

The RESOURCE

The Newsletter of Sharing Resources Worldwide

Spring 2020

SRW Hand Team

Our team from The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of Iowa returned to Siguatepeque, Honduras for a week in September 2019 for our fifth annual pediatric hand surgery mission. Over the last four years, we have successfully completed 105 operations. We scheduled 33 for surgery, including children with congen-



ital hand anomalies, brachial plexus injuries, burns, cerebral palsy and traumatic injuries. All of our patients did well.

This was especially true because of the assistance of our Occupational Therapist, Meagan Pehnke. She treated 40 patients that week in Siguatepeque, most of them with splints or braces for use after their operative cast is removed. ●



Dr. Shah with his grateful patient



The entire hand team

Team members were:
Wendy Read RN
Melinda Seering MD
Kelly Beard ORT
Deb Fuhr RN
Lynn Burleson SC/ORT

David Cohen MD
Ericka Lawler MD
Apurva Shah MD
Kathleen Marascio RN
Anju Thomas PA
Mary Dowling RN

Meagan Pehnke OT
Lucas Seiler MD
Elizabeth Alonso
Hohman RN
Keaton Read Student
David Swanson MD

What does the future hold?

Throughout the world, Coronavirus has changed lives and raised questions about the future. This is true for individuals, businesses, nations, and organizations. When will we get back to normal? Or will there be a completely *new* normal? Here at SRW, it’s too early to know how the pandemic will affect our mission or our mission teams. How soon will people be comfortable with air travel? When will countries allow travelers in? How long until we have effective testing and immunization? We’re all living with a lot of uncertainty these days.

While we wait for answers, we at SRW are staying positive and planning for future missions. Though we need to take many things into consideration, we know the need for our service is still there, and we continue to have the greatest volunteers in the world. Please stay in touch and we will do the same. 2020 promises to be a memorable start to the new decade, and SRW, now more than 18 years old, hopes to continue serving those who need our services, wherever they are.

Stay safe, and thank you to our frontline medical personnel, many of whom we know. You are awesome! ●

Strabismus Team

By Mylee Jo Dull, COA

Honduras. Wow! Where do I start? Well, first of all, I want to thank the team I had the opportunity to go with. Everyone, from start to finish. I was the youngest, but they made



Mylee with a patient preop

me feel so welcome. I learned so much by being given the opportunity to observe. No one complained or rolled their eyes at my millions

of questions. They explained things to me in ways I could understand and sometimes let me try tasks for myself. Although they had no idea

who I was at the beginning, I'd like to think we were all friends by the end.

Honduras was an experience like no other. This was my first trip to a developing country and I never at any point felt uncomfortable or in danger. There may have been a language barrier but the love you felt broke right through that. It didn't take a translator to express their gratitude. You could see it written right across their faces. Some of the children came back year after year for a checkup or just to say thank you. I was shocked at the distance some of them traveled just to do so. It wasn't just minutes, but hours. I will forever remember the sweet faces from my first mission trip.

Our first few days in Honduras we went straight to screening the children. It was important to have an estimate on how many cases were surgical so we could plan the next few days appropriately. We had a few stragglers throughout the week that we made time for as well. Midweek, we started operating. The operating room was like nothing I had experienced before. It was

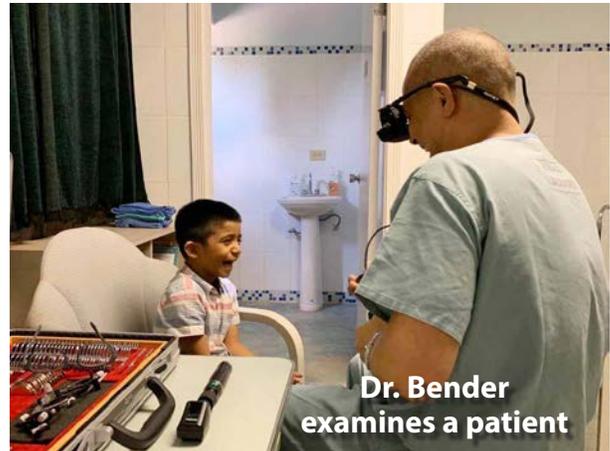


Both our surgeons working together



The entire strabismus team

Our team consisted of:
 Robert Bechtel MD
 Lloyd Bender MD
 Wendy Read RN
 Pat Kreibich RN
 Mary Dowling RN
 Matt Dyer CRNA
 Rose Silveira CRNA
 Kristen Schomburg CRNA
 Mary Casey RN
 Charlene Sauer NP
 Jacque Maki RN
 Mylee Jo Dull COA



Dr. Bender examines a patient

awesome watching everyone in their element. It was where the "magic" was happening and it was where I wanted to be. To watch an operation from start to finish and then to see the end results was truly something to witness. My teammates were like well-oiled machines and they made each child feel special.

I think I was affected the most by the living conditions. It was something I was always told about by missionaries or something I had seen in movies. If you were to see their homes/lifestyle in person it

definitely gives you more of an appreciation for what we have here. Some homes truly looked like a cement slab with a tarp over the top. I look back at pictures and get tears in my eyes at the thought. We truly have so much to be thankful for.

While in Honduras I met so many wonderful people. I hope to return again someday.

During that week in Siguatepeque we screened 68 patients and 23 had surgery. ●



Matt getting patient ready for anesthesia

Hernia Surgery Team

By Patrick Bauer MD

February 10–15 took our hernia team to Honduras to work at La Providencia Clinic. This was their second mission trip to Honduras. They were able to treat 15 patients there with needed surgery.

I am grateful to have been able to join the team at Sharing Resources Worldwide for my first medical mission trip. We traveled to Siguatepeque, Honduras as a team of surgeons, anesthesiologists and nurses to provide perioperative care to children in need. Overall, this experience gave me a glimpse into global health discrepancies and provided me with a greater appreciation for the work I do and the resources available to me. ●



Mom and baby preop



SRW hernia team

Team members were:
Wendy Read RN
Hau Le MD
Taun Tony Nguyen MD
Keon Young Park MD

Kevin Janek MD
Valerie Mok MD
Rose Silveria CRNA
Judy Hilgers RN
Joe Hilgers RN

Robert Machotka RN
Elijah Hazen Stairs RN
Patrick Bauer MD

Dental Team

Our dental team led by Drs. John and Kate Schacherl was postponed due to the corona virus. It was scheduled for April but will be rescheduled as soon as travel bans have been lifted. There are now nearly 200 children at La Providencia's school. I am sure they cannot wait for the dental team to arrive. There will be many new students who have never seen a dentist. ●

Doing Our Part

During the challenging times around the world, SRW has been able to assist those on the front lines both near and far.

In Siguatepeque, Honduras, gowns, gloves, and masks were donated to the local Central Salud (public clinic) from our stock of supplies at the clinic at Providencia for our teams to utilize during the surgeries we provide to children there. So far in 2020, just over 100 children had surgery by our four teams that were there in January and February.

Locally, we donated similar items from our warehouse to local institutions and the Dane County Public Health Department for use in the community. We never have huge supplies of anything because of our limited storage space but it felt good to share what we have. ●



above: Waiting her turn for surgery



above: Stylin' Joe and Judy

Reflections on A Mission

by Dana Gruenenfelder

The world is a crazy place right now with the COVID-19 Pandemic happening. There are not enough supplies. Staff is being asked to reuse and conserve. There are too many patients and not enough staff. The world feels stressed. You know what else is stressed? The resources of a third world country. Only, the people of Honduras are kind, calm, and resourceful. The experience in Honduras changed me in a way that I never could have dreamed. I thought to myself, "I cannot wait to help these people." However, the people of Honduras provided more help and guidance to me than I could have ever imagined.



Just arrived in PACU

As we loaded the school bus in San Pedro Sula, I had so many racing thoughts in my mind. What did I sign up for? How will I know what to do? Do I have enough skills to be an effective team member? How will I support and become a part of a team who has functioned effectively long before I joined? And what do I smell? Pulling up to the clinic and looking at what has been built through this mission was a hard reminder of how many times throughout the day I have used the word "I." There was no more room for "I" in this trip, requiring me to shift my focus to having a half full cup versus one filled with doubt.

SRW welcomed me like I had been there for years. The tasks no longer felt like work to be checked off the checklist. Helping so many patients in Honduras, I was instilled with a purpose to give my whole self to this team and this effort. At the end of this trip, hopefully our hard work and drive to do whatever we could to help as many as possible was enough. Everyone in the team was there for the team and the patient's lives we would hopefully improve. The first morning our bus drove up to the clinic and my heart sank as a

fully engulfed outdoor waiting room was bursting with families praying to be seen by the very talented providers who would spend the entire day busting their tails to listen to the concerns these patients live with day in and day out.

Many times throughout the first full day at the clinic, I peeked out the small window of that exam room and caught glimpses of families conversing, playing soccer, sharing meals, and patiently waiting. The patients who were seen at 7pm that evening were just as kind and patient as those seen at 8am earlier that day.

The long days never really seemed to be as long until we quietly loaded the bus for the trip home exhausted. We laughed together, cried together, and worked our tails off together making lemonade out of every lemon thrown our way. Even upon the sterilizer holding



Waiting their turn for surgery

our fearless leader Marge hostage for that dicey hour, we overcame every obstacle.

Healthcare is a tough gig these days without easy answers or solutions. For a moment after 16 years of nursing, I may have forgotten where my purpose rests in the web of healthcare confusion. However, the Honduras mission trip has renewed my sense of nursing to simply help where you can and work hard assisting me to fill my cup back to the proverbial brim until the next trip is on the books.

The orthopedic team screened 161 patients and 36 children had surgery the week of January 10-17, 2020 in Siguatepeque, Honduras at La Providencia. ●



SRW orthopedic team

Team members were:
Marge Abegglen RN
Mary Dowling RN
Ken Noonan MD
Kristan Sodergren NP
Christine Longoria PA
Wendy Read RN

Joe Mitchel MD
Frank Podojil MD
Robert Machotka RN
Tracy Cotter MD
David Mann MD
Shannon Conlin CRNA
Jennifer Penston PT

Joe Abrecht PT Student
Dana Gruenenfelder RN
Tricia Ejzak RN
Peter Noonan Student
Saji Azerf MD
Dawn Mueller PA

So Many Casts

Six weeks after our orthopedic team travels to Honduras to do needed orthopedic surgery there for children, another smaller SRW team returns to change the casts of those who had surgery. Those new casts stay on for another 4–6 weeks. To be even more efficient while the casts are off, the Honduran brace company personnel makes a mold of the foot that will need a brace in their shoe when the cast is removed for the last time. The bracing post operatively is as important as the surgery itself to improving the patient’s mobility for the future. SRW helps with that expense to the patient as most cannot afford the \$150–\$300 per child for the braces. Thank you to the Cornerstone Church in Mosinee, WI and the Ladies Guild from the Zwingli UCC of Mt. Vernon, WI for help with part of those funds.

Some of the younger children have to have anesthesia for this cast change procedure and some have metal pins that are also removed. About fifty percent of the patients go to surgery while the remainder can be treated without anesthesia and do well. Our team is small but mighty! We perform the procedures in two days at the clinic in Siguatepeque as the children and their families travel back to this clinic from across

Honduras. This year we saw 31 patients and 43 braces need to be made for those children. This was accomplished Feb. 22–March 3, 2020. Our team members were all team members who also made the same trip last year. We cannot wait to see these patients next year and see their improved mobility in action. ●



Happy to have casts off!

Team members were:
 David Mann MD
 Mary Dowling RN
 Wendy Read RN
 Jessica Ebert CRNA
 Jessica Hoffmaster CRNA
 Elizabeth Shimon PA
 Cassie Kolstad PA
 Pat White RN
 Pat Kreibich RN



Sooooo many casts for brace making



left: Pat does a pre-op check
 above: Dr. Nguyen with his patient

Our Newest SRW Board Member

Carlos Alvarado was born and raised in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico and has been proud to call Madison home since 2002. After working in the banking world for a number of years he brought his financial savvy and caring client services to Alvarado Real Estate Group as a licensed Realtor in 2006. With so many years serving clients and helping people navigate their real estate needs he has found his sweet spot as a real estate broker/owner of their family company. Carlos specializes in residential home buying and selling, commercial real estate, investment properties,



and also owns and manages real estate in Mexico. A deep understanding of real estate shifts the perspective on generational wealth and opportunity and Carlos bring that into the community.

In 2018, Carlos fulfilled a lifelong dream of earning his degree in business from Edgewood College. It is never too late to reach for your dreams! He is also currently part of a strong group of industry leaders of color in Madison who are creating an educational series to share informa-

tion and experience about wealth building through homeownership. His commitment for community is also visible through his work with the Madison-Tepa Sister City Project, and as a previous board member of the Latino Chamber of Commerce. While full-time work doesn't leave him much time for fun, Carlos still makes time to play soccer (now in the Old Man League!) and loves being with his family.

We know Carlos will be a great addition to our Board of Directors at SRW. ●

facebook

Look for us on facebook!

Who puts the glam in this gazette?

a volunteer profile by Sylvia Boomsma

Medical professionals are the face of our organization, representing SRW and its supporters as they travel the world. It is their love and expertise which brings hope and healing to the hopeless and the helpless.

But behind the scenes are dozens of volunteers who help make SRW's mission possible. For instance, have you ever wondered who designs the elegant publication you're reading right now? A professional, evidently. And that professional is Lisa Imhoff, who has been a graphic designer since 1993.



Lisa has been volunteering for SRW since its inception, and Bob Boomsma was the link. A Madison businessman whose wife served on SRW's board, Bob was one of

Lisa's clients and asked if she would consider offering her services. Lisa's mission as a graphic designer is to create a polished presentation that represents products or services attractively, in a way that reflects well on her clients. As a volunteer for SRW, she appreciates working with a "product" she believes in. "I'm glad I can provide a service to an organization that I want to help, but where I'm not qualified to be on 'the front line' or 'in the trenches,'" she says. "The newsletter broadens my world. I learn how things are in other parts of the world — things that we take for granted here aren't the same everywhere."

When Lisa's not at her desk, she practices Tai Chi, knits, researches genealogy, serves in township government, maintains extensive daylily beds, volunteers at Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville, and enjoys the country life she and her husband Dave share, which includes chickens, a vegetable garden, and a very old

house.

Thank you, Lisa, for your long and faithful service to SRW!

We at SRW also want to thank Sylvia Boomsma for her editing expertise with each edition. She has been on our team since our founding. Sylvia has a way with words that make things so much more pleasant to read. Many of our articles are written by team members but other informative ones Sylvia brightens up with her own writing style that makes it all much more pleasant to read. She is a busy lady with children, grandchildren, four hens and a dog, and her church.

We at SRW thank you also, Sylvia for your long and faithful service to our cause. ●



When shopping on-line at Amazon, be sure to enter through smile.amazon.com when ordering and put SRW into that info and we will receive 0.5% back in a donation from Amazon.

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!

3 M	Fort Healthcare, Inc.	Transformations
Access Community Health Center	HealthNet of Rock County	UW Home Health
Alcon	Healthwerks	UW Hospital and Clinics
Allergan	Home Health United	VanDen Wymelenberg Foundation
American Family Children's Hospital	Hometown Pharmacy/Fitchburg	Verona Lions Club
American Society for Surgery of the Hand	Main Street Dentists	Waunakee Manor
Attic Angels	McFarland Lions Club	Waunakee Senior Center
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Bone and Joint Surgery Center, Wausau	Menomonie Wisconsin Lions Club	Wisconsin Lions Foundation
Bonnet Prairie Lutheran Church	Middleton Senior Center	Zwingli United Church of Christ
Dean Clinic	Midwest Biomedical Services	
Dean/St Marys Day Surgery Center	Mobile Instruments	Thanks to Sylvia Boomsma for editing, Lisa Imhoff for design and layout, and Images Plus for printing this edition of The Resource.
Deforest Senior Center	Prairie du Chien 3M Store	
Enova	Reedsburg Area Medical Center	
Epic	SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital - Janesville	And many more businesses and individuals. THANK YOU!
Fitchburg Senior Center	SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital - Madison	

SRW accepts gifts of appreciated stocks and mutual fund shares. Your gift of such qualifies for a tax deduction based on full market value of your stock or mutual fund shares plus you avoid the capital gains tax that would otherwise arise from the sale of stock or mutual fund shares.

Sharing Resources Worldwide
2405 Industrial Drive • Madison, WI 53713
Phone 608-445-8503 • E-mail mdowl@tds.net • www.sharingresourcesworldwide.org

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Sharing Resources Worldwide
2405 Industrial Drive
Madison, WI 53713

Mary Dowling
608-445-8503
mdowl@tds.net

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

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

Sharing Resources Worldwide

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