

The RESOURCE

The Newsletter of Sharing Resources Worldwide

Summer 2022

SRW Celebrates Twenty Years

This year SRW commemorates twenty years of service, three warehouse/office moves, 65 missions, and thousands of lives improved worldwide. You deserve part of the credit for SRW's success, because it is our many faithful volunteers and donors who enable us to accomplish all of this without even one paid staff member.

Many of our donors have been with us since the very beginning, providing supplies, equipment, and funds. Their support is the reason we've been able to continue working toward our goal of bringing health care to those in need wherever we can.

We are depending on you for the next twenty years as we reach out to our global community with lifesaving supplies, equipment, and healthcare. Whenever you volunteer or donate to SRW, you are providing hope to many who would otherwise have no hope. Thank you for making our mission your mission!



Dear friends of SRW,

Greetings! It's been a long time since you've heard from us, and much has happened in the life of SRW over the past couple of years. The covid shutdown in early 2020 put many things on pause, including SRW mission trips. As life slowly returned to normal, our medical teams cherished the hope of resuming mission trips to Honduras, but circumstances have made progress toward that goal difficult.

About the same time covid became a global issue, our Honduran partner organization, Providencia, went through a leadership change that shifted its focus substantially. After lengthy deliberations, the SRW board concluded that it would no longer be possible to partner with Providencia. During our long partnership, SRW teams had provided medical services for just over 5,100 patients. Many of those patients have begun calling our contacts there to see when we will return. Likewise, our medical mission team members are eager and ready to resume mission trips.

So we're seeking a new partnership and worksite in Siguatepeque, Honduras, where our surgical, dental, and eyeglass teams can continue their volunteer efforts.

We have several leads on potential partner organizations whose operating rooms and facilities we might use to once again provide pro bono medical care in Siguatepeque. Such things rarely move as quickly as we like, but we are inching forward. Our board is hard at work, and we should know something concrete soon.

Meanwhile, our warehouse operation and volunteers have continued working here in Madison. Supplies and equipment have been received, sorted, and shipped to other parts of the world, including Cuba, several African countries, and most recently Ukraine.

In the process of our former partner's leadership change, SRW

suffered the loss of all its equipment in Siguatepeque. In order to start over there, we must rent additional warehouse space for donated items we know we'll eventually need. While this change doubles our monthly rental expense, it will allow us to hold onto valuable donated items, such as operating room equipment, which SRW will need to provide for our new partner organization.

In summary, we're still here, we're still committed to our mission, and we're making progress toward resuming our work in Honduras. We continue to cherish your support and encouragement. Though covid and

other circumstances have paused our work, they will not stop our mission to provide wholeness and health to those whose needs we have the power to meet.

Thank you all. Please stay tuned!
Mary Dowling, Director, Sharing Resources Worldwide



Not an Extraction Team: What We Accomplished in Siguatepeque

by John Schacherl DDS

More than a decade ago, Mary Dowling asked me if I wanted to provide dental care to the children in Siguatepeque. She told me about the facility SRW was using at La Providencia to provide surgical services. Mary stated that I had to decide quickly as SRW was getting ready to send a container of supplies. I would need to get my initial operatory equipment into that shipment. I told her, "Yes." From that moment, I worked feverishly over the next two months to source equipment and supplies. I had to figure out how to set up a couple of dental operatories in what Mary described as "a room with a window and at least one electrical outlet."

My first suction system was based on a jury-rigged ShopVac. I tapped dental supply reps and local dental practitioners for contributions of the supplies and equipment we would need. Mary, of course, put feelers out and procured all manner of things as only she can do. I asked my staff if anyone would be interested in accompanying me on the first mission, hoping for at least one dental assistant and one dental hygienist. Fortunately, nearly everyone I asked for help said, "Yes." We had the equipment, supplies, and dental team for our first mission.

This was the beginning of what would be more than 12 years of typically twice-annual missions to La Providencia. We saw toddlers and

school kids. We treated staff at the school and their families. Our very first toddler patients grew to become our translators as the years passed. I learned basic Spanish along the way.



For some missions, we were able to recruit other dentists and hygienists to accompany us, but for the most part it was my dedicated staff who selflessly accompanied me on the missions. My daughter graduated from dental school the year of our first mission, and she joined in. My wife accompanied me on two of the missions.

I consider it my greatest accomplishment that we were not an "extraction team." By returning to the same school each year, we came to know the children, the staff, and their families. In a country where it was considered normal to grow up and lose your teeth, the more than 200 children we served — as well as their families — came to expect that they would keep their smiles for life. We taught good dental habits, and we only rarely performed an extrac-

tion. Some cases were more severe than others. It was eye-opening to see young children in such pain that they could not sleep at night. For those cases, Mary made the surgical suite available to our team. With the help of the nurse anesthetists, we were able to perform all needed treatment quickly, in about an hour's time. Young patients awoke pain-free.

By our last mission, we had a fully functional, modern dental clinic, with four operatories and digital x-rays, all in air-conditioned comfort. Then Covid hit. Everything came to a stop. At La Providencia there was a changing of the guard.

The new non-profit that managed La Providencia decided to change course. The surgery and dental services that SRW had long provided were no longer part of the vision. We have since learned that the medical and dental equipment that had once outfitted the operatories has been removed, and that we will not return to La Providencia. This is disappointing, to be sure. I will always be grateful for the care that my teams and I were able to provide, and for the friendships that were made. I learned much from the good people of La Providencia and from the SRW surgery teams with whom I had the honor to work. It is my greatest hope that we will be able to return to the area in the future. It will take time to rebuild, but now we know the drill. The need is great, and SRW is up to the task. ●



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
American Family Children's Hospital
Beloit Memorial Hospital
Bone and Joint Surgery Center, Wausau
Cross Plains American Legion
Epic
Fort Healthcare, Inc
Health Net of Rock County
Healthwerks
Home Health United
Main Street Dentists
Mc Farland Lions Club
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Thanks to Sylvia Boomsma for editing,
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and Images Plus for printing this edition of The Resource.

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.

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.

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

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