

The RESOURCE

The Newsletter of Sharing Resources Worldwide

Spring 2021

Yes, SRW had to pause...

Yes, SRW had to pause, but thanks to our volunteers, we were able to make a difference even during the pandemic.

For SRW, 2020 got off to a great start, and none of us imagined how quickly things would grind to a halt only a few months into the year. We completed four missions to Honduras (an orthopedic team, hernia team, strabismus team, and pin-and-cast team) before the pandemic. Our last mission team left Honduras on March 1, 2020, and the rest, as they say, is history. Sadly, our hand team's fall mission had to be cancelled, and our dental team did not make it to Honduras at all in 2020 due to COVID-related travel cautions and restrictions.

In January 2021, parents of future patients began calling the Honduran facility where our medical mission teams work, to see when SRW would be returning to offer their children a better future. We do not have an answer for them. Team members are eager to return, but such missions are not deemed safe at this time. In Honduras, vaccines are scarce and expensive.

Since our first mission to Honduras in 2006, we have treated more than 5,140 children and adults. Our eyeglass, prosthetic eye, and dental missions treat adults, but the majority of the 5,140 treated are children from all over Honduras. At least three times that number were screened or seen for consult by our specialists. Others received needed equipment for better mobility or



Paul Fernholz
and Dennis Bakke

ease of care.

The pandemic has caused shortages all over the world. But when a shortage concerns life-saving and life-changing health care, it's frustrating for us and for our patients and their parents. Sharing Resources Worldwide plans to return to Honduras as soon as it is safe and possible.

But thanks to our volunteers...

Although several of our warehouse volunteers needed to step back from volunteering at SRW's warehouse during the pandemic, others were able to help SRW keep moving forward.

Two volunteer drivers who have served for some years continued picking up donated supplies and equipment as needed. Whenever

requests for pick-ups came in from hospitals and clinics, Paul Fernholz and Dennis Bakke, retired Ameritech employees, would rent a truck and off they'd go. They have been greatly appreciated by those donating items, and also by SRW staff. Their travels around Madison and from Reedsburg to Beloit enabled SRW to obtain not only provisions for our future missions, but also supplies we could share with other mission groups in the area.

Even during the pandemic supplies were shipped abroad by other groups, and we were able to donate locally. SRW's contributions included sorely needed personal protective equipment which was put to good use rather than collecting dust on our shelves.

In addition to their trucking services, Paul and Dennis often help with other duties in our warehouse. If you have time on your hands and are willing to help SRW with week-day tasks, or if you're ready to return to service after a COVID break, please give Mary Dowling a call.

Thank you, Paul and Dennis, for being a part of the team! ●

Volunteer Opportunity

Do you have spare time during the week, a medical background, and a desire to volunteer? SRW is looking for one or two persons to learn our warehouse operations and become part of our team. If you are interested or have questions, contact Mary Dowling at 608-445-8503 or email mmmmdo13@gmail.com. ●

An Irresistible Dynamic

By Kristan Sodergren

I have been a nurse now for over 20 years, working at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics (UWHC), and the medical missions that SRW has served have been a desire of mine from the time I started. It was now a little over 10 years ago that I got my opportunity and I have not looked back since. From the moment we arrived at the clinic I knew I was coming back. The team, the patients and families we serve and the community create an irresistible dynamic.

I have had the fortunate opportunity to participate on the Pediatric Orthopedic team doing predominantly lower extremity surgeries. While the core remains consistent,

there are fun additions each year that just add to the dynamic. What we are able to accomplish is truly remarkable; given this is a group of people that do not routinely work together.

What makes it work?

A shared goal: We are here to help the children and families before us.

The creative problem solving is one of my favorite challenges. I still



remember when a bolt cutter (affectionately called “the bike stealer”) was needed to cut pins, and what was produced was just that. It was in that moment we realized we did not have a way to sterilize such a large device. Over the years we have come up with multiple iterations on how best to use said device while maintaining the sterility of the field. We look at what is before us and how can we maximize its use. The cuffed sleeves of a surgical gown can be stockinette under a cast, a wooden broom handle can be cut to make spacers for a cast. One year the clinic in Honduras had wheelchairs they were assembling using a plastic lawn chair and bicycle wheels — genius!

The most eye opening, awe inspiring day... clinic day. We arrive to a lawn full of hopeful faces, including our own. As we begin seeing patients I am in amazement at the respect and care they bring to us. Parents willing to entrust



Kristan Sodergren with grateful parents of one of her patients

total strangers to help their child with very little time to build and foster a relationship. Yet, I find evidence that we do, in the number that come back year to year for follow up, or to introduce us to a new patient or to just say hi. In seeing this, our cross cultural exchange can continue. I learn more from my patients and families than they will ever learn from me.

A medical mission is an opportunity to work in health care in its purist form, constrained only by the limited time we are there. It reminds me each year why I went into nursing. While we do not

yet know the timing of the next mission, I am pretty sure I can speak for all when I say we are anxiously waiting and ready to serve. ●



SRW made a difference even during the pandemic

Although we had to go on pause after our four mission team trips in January and February 2020, SRW never closed. As a result, we were able to provide help around the world during an unprecedented global crisis. Not only did we donate supplies and equipment to local institutions; we also met needs abroad.

Locally, we donated PPE and cleaning/disinfecting supplies to:

Local public health
Hospitals and clinics
Local schools
Police department and EMT groups
Our SRW volunteers
Internationally, we donated medical supplies and equipment to:
Gambia
Senegal
Ghana
Haiti
Armenia

Guinea
SRW did not pay for the shipping of these supplies, but provided the items free of charge.

Never underestimate the power of networking. It is a powerful tool. And you — SRW’s donors, supporters, and volunteers—make up the network that empowers our mission to the world. You are greatly appreciated! ●

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!

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Access Community Health Center
Alcon
Allergan
American Family Children's Hospital
American Society for Surgery of the Hand
Attic Angels
Beloit Memorial Hospital
Bone and Joint Surgery Center, Wausau
Bonnet Prairie Lutheran Church
Dean Clinic
Dean/St Marys Day Surgery Center
Deforest Senior Center
Enova
Epic
Fitchburg Senior Center
Fort Healthcare, Inc.

HealthNet of Rock County
Healthwerks
Home Health United
Hometown Pharmacy/Fitchburg
Main Street Dentists
McFarland Lions Club
Medline
Menomonie Wisconsin Lions Club
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Prairie du Chien 3M Store
Reedsburg Area Medical Center
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Transformations
UW Home Health

UW Hospital and Clinics
VanDen Wymelenberg Foundation
Verona Lions Club
Waunakee Manor
Waunakee Senior Center
West Coast Medical Resources
Wisconsin Lions Foundation
Zwingli United Church of Christ

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And many more businesses and individuals. THANK YOU!



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.

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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.

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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.

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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

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