University of Michigan Institutional Review Board approved a clinical trial in May, 2018
- The only pacemaker reconditioning facility in the world was moved from University of Michigan to World Medical Relief in 2017 and officially opened as The Sheldon and Marion Davis Pacemaker Recycling World Headquarters in June, 2018.
- Student volunteer involvement grows rapidly. United2Heal designates a special team to the project.
- In 2018, a clinical trial was approved and started in Sierra Leone - the first ever - pacemakers were implanted. The patients are doing well.
- As of May 24, 2019, the inventory showed a total 26,445 pacemakers donated and processed in the recycling center.
- 150 devices were sterilized by NEScientific and are patient ready.

CHALLENGES

The clinical trial roll out is slower than envisioned as the approval process especially at the national level in the recipient countries is cumbersome and slow. C-arm X-ray machines required for implantation are expensive and used machines are hard to come by.

It is clear from the Sierra Leone trial that it is necessary to have a strong advocate in the country. Dr. James Russell, a cardiologist in Sierra Leone, championed the project acquiring necessary medical equipment and enrolling patients.

ADDED BENEFITS

Once a working relationship is established, the recipient country benefits greatly. For instance,

in June, Michigan Medicine partnered with My Heart Your Heart to train Kenyan medical professionals to implant pacemakers.

A Michigan Medicine team traveled to Kericho, a city in western Kenya, for a week to demonstrate the surgery to doctors there.



Dr. Crawford, principal investigator of MHYH, with a pacemaker recipient in Sierra Leone

This connection was brought about by World Medical Relief as it collaborates closely with the Governor of Kericho State. The benefits to this state should be long-lasting, not just to the patients who received pacemakers during that week, but to the patients who will benefit in the future from doctors who can now perform the procedure.

In the beginning of the collaboration, Sierra Leone only had one EKG machine. Through the project, it will receive six additional EKG machines from the United States which will have an incredible impact on cardiac care in this country.

WHAT IS NEXT?

The project is working with Kenya, Nigeria and Pakistan to acquire the approval to start a clinical trial there. Charles Amanze, World Medical Relief Ambassador for Nigeria will be scouting this country to establish safety procedures ahead of the MHYH mission trip in January.

A committee, chaired by Brad Wasserman (Implant Recycling), is being established to design the framework for the pacemaker distribution outside of the clinical trial - the charitable distribution. In time, this will be the larger scale distribution that hopes to give access to these life saving devices to many poor people around the world.

Would you like to support this project? Please use enclosed envelope for your donation or go to the website: www.worldmedicalrelief.org to donate online.



From left to right: Sook Hee Stirling, Steven Stirling, Dr. Ned Fawaz, Dr. George Samson, Dr. Sheila Samson

66TH ANNIVERSARY GALA - SERVING HUMANITY NEAR AND FAR

Each year, World Medical Relief supporters gather to celebrate the agency's work and to honor people and organizations important to the organization. This year, the show of support was abundant with over 450 guests filling the ballroom of St. John Armenian Church & Banquet Center in Southfield. At least sixteen different countries were represented and the ethnic diversity of the guests was remarkable. The roll call with elected officials and dignitaries was extensive and included Dr. Irineo "Bong" Alvaro, Philippine philanthropist, the Mayor of Southfield Ken Siver, Wayne County Commissioner Martha Scott, Chief of Police of Dearborn, Ronald Haddad, but also more unusual guests like the candidate for the vice-presidency of Peru, Sergio Ludeña Visalot.

The guests were welcomed by Mike Baydoun, Chair of the Board of Directors and Dr. Ned Fawaz, honorary Gala Chair, who congratulated World Medical Relief on bringing hope and lifesaving goods around the world. Fawaz encouraged the guests to get involved with the agency and to support its valiant mission to relieve human suffering around the world.

The guests heeded his call for action which was clear during the fundraising blitz when Joseph Javier, emcee, called on the guests to make a donation with their cell phone. Guests excitedly replied with much generosity, fueled by the sight of a huge live thermometer projected on a big screen. To everyone's amazement, the thermometer starting rising

rapidly, meeting the goal of \$10,000 in a matter of minutes and surpassing \$15,000 when the donation window closed.

Another highlight was the keynote speaker. Steven Stirling, who traveled all the way from Atlanta where he is the President & CEO of MAP, International. Unlike World Medical Relief's focus on especially medical supplies, MAP is specialized in distributing medicines throughout the developing world.

Steven, accompanied by his wife Sook Hee, kept the audience spellbound as he told his life's story. Born in Korea in 1956, Steven was stricken with polio at age one. Five years later, marital and financial struggles pushed his father to abandon him at an orphanage. He was left there with the instruction to crawl to the orphanage's door and cry to attract the attention of the staff in the orphanage. Shortly after, his three-year-old sister was left there as well.

Although his story was a tear jerker, Steve made the audience laugh at one time when he related how he courted his wife, Sook Hee. Because of his physical disability, he thought that no woman would fall in love with him, but to his surprise he said, God blessed him with a loving wife.

As we learned in the introduction of the keynote speaker by Dr. Ernie Mac, event co-chair, Steven chronicled his incredible story of his early years in the orphanage, his adoption into a large, loving

family in Alaska, and his determination to succeed in his book *The Crutch of Success*. In the book he realizes that it is ironic that he is at the helm of a non-profit that is helping millions of children by providing important medicines and vaccines for diseases like polio, which crippled him for life. In his book, Steve said, "If only I'd been given a sixty-cent dose of polio vaccine (when I was young), none of this would have happened."

President & CEO of World Medical Relief, George Samson, presided, together with Board Chair Baydoun, over perhaps his favorite part of the evening, honoring organizations and individuals for their contribution to the mission of the organization. Becky Tungol, co-chair, closed the evening with a heartfelt thanks to the guests for attending and their generous contributions.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Chamberlain University, Troy
St. John Armenian Church, Southfield
United 2 Heal, Ann Arbor

VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE AWARD

Jad Baki
Carlos Baltazar
Annie Burton
Elsie Consolacion
Barbara Rice
Barry Steele

WORLD MEDICAL RELIEF AMBASSADOR AWARD

Ayman Aburahma
Charles Amanze
Moussa Niang



Dr. Rosalind Woodson,
Dean, Academic Affairs,
Chamberlain University

The evening was generously supported by Ascension, Energy International and Dr. Ernestina Mac (Diamond Sponsors), Beaumont, Ellis Porter and Michigan Medicine Frankel Cardiovascular Center (Silver Sponsors).



Honoree Annie Burton with to the right fellow honorees
Jad Baki, Barbara Rice, Elsie Consolacion. George Samson Jr.
accepted the award on behalf of Carlos Baltazar.



From left to right: Dr. Samson, Mike Baydoun,
Charles Amanze, Moussa Niang

**SAVE THE DATE
ANNUAL GALA**



*Saturday,
November 7, 2020*

*Back by popular demand: Drummunity,
Medical Equipment and Supplies raffle*

RECONSTRUCTIVE BURN AND HAND MISSION IN COLOMBIA



Each year a group of doctors and nurses travel to Santa Marta, Magdalena, Colombia for the week to provide free surgeries to pediatric patients with burns and deformities. In collaboration with a Colombian non-profit, Healing the Children Northeast. Dr. Inad Janineh, and Dr. Mark Foglietti, remove scar tissue, correct physical deformities, and

provide orthopedic braces and supplies for recovery of these children. Each surgeon does about 10 surgeries a day.

Many of these children live in areas that are using oil or gas as light or heat source and that is how some of the burns happen. The area is rich in minerals and due to the mining for these minerals, the water gets contaminated causing more deformities.

World Medical Relief supports several mission groups each year with medicines, supplies and instruments. This mission received medical supplies and surgical instruments.



Kellie Proctor, a registered nurse and volunteer team member sent a thank you letter. She says, "We had a very successful trip this year to Colombia. There were two patients in particular that stole my

heart.

"One was about 14, she came walking down the hall to come into the OR and was basically skipping. She was so happy we were there and although there was a serious language barrier, she was talking and smiling and so excited to have the procedure done that we could barely get her to drift off to sleep because we couldn't get a seal on the face mask, her smile was so big. With her 4th and 5th digit of her hand separated she will have much more function, and we have invited her back next year to have her other hand done as well.



The other was younger, maybe 6. She had scars on her face and she was so little but so trusting. She also kept smiling so much that we had a hard time marking her for surgery. Taking the scar tissue off her face will give her a more natural look and won't pull on her cheek and lip when she smiles."

Kellie continues to say, "Please let me know what I can do to support your cause as you have so graciously helped ours."



A bequest just takes a simple designation in your will and will not affect your cash flow during your lifetime. It's easy to revoke if your situation changes.

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Knowing that World Medical Relief is doing a great job both locally and internationally and can be trusted to spend money frugally, you might have supported the agency with your time and with monetary contributions for year after year. With your help, the agency has matured into an efficient and effective humanitarian relief agency which improves the lives of thousands each year. Now, you might be pondering on how you could support the agency in the future. *One way to do so is by leaving a bequest.*

WHAT ARE BEQUESTS?

Bequests are gifts that are made as part of a will or trust. A bequest can be to a person, or it can be a charitable bequest to a nonprofit organization. Anyone can make a bequest—in any amount—to an individual or charity. Bequests can be simple – “I give \$_____ to World Medical Relief - Tax ID: 38-1575570” – or complex, with conditions about how the gifts can be used.

Bequests can take several forms such as:

- **Specific bequest** - a certain amount of cash, securities, or property.
- **General bequest** - property that is similar to all other items distributed, usually cash.
- **Percentage bequest** - a stated percentage of the donor's estate.
- **Residual bequest** - gifts made after all of the debts and expenses are paid, and other bequests are made.

Charitable bequests can fall into any of these four categories. One common approach is to leave specific bequests to family members or other individuals and then leave a residuary charitable bequest to a charitable organization.

HOW BEQUESTS WORK

1. To make a bequest, you need to leave instructions, typically in a will. Other documents, such as beneficiary designations and revocable living trusts, may also be part of how your estate plan is managed after your death.
2. For property to be passed on after you pass away, your will must first be “probated” or legally validated. Many states have improved the probate process, making it less expensive and faster.

If you have no will to specify your instructions, state law dictates where your property passes. Generally, this would be first to a surviving spouse, then to your children and other family in accordance with state law. If you don't leave a will and don't have any living relatives, your estate, depending on where you live, could go to the state.

Separate from a will, you can designate residuary gifts from an insurance policy or annuity, where the policy holder receives benefits during their lifetime and then gives the remainder of the policy benefits to family, friends and/or charitable recipients.

World Medical Relief encourages you to confer with the agency before finalizing the bequest so we can properly recognize and celebrate your gift.

For more information about World Medical Relief, naming and giving opportunities as well as the agency's endowment, please contact Josephine Jabara, Director of Development.

email: jjabara@worldmedicalrelief.org,
office: 313-866-5333 ext. 243
or cell: 517-652-3149

**This article is not presented, offered or intended as professional or expert advice, and is not to be used as a basis for financial, legal, or other decisions.*



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VOLUNTEER SATURDAYS

January 2020: 4, 11, 18, 25

February 2020: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

March 2020: 7, 14, 21, 28

April 2020: 4, 18, 25*

**Please Note: Closed April 11/Easter*



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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