

The RESOURCE

The Newsletter of Sharing Resources Worldwide

Spring 2025

Strabismus Mission Trip

By Alexis Chaudron

In February 2025, we had the incredible opportunity to return to Siguatepeque, Honduras, for another remarkable strabismus mission trip — and what an unforgettable experience it was! The week was filled with moments that reminded us of the power of community and compassion. Families traveled from near and far, often with tears in their eyes, expressing overwhelming gratitude for the life-changing care their children would receive. We screened 87 patients and 46 had surgery the week we were there.

One of the most heartwarming moments came after surgery when the children saw their reflections for the first time. Watching their pure joy and disbelief as they looked into the mirror, seeing their eyes straight for the first time, was beyond words. Many of them teared up with happiness, and their smiles lit up the entire room. These emotional moments reinforced the significance of our work — not just in restoring vision

but in giving these children confidence and a brighter future.

This success wouldn't have been possible without the dynamic and dedicated team that came together for this mission. Our team included veterans from previous mission trips who brought invaluable experience, as well as new members who quickly became part of the family. It truly felt like coming home, with everyone working seamlessly toward a common goal: to treat as many patients as possible. The power of collaboration was palpable, with every team member contributing their expertise, dedication, and passion to ensure the best outcomes for our patients.

As we reflect on this extraordinary journey, we are reminded that transforming lives takes a village. We are incredibly grateful for everyone who made this mission possible, and we look forward to returning and continuing this life-changing work. Together, we are making a lasting difference.



Team members were:
Robert Bechtel, MD
Kim Decker, RN
Staci Kothbauer, CRNA
Mara Schaefer, CRNA
Jessica Hoffmaster, CRNA
Pat Kreibich, RN
Mary Dowling, RN
Lloyd Bender, MD
Alexis Chaudron, RN
Ann Marie Rinker, ORT
Tonya Dillon, RN
Lauren Mahun, RN
Jacqueline Schmidt, RN
Iveth Villatoro, MD
Hugo Romero, Logistics



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Pin and Cast Trip

By Morgan Alcott

The Pin and Cast team has returned from an incredible and humbling trip to Siguatepeque, Honduras, with Sharing Resources Worldwide, and we are still reflecting on the impact of this mission. As a first-time volunteer, I was honored to be part of a dedicated group of medical professionals — all working together to bring specialized orthopedic care to children in need.

As I reflect, I continue to be in awe of the children and families we served while on this trip. The strength and determination of each child, along with the unwavering support of their families, made every long day worthwhile. Families traveled from all over the country, hoping to give their child the chance for greater mobility and independence.

The surgical team that preceded us performed life-changing procedures to correct foot deformities and improve alignment and joint mobility, in hope of providing these children with a stronger foundation for



movement. As physical therapists, we had the privilege of working closely with these children post-surgery, helping them take their first steps — sometimes quite literally — toward a better quality of life. Whether it was a child with clubfoot standing with newfound stability after or another youngster with cerebral palsy learning to balance with his new walker, every moment was a testament to the power of skilled care and compassion.

Now that I've returned, I am more motivated than ever to grow the presence of the physical therapy team on future trips. Rehabilitation is a crucial part of long-term success for these children, and we are eager to continue in our role in helping them gain strength, mobility, and independence. We look forward to continuing this mission and making an even greater impact in the years to come.

Thank you for your support in making these missions possible. Your generosity allows us to bring healing and hope to children who might not otherwise have access to this care. I cannot wait to return!

This Pin and Cast Team treated 38 children and 45



forms for braces were made for those children when their final cast comes off in about six weeks.

Team members were:

David Mann, MD
Jessica Ebert, CRNA
Mary Beth Schneider, CRNA
Elizabeth Shimon, PA
Robert Machotka, RN
Mary Dowling, RN
Pat Kreibich, RN
William Schneider
Elizabeth Cross, PT
Morgan Alcott, PT
Iveth Villatoro, MD
Hugo Romero, Logistics



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Go with the Flow

By Iveth Villatoro MD

I can't describe in enough words what has happened since the beginning of this year,

I know that with the beginning of each year, we set goals and have so many aspirations.

Personally, I'm not one of those people who makes lists of things to accomplish or specific goals. I consider myself more of a go-with-the-flow kind of person, and I believe in a Divine power that controls everything, and I simply let it surprise me.

And in January, the second week we had planned the first orthopedic brigade of the year, (just thinking about it I know it is a very busy week) and I began by requesting permits from the local authorities to carry out the brigades and then the socialization and announcement of it. The phone calls began, and I have no idea how many calls and messages I answered per day. A part of me was excited and the other was scared. Both emotions impacted me knowing that there is such a great need in the children of my country and at the same time knowing that the prayers of many parents were being answered to be able to carry out this evaluation and eventually the surgeries.

I should have; perhaps, recorded every word of gratitude from every parent, every smile on the face of every patient who was treated with such respect and empathy by each



All happy with new sunglasses



Our entire eyeglass team including Honduran volunteers.

member of the orthopedic team.

Then came the lens (eyeglass) brigade, so calm and in a harmonious atmosphere. I know we were able to help so many people, especially children with special needs who are difficult for their parents to obtain lenses due to the high cost here in the country. It was truly a blessing. The SRW team examined 360 patients that week at Clinica Betania and 12 children received glasses for which SRW covered the cost.

Finally, the strabismus brigade. Once again, my phone didn't stop receiving calls and messages, so much so that my WhatsApp app crashed! And it was a long day, but I love seeing the almost immediate results. I know full recovery takes time, but seeing those parents and the patients themselves so happy is priceless and beyond words. The Pin and Cast group, another teamwork success! Three days of running around and getting as much done as possible.

On behalf of them: parents and patients, I say infinite thanks.

I love being part of this team that transforms lives, families and, in the long run, a nation.

Thank you SRW for your work in Honduras.

Eyeglass team members were:

David Gamm, MD
Todd Murdock, MD
Neil Lucchese, MD
Kari Baker, CO
Sandie Reed, COT, CDOS
Rachel Artemis, COA
Mary Dowling, RN
Patricia Kreibich, RN
Iveth Villatoro, MD
Hugo Romero, Logistics



Getting the right measurements

Upper Extremity Team

By Ericka Lawler, MD

Our Pediatric Upper Extremity team returned to Siguatepeque from November 9-16, 2024 for our first mission trip since the COVID-19 pandemic. Veteran hand surgeons Drs. Ericka Lawler, MD and Apurva Shah, MD MBA recruited Dr. Jessica Hanley, MD from Medical College of Wisconsin to further our mission work.

Team members from Iowa, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania met in the new Pamerola airport to pass through customs. The new airport is beautiful with a shorter transit time to our lodgings. As our team consisted of seven return volunteers and 11 newbies, we took the opportunity the first evening to get to know one another and discuss the upcoming week.

On Sunday, we arrived at the John Eaves medical clinic to see many patients waiting for us. We took a moment to tour the facilities, connect with old friend and introduce new team members. This year we screened over 50 patients and performed 26 surgeries. We also indicated many patients for non-operative care who received therapy exercises and custom splints from our Occupational Therapist Sandy Schmieg.

Our surgeries over the week included a broad variety of complex hand and upper extremity pathology including brachial plexus birth injuries, congenital hand anomalies, cerebral palsy, tumors (Ollier's and Multiple Hereditary Exostoses), forearm and elbow malunions/nonunions (several cases of severe cubitus varus following supracondylar humerus malunion), and contractures from burn injuries.

This year we were excited to introduce a new research project — focusing on the safety and efficacy of short-term surgical mission trips. We hope this will encourage further funding and support for mission work around the world.

Our week flew by — lots of smiles, hugs and very grateful patients and

families. Our new team members took to the mission work with ease — and have voiced desires to return next year. We always love hearing, “Next year...”. This trip is a true blessing to those who participate — we always receive more than we give. We are reminded of why we have chosen our professions and are afforded the opportunity to work with like-minded individuals. It was so great to be back — we can't wait for 2025!



Our team members:
Elisabeth Hertzler, RN
Kelly Beard, ORT
Eliza Buttrick, BA
Brittani Hill, ORT
David Cohen, MD
Mary Dowling, RN
Kathy Fear, DNP, CRNA
Jeff Feldman, MD
Jessica Hanley, MD

Jodi Heth, ARNP
Matthew Kalinowsky, RN
Ericka Lawler, MD
Alison Lehman, PA-C
Hollie Pfeiffer, ORT
Wendy Read, RN
Sandy Schmieg, OT
Apurva Shah, MD MBA
Kiana Stender, SRNA



First Time on SRW Mission

By Claire McKinney

This was my first opportunity to go to Honduras. For over 10 years I have watched and heard my mom and Ken prepare for and talk about their time in Honduras. I have seen the pictures and heard the stories. Many of my siblings have been there. Finally the right time and age, this was my time to go.

What stood out to me, you may ask... It struck me that I could make a difference and seeing the work that I did and the rest of our team's work make a difference was so affirming. I was able to watch surgeries, help with discharge paperwork and casting. The new fluoro machine that was purchased through the generous support of prior orthopedic residents was in full use and was fun to see how that worked! As a student, I have been fortunate

to take Spanish through middle school and high school. To have the opportunity to practice Spanish was so fun. It was such an invaluable experience.

The first day that we arrived at the clinic is still one of the humbling moments for me. We pulled up to the clinic seeing so many cars, then people filling the outdoor space outside of the clinic. Nearly 200 patients, their families, some having been there since the very early hours of the morning and some having travelled 12 or more hours for the chance to have our team do an evaluation. I never realized that there would be so much need. We screened 160 and treated 45 with surgery.

I am now counting down the days until I can go back.



January 2025 Orthopedic Team:

Kenneth Noonan, MD	Wendy Read, RN
Marjorie Abegglen, RN	James Albrecht, CRNA
Claire McKinney	Tricia Ejzak, RN
Kristan Sodergren, NP, RN	Jon, McComb
Dana Gruenenfelder, NP, RN	Nathalie Quan, RN
Mary Dowling, RN	Tuo Li, MD
Jennifer Penston, PT	Patrick Touhy, MD
Tracy Cotter, MD	Kelly Crown, PA
Shannon Conlin, CRNA	Emily Voice, RN
Dawn McComb, PA	Heather Jorenby, RN
Zachary French, MD	Laurie Reckner, ORT
	Iveth Villatoro, MD
	Hugo Romero, Logistics

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	Dean/St. Marys Day Surgery Center	St. Marys Hospital Janesville
Alcon	Enova	St. Marys Hospital Madison
Allergan	Epic	Transformations
American Family Children's Hospital	Health Net of Rock County	UW Home Health
American Society for Surgery of the Hand	Healthwerks	UW Hospital and Clinics
Anew Medical	Home Health United	VanDen Wymelenberg Foundation
ARC Medical, Inc	Hometown Pharmacy/Fitchburg	Verona Lions Club
Attic Angels	JSF, Inc.	West Coast Medical Resources
Beloit Memorial Hospital	Main Street Dentists	Wisconsin Lions Foundation
Bone and Joint Surgery Center, Wausau	McFarland Lions Club	Zwingli United Church of Christ
Bonnet Prairie Lutheran Church	Medline	
Dean Clinic	Menomonie Wisconsin Lions Club	Thanks to Sylvia Boomsma for editing, Lisa Imhoff for design and layout, and Images Plus for printing this edition of The Resource.
	Midwest Biomedical Services	
	Mobile Instruments	

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

Sharing Resources Worldwide

Mary Dowling, Director

Governing Board

Pat White, President

Neil Lucchese, M.D.

Kristan Sodergren, MSN, PCNP, APNP

Jessica Hoffmaster, MSN, APNP, CRNA

Mary Beth Schneider, CRNA, DNP, APNP