

SRW Gives a Hand in Siguatepeque

by Mary Dowling

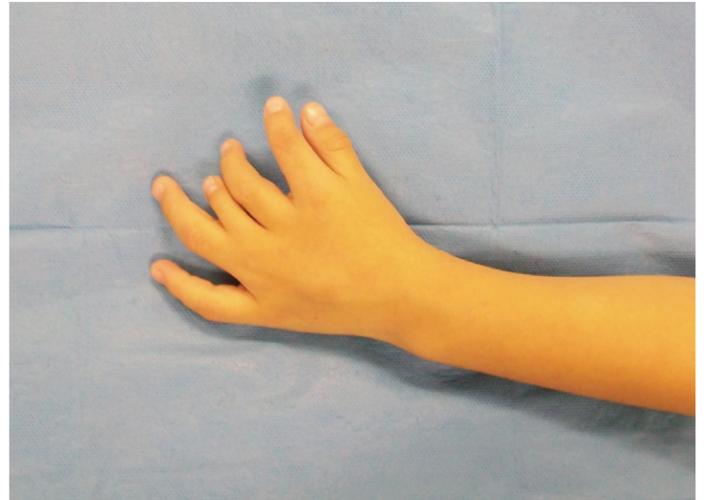
In January of 2010 our colleagues in Siguatepeque, Honduras, asked for a specialized mission team that could treat children with injuries and birth defects of the hand and arm. I thought immediately of Dr. Robert Matthias, whom I met in 2003 when, as a surgical resident, he accompanied our orthopedic team on a mission to Guatemala. The day I called Rob, now a hand surgeon in Little Rock, Arkansas, his clinic was closed due to a snowstorm, but he answered the phone at home. He eagerly agreed to go on such a mission and offered to invite his mentor from Florida, Dr. Paul Dell. In November of 2010, our hand-and-upper-extremity team and dental team traveled to Siguatepeque to work for one week at the John Eaves Medical Clinic run by Providence World Ministries (PWM).

Twenty-three people served on this team from Wisconsin, Florida, and Arkansas, delivering excellent medical and dental care. The dental team treated 100 patients and accomplished many procedures in the five-chair dental clinic set up there by PWM. This clinic will soon have a panorex machine to provide comprehensive, helpful x-rays. Dr. John Schacherl, of Verona, Wisconsin, has contributed greatly of his time and finances

to provide a well-appointed facility in Siguatepeque, where dental teams can serve patients with many of the modern conveniences we enjoy in this country. We appreciate his dedication to the project.

Meanwhile, the hand-and-arm team screened 61 children and performed 40 corrective surgeries. The days were long and full but very rewarding when one considers the life-changing results for the children and their families. What a pleasure to see the fruit of a seed SRW planted in 2003 in the heart of a resident near the end of his training. That seed has grown and produced a great product: an experienced surgeon whose heart for children in need moved him to offer his services with hardly a second thought.

Thank you to the PWM staff for their huge part in the success of our endeavors in Honduras. Much of their work happens before we arrive and after we leave, as we entrust them with follow up care and therapy to ensure the success of the procedures undertaken. Thank you to the entire team, each of whom pays his or her own way and takes time from jobs and families to participate in SRW missions. Incredible teamwork produces unbelievable results that will change lives forever!



Some problems are more complex than others to correct.



Miguel and his family are ready to go home after surgery on both hands by our November SRW team.



Team members were:
 Marge Abegglen, R.N.
 Mary Dowling, R.N.
 Gary Haefer, Biomed
 John Schacherl, D.D.S.
 Anita Nesheim, Dental Assistant
 Jeanne Foley, Dental Assistant
 Roxane Tillema, R.N.
 John Woodford, M.D.
 Team Administration: Jason Williams, C.R.N.A.
 Chelsea Murphy, C.R.N.A.
 Debra Dahlke, C.R.N.A.
 Shawn Mc Cue, D.D.S.

Susan Leslie, Dental Assistant
 Barb Kesser, Dental Assistant
 Jeanne Meyer, Dental Hygienist
 Caitlyn Jarlsberg, Dental Hygienist
 Jayne Jarlsberg, Dental Hygienist
 Robert Matthias, M.D.
 Linda Idziak, O.R.T.
 Paul Dell, M.D.
 Ruth Dell, O.T.R.
 Jacque Maki, R.N.
 Toni Hayes, O.R.T.

Wrapped in Love

by Sylvia Boomsma

How would you comfort a frightened child facing the prospect of surgery? There's nothing like a warm, colorful quilt to express love, caring and comfort. That's why SRW mission teams give quilts and plush toys to young patients in other countries. For many of these children, it's the first time they've had a belonging of their very own.

SRW has been blessed by a Quilt Hero. Ron MacDonald has supplied hundreds of quilts for mission teams over the years. He has made at least 200 per year in the last two years alone. Ron, a retired schoolteacher, heard about SRW when his partner Jerry Gantner served as a volunteer in the SRW warehouse. Sewing quilts was the perfect way for Ron to contribute. He

had been sewing since the summer of 1949, when he was 12 and his grandmother let him use her sewing machine. He discovered a natural gift and was soon sewing vestments for use in his Catholic church. He made his first quilt, for his godson, in 1976. He found quilt-making enjoyable and relaxing, and began making quilts for mission organizations. The rest is history—a history of 600–700 quilts which are comforting and warming recipients all over Wisconsin and, in fact, the world.

Ron, who lives in a retirement community in Wauwatosa, works at his sewing machine for two or three hours most days. Though he sometimes buys fabric at bargain prices, most of the materials are donated. Ron also purchases and collects plush toys, so that every

quilt he donates can be accompanied by a stuffed animal.

Ron finds this project very rewarding, especially when he sees photos of young patients wrapped in his quilts, with big smiles on their faces. He is motivated by his love for people, and he imagines a day when God will ask him how he used the sewing talent he was given. He knows he's making a difference in the lives of others, and he looks forward to hearing, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Do you have plush toys or fabric you no longer need? Extra twin- and full-size sheets and blankets in good shape? Contact Mary at SRW to see how you can donate them for Ron's quilts.

Growing our Board of Directors

One of SRW's goals since our restructure in March of 2010 was to grow our governing board. We have now added two new members to that board.

Dr. Neil Lucchese

Dr. Neil Lucchese is Medical Director for Medical Specialties at Dean Clinic in Madison, Wisconsin. After earning his bachelor's degree from Northwestern University, Dr. Lucchese received his MD degree from Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago in 1978. He served his ophthalmology residence at the University of Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary. He then completed a fellowship in Pediatric Ophthalmology at the University of Wisconsin in 1982. Dr. Lucchese returned to Chicago where he taught at Cook County Hospital for three years. He joined Davis Duehr Dean Eye Associates in 1985, specializing in Pediatric Ophthalmology. He is currently an Assistant Clinic Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Wisconsin. He has made numerous trips to Central America, examining patients, performing surgeries and teaching local physicians. Locally he serves on the medical advisory board of the Dane County Head Start Program. Dr. Lucchese is a member of the American Association of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus, a fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology. Dr. Lucchese has been a supporter of SRW since it began and a team member several times on missions to Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala. We welcome him to our board and appreciate his willingness to help us keep SRW viable and active with our medical teams.

Adam Dowling

Growing up in the Driftless Region of Southwestern Wisconsin, Adam enjoyed helping out his beef farmer neighbor in Dane County, dairy farming uncles in Grant County and dairy farming grandpa in Iowa County. After receiving a B.S. degree in Natural Resources Environmental Studies from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, Adam served his country for three and a half years in the Peace Corps. Initially Adam was an Agro-Forestry extension agent and later a regional coordinator in Guinea, West Africa. Upon completion of his Peace Corps tour Adam was hired by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to work in Darlington, WI as a Soil Conservationist. He then went on to Portage, WI before being selected as the District Conservationist in Fond du Lac County and currently the District Conservationist for Dane County.

While living in the Madison area Adam was active in volunteering as the SRW warehouse(s), usually running a forklift. Adam was a logistician for two eyeglass missions with SRW to Guinea, West Africa in 2006 and 2009.

Adam enjoys all types of "silent sports," namely road and mountain biking, cross-country skiing and running. He also enjoys drawing with crayons, colored pencils and washable markers and reading books with his three-year-old daughter Oumou as lil' sis Aicha (nine months) looks on. And, when time and funds permit Adam and beautiful wife Mariama delight in returning to Guinea to visit family and friends.

We welcome him to our board and appreciate his willingness to help us keep SRW viable and active with our medical teams.

Our Treasure

Have you ever tossed loose change into a jar over a period of weeks or months? You might be surprised, when you cash it in, at the worth of the treasure you've saved. That's how it is at SRW; as we change lives, one child at a time, the numbers add up to an effort of great value. Our treasures are children healed, lives changed, and suffering relieved.

Since our founding in 2002, SRW medical teams have treated 5,337 children across the globe. In Honduras, we have offered 858 children dental care, surgical services, prosthetic eyes, and eyeglasses. In 2010, we made our seventh mission trip to Peru. During that same

year, we treated 534 Honduran children during our three missions to Siguatepeque. During two missions to Guinea, West Africa, SRW teams provided 853 children with eye exams and glasses. Surgical teams and eyeglass specialists have also served in Nicaragua and Guatemala.

The children we treat and treasure are members of families. When a child's condition is corrected and his or her life is improved, the whole family benefits. So we give thanks for the privilege of treating 5,337 families, giving them hope and a brighter future for their children.

Having been...

SRW lost two dear friends in 2010. Both passed away last fall because of cancer. Lynda Craig, a retired operating room nurse, was one of the very first volunteers at SRW; she began sorting and packing medical supplies in our warehouse in 2003. Lynda loved the color purple, and enjoyed traveling and playing bridge.

Bob Boomsma was a source of encouragement, counsel and hands-on help to SRW, especially in the days of our humble beginnings in a garage on the east side of Madison. Bob, a seedsman, businessman, father and foster father, loved kids and was an inspiration to all who knew him and his family.

Lynda and Bob will be sorely missed by many friends at SRW and around Madison. When we remember them, we are comforted to know that "...all we have done and all we have suffered—this is not lost, though it is past.... *Having been* is also a kind of being, and perhaps the purest kind" (Victor Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*). Bob and Lynda have left this earth, but their "having been" is very real in our hearts and lives, and in the lives of those served by SRW.

MISSION

Through the delivery of excellent health care Sharing Resources Worldwide (SRW) endeavors to improve the quality of life of disadvantaged populations around the world.

VISION

By organizing and supporting medical teams, SRW will provide surgical, medical, dental care, and eye care for disadvantaged people. When possible, SRW will work closely with in-country partners to deliver these kinds of care. SRW will provide on-site medical professionals and institutions with donated supplies and equipment and allow them to consistently offer needed services for their needy populations. SRW's primary concern will be meeting the needs of children 18 years old and younger.

VALUES

SRW's board, director, and medical team members will provide needed care and treatment internationally, while consistently demonstrating the following core values:

Excellence
Respect
Compassion
Accountability

All donations are tax deductible.

Please make checks payable to:

Sharing Resources Worldwide.

Sharing Resources Worldwide is incorporated in the state of Wisconsin and is a tax exempt charitable 501 (c) (3) organization.

For more information on

Sharing Resources Worldwide,

check out our Web site at

www.sharingresourcesworldwide.org

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Donation checks should be made out to Sharing Resources Worldwide.

Please return this card with your donation to the address above.

For your convenience, SRW can now accept your donation by credit card online. Just go to our website at www.sharingresourcesworldwide.org and donate via credit card on our secure site.

January 2011 Surgical Trip

by Jim Albrecht CRNA

This past January a group of medical professionals travelled to La Providencia mission in Seguatepeque, Honduras with Sharing Resources Worldwide on a pediatric orthopedic surgery mission. The group consisted of 12 surgical professionals working together with the compassionate people at La Providencia to provide surgical services to the children of Honduras. There were 31 surgeries performed, including club foot repair, leg tendon lengthening, removal of extra digits, repair of congenital hip dislocations, and many others. The surgical services that were provided for these Honduran families were things that were not available to them without the generosity of the caring professionals that gave of their time and money through SRW. Many of these surgeries will improve the way these children function for the rest of their lives. Others will remove the stigma and social shunning that many of these loving children experience due to their physical state.

Many of these families traveled great distances to get to La Providencia mission where the clinic is located. One family I spoke to traveled 11 hours in order to be evaluated to see if their child would be healthy enough to undergo surgery, knowing that the answer could be no. As health care professionals we evaluated each child to see if they were a surgical candidate and if they were healthy enough to undergo the surgery and anesthetic. We evaluated 110 children and were able to provide surgical services to 31 children. Unfortunately, many more children needed our services but due to the fact that we were in Seguatepeque for only seven days there were time constraints. We spent 13-hour days in the clinic and loved every minute of it. There are many more children that need the help of caring people, whether it is giving of your time, talent, or monetary resources.

One of the most memorable cases was a boy named Eduardo who needed leg surgery, but we needed pre-operative x-rays. The boy had to be taken into town, a 20-minute drive, for his first x-rays. He then had his surgery and a day later he needed to be taken back into town for more post-operative x-rays. His trip back into town was complicated by the fact that, for proper healing, he could not bend his leg. He had to be placed in the back of a pickup truck and driven over pothole filled roads covered with a plastic tarp because it had been raining all day.

The follow-up care for these children is pro-

vided by the local physicians, Dr. Turcios and Dr. Gonzales. It is through their professional care that the children continue their healing process.

In closing I would like to thank all of the people who give their time, talent and re-

sources to SRW and its many worthy causes. The wonderful, caring people at La Providencia including the teachers, interpreters, nurses, and other volunteers are most thankful for your help also. I consider it a privilege to be part of such a caring group of people.



Our anesthesia team.



Maria is ready for surgery with one of Ron's quilts and stuffed animal.



Team Members were:
 Marge Abegglen, R.N.
 Mary Dowling, R.N.
 Roxane Tillema, R.N.
 Ken Noonan, M.D.
 Ryan Muchow, M.D.
 Jim Albrecht, C.R.N.A.
 Mitch Hoopes, C.R.N.A.
 Mary Beth Schneider, C.R.N.A.
 Kristan Mc Kinney, R.N.
 Kathy Sweeney, L.P.N.
 Mike Sweeney, Photographer
 Elizabeth Shimon, P.A.

Scouting for Gifts of Comfort and Joy

Last spring, SRW received a call from the Badgerland Council of Girl Scouts of Wisconsin, to ask if there was a project of benefit to SRW that all their troops could participate in. Over the next few months, scouts all over Badgerland collected gift items for SRW's school box gift donations, health kits, and baby kits.

These gift kits, given out by SRW team members, are filled with items that are dearly treasured by the children who receive them. Each child who has eye surgery receives a box with stickers, paper, eraser, pencil sharpener, crayons, sunglasses and a small toy. Children undergoing other types of surgery receive health kits which include soap, shampoo, toothbrush and toothpaste, a comb and a washcloth. Many families travel far from home to see us, and these are very helpful items for use while they're away from home for several days.

The Girl Scouts did a wonderful job of pro-

viding items for these gift packs, which have been packaged and distributed by SRW surgical teams in Honduras and Peru. Thank you so much to the Girl Scouts of Wisconsin, Badgerland Council, and Tia Gauger.

Other local groups and churches have made and donated blankets or quilts and stuffed animals for our patients. Each child who has surgery receives one of each, and these provide warmth and comfort during their post-op period. They bring wonderful smiles and entertainment to the children, and help to chase away fears and worries.

Our teams care for more than 100 surgical patients each year. If your group would like to help by collecting and donating items, we would love to hear from you. Contact Mary Dowling at mdowl@tds.net or 608-445-8503.



Angela is ready for surgery with her new stuffed animal.

For more information on
 Sharing Resources Worldwide,
 check out our Web site at

www.sharingresourcesworldwide.org

Thanks to Sylvia Boomsma for editing, Lisa Imhoff for design and layout, and Spectra Print for printing this edition of The Resource.

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mdowl@tds.net

See more about SRW and make copies of this newsletter at:
<http://www.sharingresourcesworldwide.org>

With Much Gratitude

There are many individuals and companies, both local and from across the US, that assist with surgical teams by donating funds and or supplies. The success of our missions is very dependent on these donors.

We wish to thank them and acknowledge their contributions to our efforts. There are too many to list here...but we thank you all!

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