

# The RESOURCE

The Newsletter of Sharing Resources Worldwide

Spring 2016

## April Surgical Team in Honduras

By Joe Albrecht

In April of this year, I had the opportunity to join the ocular-plastics team on their surgical trip to La Providencia in Siguatepeque, Honduras. My dad has gone on this trip several times as a CRNA, and I was blessed with the opportunity to join the mission. This opportunity is the kind that is invaluable for a high school senior interested in pursuing medicine in the future. This experience surpassed my expectations, which were already sky-high coming into the trip.

The first full day we were at the clinic, I was allowed to go up to the neighboring school for the day. While at the school, I was given the moniker of "Mr. Joe" (a first for me) and was fully immersed with the grade school classes. I gained a full appreciation for my Spanish education, as it allowed me to see a more human side of the kids, some of whom we would be treating within the next few days.

After school ended that day, I joined the medical team in doing

pre-op interviews. One kid in particular stands out to me. Kenner was a 12-year-old with severe ptosis. However, his sense of humor was incredible. He was beyond excited to try speaking English with me, and he thoroughly enjoyed my overly confident attempts at sounding like a fluent Spanish speaker. This day was a fantastic opportunity to put a story behind each of the families that we were assisting with surgery for their child.

It was incredible to see how our surgical team bonded over the short five-day trip. I watched them all connect over the great work they were doing for these children. These families, some of which traveled up to eight hours to be seen at the clinic, were incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be helped by the volunteers at the clinic. It was very special to be part of a team who, through their work with the kids, were able to better not just the lives of the kids, but also their own.

Thank you for the opportunity!

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April dental team



Dr. Burkat and patients post-op



SRW ocular plastics team

Team members were:  
Cat Burkat, MD  
Erin Lembcke, RN  
James Albrecht, CRNA  
Rose Silveira, CRNA  
Mary Beth Schneider, CRNA

Joe Albrecht, Student  
Marcia Schmitt, RN  
Wendy Read, RN  
Keare Armenta, ORT  
Jennifer Larson, MD  
Jo Lippitt, RN  
John Schacherl, DDS

Denise Jacobsen, RDH  
Kim Brabender, RDH  
Brittany Coleman, DA  
Mary Kate Gavigan, DA  
Mary Dowling, RN

## Surgical Team *from page 1*

Also part of the team was our dental group. Working very hard for 5.5 days they treated 127 children and adults. The fruits of their labor is being realized when they see in the boys and girls in the upper classes that there is good dental

hygiene practiced that is preventing dental issues, and they require little restorative care now. Our dental team has seen them since kindergarten and oral hygiene has been taught and reinforced daily at La Providencia's school. Now teaching them to floss!

Each year there is a new class of 4–5 year olds so the work and teaching continues. Dr. Schacherl's team does amazing work and hopes to recruit more dentists and assistants to continue to go to this location to serve the community even more times per year. ●

# SRW Ortho Team Brings New Hope

by Mary Dowling

**Few** parents in North America know what it's like to be told that nothing can be done to fix their child's problem. In other countries, where medical care is so much more limited, it is not uncommon to hear these devastating words. But many parents refuse to let them be the last words. They never give up hope that someone can help their child, and they make great personal sacrifices to give their child one more chance at a more normal life.

These are the kinds of parents SRW's orthopedic team met when they traveled to Siguatepeque, Honduras, in February 2016. The



**A very busy OR in Siguatepeque**

first day of our mission, our staff screened 99 patients under age 18 with orthopedic issues of all sorts. They scheduled 26 children for

surgery that week. The children and their parents came from all over Honduras, some of them traveling

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## 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](http://www.sharingresourcesworldwide.org)**

## **Sharing Resources Worldwide**

Mary Dowling, Director

## **Governing Board**

Richard Thompson, President  
Adam Dowling  
Neil Lucchese, M.D.  
John Woodford, M.D.  
Patricia White, C.R.N.A.

## **Advisory Board Members**

Kaye Lillisand, M.S.N.  
David Mann, M.D.

## Ortho Team *from page 2*

8–9 hours to be evaluated.

Just as there's nothing more rewarding than to provide hope in a previously hopeless case, there's little that's more heartbreaking than to tell parents that nothing can be done. Several cases seen by our orthopedic team were so severe that surgery could not offer any



**Miguel and mom after surgery**

hope. Several other children could be treated only in the U.S., so we've found generous surgeons and hospitals here to treat them at no cost to the patients or their families. With only a few exceptions, we could offer a future full of hope for the children we evaluated.

Thank you to Healthwerks for their support for this mission. Also thanks to all team members and their families. It takes a village!

This was the last SRW mission team to work with Dr. Bertha Turcios, who retired at the end of February 2016. Since its founding in 2007, Dr. Turcios has been the Medical Director of John Eaves Medical Clinic at La Providencia, and an invaluable asset to a growing number of SRW medical teams. She coordinated medical care for patients preoperatively and postoperatively. For many hours each day, she took phone calls and scheduled children for evaluation and follow-up. We thank her very much for her dedication, hard



**Dr. Bertha Turcios with her little patient post op**

work, and deep caring, both for the team members and the families we have served. We all wish her the very best in her retirement. May she — and her phone — enjoy a welcome rest! ●

Each year SRW serves several hundred children and a few adults in Honduras with our surgical, ocular and dental services. Our warehouse is usually brimming with medical supplies that are much needed around the globe. Many of our supplies reach destinations other than Honduras, including Cuba, African countries, Haiti and many more. We cannot do this without your support. No one in our organization receives a salary and everyone remains a volunteer. Our volunteers are the very best there are! We would ask, if you can, to donate something to help us help others. All donations are tax deductible and will be very much appreciated by someone you will never know, but they will realize life-changing services by our teams with your support. Thank you all.



**SRW orthopedic team with Dr. B. Turcios**

Team members were:  
Marge Abegglen, RN  
Mary Dowling, RN  
Ken Noonan, MD  
Kristan Sodergren, NP  
Elizabeth Shimon, PA  
Richard Choudoir, ORSA  
Christine Longoria, PA  
Robert Machotka, RN  
Tracy Cotter, MD

David Mann, MD  
Robert Groshek, MD  
Toby Haines, RN  
Sam Noonan, Student  
Roxanne Tillema, RN  
Andrew Perkins, CRNA  
David Hennessy, MD

## 2016 Missions to Honduras

- October, Strabismus Team
- November, Hand Team

# Handing Over a New Lease on Life



Ready to go home after arm surgery

by Mary Dowling and Sylvia Boomsma

The first week of October 2015 brought new hope to a segment of Honduras' population — parents and children who had been told that nothing could be done to correct debilitating hand deformities which might affect not only the present, but also a child's future hope for a normal, independent life.

It all started months beforehand, when I was introduced to two pediatric hand surgeons from Iowa City, Iowa. Drs. Ericka Lawler and Apurva Shah had heard about SRW medi-

Team members were:  
Mary Dole-Ritter, RN  
Melinda Seering, MD  
Paula Woods, SC  
Linda Wilson, RN  
Lynn Burselson, SC  
Judd Lawler, Assistant  
Matt Wilson, Assistant  
Cindy Haas, CRNA  
Ericka Lawler, MD  
Apurva Shah, MD  
Mary Dowling, RN  
Rose Silveira, CRNA  
Marge Abegglen, RN  
John Schacherl, DDS  
Brenda Maxwell, DA  
Paul Maxwell, Technician  
Denise Jacobsen, RDH  
Amber Jacobsen, DA

cal teams serving in Honduras, and were interested in taking a team also. They gathered their own operating room staff and we set dates for a mission to Siguatepeque, Honduras, where we would see children from across the country with hand surgical needs. The entire team was from Iowa, with the exception of three veterans from Wisconsin.

Upon our arrival in Siguatepeque, we screened 45 children and identified 30 who would require surgery that week. The team worked well together (even though Iowa beat our football Badgers while we were there!) and all of the patients did well. Since most of the parents had been told previously that there was nothing that could be done, they were thrilled about their children's brighter prospects, greater function, improved lives, and hopes for a better future.

The mission was such a success that this year's trip is already set. A hand team will return to Honduras on November 4, 2016, to help even more children from around Hondu-

ras with hand surgery issues.

A very grateful thank you to all the medical professionals who made up this team, and to The American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH) for their support of this mission. They posted our blog daily which was most interesting to follow for those not there.

One aspect of SRW's long relationship with Siguatepeque has been dental education and service, and five dental professionals from Wisconsin traveled with this mission team to continue this ongoing effort. Dr. John Schacherl and his team were able to treat 100 patients, including students of the La Providencia School, and community members. It has been gratifying to see the results of many years' dental care and teaching. Dental service has made a huge difference in this community, through saving diseased teeth, maintaining oral health, and teaching the importance of daily oral hygiene. ●



SRW hand team

# A New Perspective on Life

by Mary Dowling and Sylvia Boomsma

It was a cool Halloween Day (October 31, 2015) as a surgical team made up of professionals from Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Tennessee and California traveled to Siguatepeque, Honduras, to provide eye surgery for children 18 years old and younger. For the children they would see who were suffering from strabismus (crossed eyes), there was no other hope, because no one in their country can perform corrective surgery for this condition.

This was the first SRW eye team in several years that included two surgeons who would work each day in the two operating rooms at the John Eaves Clinic at La Providencia in Siguatepeque. Their first full day was a long one, as the team screened 93 patients and scheduled 39 of them for surgery in the next five days. For those 39 children and their families, the SRW medical team was an answer to many prayers, bringing hope for a much brighter future. One of the patients was only a few weeks from her high school graduation, and she could not stop smiling because she would graduate without crossed eyes! Another patient — a 10-year-old girl who was being raised by her grandmother after her mother abandoned her — was brought in by a neighbor and friend who had promised to help her find, against all odds, a solution for her strabismus. Her friend's tears of happiness and gratitude were plentiful as she waited for the child to wake up in recovery.

It was an amazing and fruitful week. Thank you to mission team members, to Providence World Ministries in Siguatepeque, and to all who support our efforts at SRW. When medical teams go out to bring hope and change lives, they represent you, our donors, and all who wish to share the benefits of state-of-the-art medical care with those who need it throughout the world. ●

Team members were:

Robert Bechtel, MD  
Kweku Grant-Acquah, MD  
John Alamaida, RN  
Wendy Read, RN  
Pat Kreibich, RN  
Mary Dowling, RN  
Dick Beinborn, CRNA

Jessica Hoffmaster, CRNA  
Rose Silveira, CRNA  
Tiffany Michael, ORT  
Charlene Sauer, NP  
Kari Sass, RN  
Katie Kieler, RN  
Ashley Szmania, RN



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*Watch for our 15th Anniversary Celebration of SRW  
in 2017!*

# How to Improve 100 Lives a Day

by Mary Dowling and Sylvia Boomsma

**O**n a cold January morning in 2016, an SRW team departed Madison airport for our third eyeglass mission to Honduras at the Providence World Ministries (PWM) John Eaves Clinic. All team members were from the Madison Area.

Our two ophthalmologists, Drs. David Gamm and Neil Lucchese, were veterans who had served on many mission teams organized by SRW. We had told the PWM staff physician, Dr. Bertha Turcios, to have 100 eye patients per day for us to examine. She arranged for different local communities and churches to bring these patients in each day by bus. The day after our arrival, exams began.

In five and a half days, we examined 578 adults and children. Five of those children will receive surgery from a future team to correct strabismus (crossed eyes). Fifteen children needed glasses — a need which SRW commits to meet for every child diagnosed by an eyeglass mission team. 492 people received one or more pairs of eyeglasses to correct their vision... and to vastly improve their lives, enabling them to contribute to the good of their communities and families.

Thank you to Bonnie V. and Kim L. for their talent and patience in running the optical shop portion of the mission. Thanks to Lions Clubs of Wisconsin for the recycled eyeglasses we were able to give our clients. And thank you to local La Providencia School students, aged 12–18, who

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**Our opticians and interpreters**



**Dr. David Gamm examines a patient**

Sharing Resources Worldwide  
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For your convenience, SRW can now accept your donation by credit card online. Just go to our website at [www.sharingresourcesworldwide.org](http://www.sharingresourcesworldwide.org) and donate via credit card on our secure site.

## 100 Lives a Day *from page 6*

served as our interpreters for the week in all areas. PWM staff's wonderful arrangements enable us to see the maximum number of patients and to ensure that our equipment and supplies are available for our use. Our partnership with them — and with you, our supporters — is essential to our ability to carry out these missions. ●

Team members were:

David Gamm, MD

Neil Lucchese, MD

Mary Dowling, RN

Pat Kreibich, RN

Lynn Lucchese, Soto Assistant

Bonnie Verges, Optician

Kim Leanna, Optician

Gary Haefel, Biomedical Engineer



The eyeglass team

## Never Forgotten

By Pat White, CRNA and Deb Dahlke, CRNA

We lost our friend and colleague, Pam Smith, February 6th of this year. She was a nurse anesthetist for UW Hospital for 19 years, but it's her work with Sharing Resources we wish to celebrate.

Pam started doing medical missions with Mary Dowling in 1995, traveling to Nicaragua and Guatemala. In those days the volunteers brought their own bedding, slept in orphanages and ate peanut butter to avoid food poisoning.

Intraoperative challenges included brown-outs, flying and crawling insects, and constant equipment failures necessitating creative solutions. Pam could be found using a tourniquet to hold a Halothane vaporizer in place, and a wad of bubble gum to

plug a leaking anesthetic drain valve.

On these early trips, Pam's expert nursing skills ushered countless children safely through surgery and recovery.

Pam could always be counted on to liven up end-of-week parties. On one notable occasion at a residents' birthday bash, Pam danced to music with a lampshade on her head. We know there's a photo out there somewhere.

Family obligations kept her home in recent years; helping a niece with tuition expenses and caring for both elderly parents. Pam's influence was instrumental in recruiting many more anesthetists to participate in these mission trips. She was our friend, mentor and inspiration. We will miss her. ●



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

## With Gratitude

There are many individuals and companies, both local and from across the U.S., 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!

Access Community Health Center	Colgate	MAP International	Upland Hills Health
Albrecht Free Clinic	David Duehr Dean	Mc Farland Lions Club	UW Eye Clinic
Alcon	Dean Clinc	Medline	UW Home Health
Allergan	Dean/St Mary's Day Surgery Center	Menomonie Wisconsin Lions Club	UW Hospital and Clinics
American Family Children's Hospital	Enova	Meriter – Unity Point Hospital	VanDen Wymelenberg Foundation
American Society for Surgery of the Hand	Epic Foundation	Meriter Pharmacy	Verona Lions Club
Beaver Dam Community Hospital	Fitchburg Senior Center	Middleton Senior Center	Walman Instruments
Dick Beinhorn	Fort Healthcare, Inc.	Midwest Biomedical Services	Waunakee Senior Center
Beloit Memorial Hospital	Good Samaritan Society	Pizza Hut of South West Wisconsin	West Coast Medical Resources
Bone and Joint Surgery Center, Wausau	Halyard	Roz Klanderman	Wisconsin Lions Foundation
Bonnet Prairie Lutheran Church	Health Net of Rock County	St. Mary's Hospital Janesville	Amy Zastrow
	Healthwerks	St. Mary's Hospital Madison	Zwingli United Church of Christ
	Home Health United	Transformations	<i>Many more businesses and individuals. THANK YOU!</i>
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	Main Street Dentists		
	Mallatts Pharmacy		

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