



The Good Samaritan

The Newsletter of World Medical Relief

WWW.WORLDMEDICALRELIEF.ORG

Winter 2017-2018

Project My Heart Your Heart

Dr. Kim Eagle, Director of the University of Michigan Health System's Frankel Cardiovascular Center, announced that the pacemaker recycling program world headquarters has been set up at World Medical Relief. He made the announcement when delivering the keynote address at the celebration of WMR's 64th anniversary last Nov. 4 at St. John's Armenian Church Banquet and Conference Center in Southfield.

In his speech, Doctor Eagle gave a special tribute to Sheldon and Marion Davis whose continued investment in the Project My Heart Your Heart, the pacemaker program, has made all of this possible. He said, "Ladies and gentleman, it gives me extreme joy to announce tonight that the pacemaker recycling facility at WMR will carry Sheldon and Marion's name forever."

He then proceeded to quote Mark Twain who said, "The two most important days of your life are the day you were born and the day you found out why."

For Mrs. Irene Auberlin (founder of WMR), Doctor Eagle said, "the 'why moment of her life' occurred in 1953, when she learned about the needs of an orphanage in Inchon, Korea. She rallied her friends and others to start gathering needed supplies in her home and shipping them to Korea.

Remarkably, in the years that have since passed, Mrs. Auberlin and many, many others -- volunteers, donors, hospitals, healthcare workers, companies, universities and all the people that make World Medical Relief what it is, and those who directly or indirectly receive the benefits of WMR -- all continue to 'find out why.' Why they were born -- to help others in need. In the halls of WMR, they're called, indeed you are called, the 'Angels of Mercy.'"

Eagle noted that in the 64 years that followed, "Mrs. Auberlin and scores of volunteers transformed... a small idea into a movement. You and I are part of that movement. How blessed we are to share in the relief of suffering of individuals in faraway places whom we will never personally meet and those less fortunate citizens right here who receive medications, blankets and a helping hand right in our own backyard."

Eagle said that his "why moment" came nearly seven years ago "when one of our fellows in cardiology training, Timir Baman, asked my assistant for a few minutes of my time. He brought a most unusual story.

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From left to right: Marion and Sheldon Davis, Dr. Jose Evangelista, Dr. Kim Eagle, Mike Krause (board chair), George Samson (President), Dr. Stella Evangelista. Photo: Bernie Beutel

My Heart Your Heart Continued

He and one of our arrhythmia faculty had inserted a pacemaker in a woman several weeks ago... Unfortunately, the patient developed progressive heart failure and passed away just two weeks later.

Her husband proceeded with her wishes to arrange for cremation, and per protocol the pacemaker was removed before cremation. (I'm told that this is necessary because the device can explode during cremation).

Then came the first key moment in the program called 'Project My Heart Your Heart.' The patient's husband had to decide what to do with the pacemaker.

"This man took his wife's essentially new pacemaker, showed up in our pacer clinic, found Timir Baman and handed him the pacemaker, saying something like, 'my wife and I would like to donate her device to someone who needs a pacemaker and can't afford it.'"

Eagle said, "What could/would Kim Eagle do to help Timir Baman fulfill the wishes of a grieving husband's request to sterilize and donate a single pacemaker to a single suffering human being living somewhere in the world with no resources and a life-threatening slow heart rhythm?



Dr. Crawford (left) and Eric Puroll (right) are investigating the battery life of pacemakers. Photo: George Samson

That was a day that I 'found out why.'

"So it was that one of my 'I found out why' days that occurred in that fall afternoon seven years ago. In the years that followed, a lot has happened, obviously. I would like to share just a few of these lessons with you.

"Over the 60(+) years since pacemakers were developed, there have been a number of pacemaker implanters who have taken used pacemakers from their hospitals, re-sterilized them and quietly went back to their countries of birth and implanted these used pacemakers in patients who otherwise would die.

"Several of these 'quiet

heroes' used World Medical Relief as a springboard to action. They included Doctors Romero and Machado in the Philippines and Nicaragua, respectively. They have saved the lives of dozens of patients. They also paved the way for our work.

We wanted our approach to be completely in the light of day. We wanted to systematically study and publish every bit of our work, to create a roadmap for how to recycle pacemakers safely and efficiently.

"One of the most remarkable moments on our road came just two weeks after that first discussion with Timir. When he came back to my office, he was very excited. He'd studied reports about pacemaker recycling and was certain that it was doable. Moreover, he'd found a terrific global charity with a long history of excellence, and it was only 30 minutes away. Its name was World Medical Relief!"

This concludes the excerpt of Dr. Eagle's keynote speech on the occasion of World Medical Relief's 64th anniversary.

Donations to the pacemaker program may be made online www.worldmedicalrelief.org or by check made out to World Medical Relief.

CEO MESSAGE

2017 was an interesting year with big challenges but also remarkable progress.

At a national level, we were able to assist with relief efforts to the Harvey victims and Puerto Rico.

The big challenge was then to respond to the local need for blankets as the inventory was severely depleted in our warehouse.

Unfortunately the Department of Defense also had distributed all its blankets and was not allocated any money for purchases of more blankets.

My faith in humanity was again confirmed when the community rallied around this cause. CBS Radio and Fox 2 television broadcasted about the urgent need for funds for the blanket program and people responded with many gifts of money for the washable twin size blankets as well as in-kind donations.

United States Senator Gary Peters also stepped in ensuring that the Department of Defense provided World Medical Relief with the much needed blankets. Just before the winter cold set in permanently, blankets were distributed across Metro Detroit.

Project My Heart Your Heart, the pacemaker re-use program, officially moved from University



State Representative (35th District)
Jeremy Moss visits World Medical Relief.
Photo: J. Jabara

of Michigan to set up its permanent headquarters at our agency.

At the annual gala in November, 2017, it was unveiled that the pacemaker facility was to be named the Sheldon & Marion Davis Pacemaker Laboratory which makes this space the first part of our building that is named.

World Medical Relief enjoys continued interest from partners all across the world and I am fortunate to meet many leaders who have the vision to provide better health care to their constituents and who seek World Medical Relief's help to make it happen.

We have big plans for this year to improve the sorting process of the medical supplies and increase the output of the number of containers. The pacemaker laboratory will also be expanded to facilitate even more volunteers

The organization is governed by a strong and mission minded board of directors, and supported by an ever increasing number of donors and volunteers. Together we will do great things in 2018.

Thank you for your support!



George Samson shaking hands with the first female governor of Bomet County in Kenya who brought her county's medical director, chief of staff and secretary. To the left of Dr. Samson stands Rama Kananje, World Medical Relief's Ambassador for East Africa.

IN THE COMMUNITY

UNITED NATIONS DAY

Southfield community representative for the United Nations, Ms. Roberta Cottman, invited World Medical Relief to speak to the Southfield City Council on the occasion of United Nations Day in October of 2017. President Samson talked about World Medical Relief and called on the residents of Southfield to join and volunteer.



METRO DETROIT MODEL UN

The Metro Detroit Model United Nations selected World Medical Relief to be this year's featured organization. MeDMUN selects charities that match its philosophy and seek to improve the condition of our fellow hu-

mans both at home and abroad. World Medical Relief was selected by an internal staff vote over several other worthy causes.

The annual conference was on January 6 and World Medical Relief was the featured keynote for

the opening ceremony and was the beneficiary of \$220 and in-kind donations for its local programs.

Secretariat Mitchell Dennis says, "Delegates from 14 schools had a fantastic day debating some of the world's most pressing issues as well as donating to a good cause."

SOUTHFIELD TELEVISION

Collaboration with the City of Southfield led to extensive coverage in a television show, "Spotlight on Seniors". The report includes a nice interview with Board member Bruce Carr. You can watch it here: Southfield Multimedia Services YouTube Page <https://www.youtube.com/user/SfdCable15>

FCA

FOUNDATION

World Medical Relief is
pleased to announce that

its local Affordable
Prescription Program was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the
FCA Foundation, the charitable arm of North American au-
tomaker FCA US LLC (FCA US). The grant will support
increased outreach and improve access to the Affordable
Prescription Program for low-income people in Southfield and
immediate surrounding areas.

Corp!

EVERYTHING BUSINESS

World Medical Relief's President & CEO, George Samson, was the recipient of the Corp! Diversity Leader Award.

Becky Tungol, World Medical Relief board member received this award as well for her work as the President of the Philippine American Community Center of Michigan.

Container of Hope #1

Guatemala, a central American country, is known for its steep volcanoes, vast rainforests, and ancient Mayan sites. Guatemala is also the largest economy in Central America. However, the country faces many social problems and is one of the poorest countries in Latin America.

The once powerful Mayans are now on the bottom of the social ladder and the country is reigned by Spanish aristocracy, the descendants of the country's colonizers.

When Dave Lomasney was a mission pastor at Zion Christian Church in Troy, one of his fellow pastors, Leo Abad, invited him to come along on a volunteering trip to World Medical Relief. The experience was eye opening and a catalyst to Lomasney's decision to step away from his salaried position at the church in 2015.

"God was saying that there was more to do in missions", Lomasney says. He volunteered for a whole month at World Medical Relief and then founded Integrity International, a nonprofit focused on water, construction, medical, and educational projects for the purpose of introducing more people to Jesus Christ.

While drilling wells to create access to clean drinking water, Lomasney would take a break and



visit the local medical clinics. He learned that there was sufficient medical personnel but no equipment and supplies to treat the patients with.



Pastor Israel, Lisseth Giron, clinical director, Dave Lomasney

Shocked by the dire needs of the Guatemalans, Lomasney started bringing in suitcases with supplies and medicines. Eventually, he was able to bring the first microscope to the community of San Miguel Siguila.

Holding back tears, clinic coordinator Giron cried out incredulously that while she had asked for a microscope for 25 years, Lomasney was able to get one to her in a matter of weeks!

Empowered by the impact of his efforts, Lomasney decided to go to the next level and raise money for a container shipment.

Things moved fast then. A fundraising dinner in November, 2017, raised enough money and the container left the dock just before the Holidays in December destined for a new but completely empty clinic in an impoverished part San Pedro Ayampuc.

The container ship arrived in Puerto Quetzal on January 10 but then everything came to a grinding halt. The mayor of San Pedro, also new to humanitarian relief, did not clear the shipment with the tax authorities. To release the container, the mayor had to pay \$10,000, a relative small price to pay for a container valued at almost \$ 290,000.

World Medical Relief's CEO Samson says, "I have been delighted to support this shipment as it is the first container shipment to Guatemala in World Medical Relief's history and I am sure that many more Containers of Hope will follow."

Board Advisor Steps Up



Tom Komjathy, a newly appointed Advisory Board member, immediately sprang into action when he heard about the plight of World Medical Relief's blanket program and the shortage of blankets to distribute in Metro Detroit.

Komjathy is the director of Southeast Michigan operations at Warner Norcross + Judd, which is a corporate law firm with over 220 attorneys practicing in eight offices throughout Michigan. As the holidays approach, its employees donate to a "holiday aid" drive which was this time, per Komjathy's request, designated to the blanket program. A total of \$1,197 was collected and donated.



Henry Ford Village Supports Blanket Program

Every year, residents of Henry Ford Village (HFV) make a donation to the blanket fund, and this year the more than 900 residents dug deep to donate the most they have yet: \$3,566, according to Connie Dompierre, a resident at HFV and chairperson of this year's drive, which is run by HFV's Christian Women's Guild. "I think it's a great cause," Dompierre said.

Dompierre said she really has to trust an organization in order to help raise funds for its causes. She loves WMR. "It's a wonderful organization" and several HFV residents feel similarly, volunteering at WMR year-round, she added.



HFV volunteers (from left to right) Suzanne Momenee, Maria Rabago and Phyllis Cornell with Carolyn Racklyeft.

2017 In Review



2601 volunteers

Served 15,712 hours

TOP 3 Volunteer Teams:

(# of people and in hours served)

- ◆ United to Heal - University of Michigan
- ◆ M-Heal - University of Michigan
- ◆ FCA - Fiat Chrysler Automobiles



Top 3 Hospital Donors (Supplies and Equipment)

- ◆ St. John Providence
- ◆ Beaumont
- ◆ University of Michigan - Michigan Health



Top 2 Bed Donors

- ◆ University of Michigan - Michigan Health
- ◆ Joerns Healthcare



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

61 International shipments (incl. missions)

Value: \$ 26,694,114

LOCAL PROGRAMS

17,316 People served with medicines, medical supplies, durable medical equipment, liquid nutrition, adult briefs, bed pads, blankets, and hygiene kits

76 Partner agencies

Value: \$ 2,368,029





WORLD MEDICAL RELIEF
Serving the Sick and Poor Locally, Nationally,
and Internationally Since 1953

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2018 Winter/Spring Saturday Volunteer Dates:

January 6, 13, 20 and 27

February 3, 10, 17, 24

March 3, 10, 17, 24

April 7, 14, 21, 28

Tax Free Transfers to Charity or IRA Owners 70 1/2 & Up

Individuals who are 70¹/₂ or older are permitted to roll over up to \$100,000 from an individual retirement account (IRA) directly to a qualifying charity without recognizing the assets transferred to the eligible charity as income. The provision has a cap of \$100,000 of charitable distributions each year. Individuals may exclude the amount distributed directly to a qualifying charity from their gross income.

World Medical Relief is an eligible charity and would be greatly helped with your generosity. The agency is also able to accept gifts of stock and life insurance. Please contact Josephine Jabara, Director of Development, to discuss your vision for support: phone number: 313-866-5333 ext. 243.

Founded in 1953, World Medical Relief's mission is to help the sick and poor, both at home and abroad, by collecting and distributing medicines, medical equipment, medical supplies and related materials.