



The RESOURCE

The Newsletter of Sharing Resources Worldwide

Early Winter 2006

Bringing New Vision to Tougue

by Mary Dowling

Sharing Resources Worldwide completed its first medical mission to Africa, as a team of five—two veteran SRW-mission ophthalmologists and three support staff—traveled to the village of Tougue in Guinea, West Africa to perform eye exams and distribute glasses, from June 21 to July 5, 2006.

Despite somewhat primitive conditions—no phones or electricity unless one has a generator—the mission was very successful, thanks to the assistance of many:

- family and friends of Hadja Kesso Dowling (who is from Tougue and now lives in Madison) and Adam Dowling (former Peace Corps volunteer to Guinea)
- Sight Savers International
- Peace Corps
- Helen Keller International
- the Lions Foundation of Wisconsin, which provided eyeglasses for SRW to distribute
- local church groups, Lions

Clubs, civic groups and individuals, who provided financial support for the mission.

The value of goods and services SRW provided to the people of Guinea during the two-week mission was approximately \$134,000.

The team performed 585 eye exams in Tougue. They distributed eyeglasses to 420 people and referred 90 patients to Sight Savers in Guinea for cataract removal. One child came to the clinic with a foreign body in her eye, which was causing significant pain. Our physician was able to remove it, thereby preventing the likely outcome of permanent damage to her eye. Our ophthalmologists diagnosed several patients with glaucoma and referred them to a facility which can treat them and restore their vision. In addition to hands-on eye care, SRW was able to donate to Tougue's host hospital a variety of medications and suture material which will save many lives in the coming months.

When a mission trip is completed and the numbers are in, it is always gratifying to see the total values of goods and services delivered. The five members of this team would tell you they are satisfied with what was accomplished in such a short time. But when you think about your own vision, you realize that it's hard to put a monetary value on



Guineans of all ages came to our mission team for eye exams and help with vision problems.

the ability to see. There is no price tag for the joys of working with your hands, seeing the smiles of your loved ones, or watching the sunset over the horizon. The people of Tougue share this universal feeling, and their appreciative comments showed the truly priceless nature of what this mission team did.

It's satisfying to know that we were able to bring such valuable service to Tougue. But there are other outcomes, which benefit us all and were evident in comments made by the people of Tougue as the mission came to a close. Not knowing much about SRW, they observed that even though we could have sent donations or material things to them, we choose not to do that and instead we traveled there with our equipment, at our expense, and worked with them to help their own people. We left our families, work, comfort levels, familiar language and fami-



The SRW eyeglass team members from the US and Guinea, working together for the week for a successful mission.

continued on back cover

THE FRUITS OF OUR LABORS

by Lisa Fernandez

My most recent trip to Nicaragua provides a noteworthy panorama of the ever-expanding work of SRW. Thanks to the support of all our donors and volunteers, we are able to ship supplies to an ever-increasing number of poor countries and needy people in this world. Each



Unloading is hard — but happy — work.

person we help — whether it is with a wheelchair so they can go to school, surgery so they can stand up and walk, or medical supplies so they can have a measure of health — goes on to create a ripple of hope and advancement in their families and their society.

My first stop this past October was the Wisconsin/Nicaragua Wheelchair Project (WNWP) in Matagalpa. I visit there yearly to check on their progress, and to gauge their needs for the coming year. Every year I witness the growth, deepening, and expanding influence of this project on the lives of many Nicaraguans. Seven people, four of them themselves handicapped, are currently enjoying paid employment repairing and fitting wheelchairs in the workshop. Their skill levels are impressive, and their love for

their work is evident. Wheelchairs, crutches, and walkers are distributed year round. People come from all over the country to obtain their equipment. As I walk the streets of Matagalpa proper, I can see children and adult in wheelchairs I recognize from WNWP, maneuvering (its not easy!) the streets and sitting in their homes and doorways with family and friends. I wish all of you reading this could see it with me! An added treat this year — the container that was so lovingly packed and shipped in September arrived in Matagalpa and was unloaded during my visit. What a sight! During the actual unloading, a handicapped young man was sighted hobbling by using sticks for support, and he was fitted on the spot for a pair of crutches (his first ever!) freshly handed down off the truck. Now that is direct aid!

As you know, the wheelchair

workshop in Matagalpa is a collaborative project between SRW and Familias

Especiales, a Matagalpa NGO coordinated by Sister Rebecca Trujillo that provides services to over 600 handicapped children and their families in Matagalpa and the surrounding barrios. SRW supports multiple projects of Familias Especiales, including physical therapy, education, nutrition, and outreach pro-

grams. Children in the school for the handicapped use materials provided by SRW; mothers receive gifts of clothing, personal care supplies, and household items provided by SRW; physical therapy is performed with equipment provided by SRW. As I spend time with the different programs provided by Familias Especiales, I am constantly seeing SRW donations in use, providing employment, fun, education and comfort to hundreds of people. Thank you all for being part of this!

While in Nicaragua I also visited

the Hogar de Ancianos in Jinotepe which was described in our last newsletter.

Here homeless elderly are provided with a safe, healthy, loving and secure environment in which to live out the rest of their lives. SRW has sent two shipments of supplies to the Hogar in the past year. I was greeted at the front entrance by a very happy elderly man ambulating with his new SRW walker — he had

requested a walker of his very own on my last visit and he could not be more proud. The elders are sleeping on their new beds and



Walking in style brings a smile in Jinotepe.

We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.

—Mother Teresa



Luis and company guide the container into place for unloading.

mattresses sent by SRW, wearing their new clothes, and enjoying their personal care items. Our cardiac chairs are providing comfortable seating, and our wheelchairs, crutches and walkers are increasing mobility. If you ever wonder if your donations of time, money and/or energy make a difference in this world let me assure you — *they do!!!*

On this trip I also met with representatives of several new organizations in both Nicaragua and Honduras.

These organizations are providing services to very needy children and adults, and we laid plans for future partnerships. SRW will be providing material aid to these organizations in the years to come, thus spreading the ripples. I am so grateful to have a part in this work, and to have the joy of seeing the fruits of our labors.

With his family looking on, this man receives his first set of crutches just minutes after the container doors are opened for unloading.



Honduras Medical/Surgical Mission, January 2006

By Carolyn Schmidt

When I was seven years old my mom, a Nurse Anesthetist, went on her first mission trip. As I looked at the pictures from that trip, I knew that someday I wanted to go on a mission trip also. I got that chance in January when I traveled with the SRW team to Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

The trip was an awesome experience. As a high school senior I did not have much medical background, so my title was aide. I was part of the orthopedic team where a main part of my job was to watch the children after they received their preop medications. My Spanish is not the best, but with the help of our translators I was able to have tons of fun with the children before their surgery to them make them feel comfortable while they waited. I had the opportunity to go into the operating room to observe the surgical procedures. Afterwards, I spent some time in the recovery room when they were all fixed. We provided surgery for 26 patients during our weeklong mission. A few of the patients were return patients from 2005 mission and it was really neat to hear their stories of how much they had changed since last year.

Our days were usually long, beginning at 7am and ending around 6 or 7 in the evening. The eye team worked at a separate facility and kept a similar schedule. They saw patients in the clinic and provided



Carolyn takes a moment with Etherson before his surgery.

surgery for 43 patients. Despite the long days it was the experience of a lifetime.

I expected many cultural differences and found the people of Honduras to be friendly and inviting. I was also surprised to see the same fast food restaurants that we have here in Wisc. In the evenings, when all the team members were back at the hotel, we would often have dinner together and share our day's experiences.

One of the things I loved most was seeing the parents after surgery because they were so grateful and happy that we helped their children. It's awesome to realize how one small procedure can change

a child's entire life. Knowing that I played a small part in that process is so satisfying. I would love to know how our patients are doing now. If asked would I go on another mission trip my answer would be "in a heartbeat!"

Thank you to Mary and Alfredo and all the team members for allowing me this great opportunity.

Honduras Mission Team members were:

Marge Abegglen RN
Mart Dowling RN
David Mann MD
Pat Smith CRNA
Toby Haines RN
Abigail Peckham RN
Michael Struck MD
Debra Dahlke CRNA
Kathy Sweeney LPN
Pat White CRNA
Shelley Wilker ORT
Judy Schmidt CRNA
Carolyn Schmidt
Bonnie Steinbach RN
Mark Flanum MD
Erin Leverenz MD
Chris Hornung

Honduras mission stats—

Pediatric Patients screened	126
Pediatric Surgeries accomplished	70
Value of goods and services provided on this mission and in our shipment to Honduras	\$446,390

Donations: We thank Sylvia Boomsma for editing; Lisa Otto Imhoff, Grey Horse Studio for layout; and SpectraPrint for printing this issue of the newsletter.

A Good Time Is Had By All at the 2006 SRW Volunteer Appreciation Event

On Friday September 22 SRW hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner/Event for our wonderful and dedicated volunteers. Close to 80 people feasted, chatted, viewed the debut of a video highlighting SRW's mission work, and were treated to an inspiring presentation by one of SRW's partners in Honduras, Alfredo Cerrato. Door prizes were given out, and three volunteers were awarded special honors as volunteers of the year (see article).

SRW volunteers put in thousands of hours each year, and their labors keep us alive and thriving. They sort supplies; load containers; gather, pickup, and deliver donations; organize the warehouse; repair equipment; fundraise; network; send out mailings... the list could go on. This event was an opportunity for the

Co-Directors and Board of SRW to demonstrate their enormous gratitude to all who donate their time, energy and talent. They give of themselves with love, humbleness, and a deep sense of responsibility and caring for the less fortunate of this world. We are all working together to make this

world a better place. There is great joy in that work — and in the togetherness too.

To all our volunteers, we say:
Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

A special thank you to Genesis Painting and Olds Seeds for their sponsorship of this event.



I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.

—Edmund Evertt Hale

SRW Volunteer of the Year 2005

Ever since SRW received a call from Marge Abegglen some years ago, she has been a committed volunteer, working hard to improve lives by serving on medical mission teams. As the head nurse of the Surgical Department at Beaver Dam Community Hospital, Marge is an experienced RN whose expertise is invaluable as surgical teams work in sometimes less-than-ideal conditions.



From the beginning, Marge has been a great asset, serving on one or two SRW mission trips per year and traveling with us to Peru, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Her organizational talents and ability to work with nearly any personality or in any situation are what set her apart and make her an integral part of any

team. She also helps with recruiting new team members and organizing equipment and supplies for shipment to our mission destinations, and is a great resource for questions

and ideas. She is a loyal friend of SRW and supports our mission in every way. Congratulations Marge!

We appreciate your involvement in SRW very much.

SRW Volunteers of the Year 2006

Every week SRW receives scores of bags of clean hospital laundry that is being recycled from the Madison United Hospital Laundry. Sheets and blankets, OR linens, scrubs, patient gowns, waterproof pads, towels, and other items pour into our warehouse and await shipping to countries where they are desperately needed. Who sorts and bags all this linen for shipment where it is needed? Roy and Joan Gibson! For years, Roy and Joan have been tirelessly sorting and bagging hospital linens and other items, and training other volunteers to assist them. Roy has even invented a process for vacuuming the air out of the bags of laundry so that they are the perfect compact size for filling the empty spaces between other items in the containers! This amaz-

ing couple bring new meaning to the word retirement — both are as busy in their retirement as they ever were in their paid working lives (Joan was a nurse and Roy was Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer of a local savings and loan). They volunteer for more than half a dozen organizations, travel, keep up with family and friends, and seem to be fueled by a limitless supply of energy, generosity and commitment to helping their fellow human beings in any way they possibly can. They always answer the call, be it to sort yet another laundry delivery, organize and box school supplies, or load a container. Thank you Roy and Joan, for who you are and what you do. You bring your great gifts to SRW, and we are forever grateful!

SRW Activities Planned for 2007

- January 2007—Medical Surgical Mission to Arequipa, Peru
- March 2007—Orthopedic Surgical Mission to Honduras
- Fall of 2007—Wheelchair Mission/Project to Nicaragua

New SRW Video Available

Thanks to a generous volunteer, you can now view a short video of our surgical mission to Honduras in January 2006. Please contact Mary Dowling if your group would like to view this informative video and learn more about our missions.

SRW also has an eight-minute general-information video available for viewing by your group, or you can see it online at www.sharingresourcesworldwide.org.

If your group is interested in a presentation by one of our directors, please contact Mary Dowling (608-445-8503) or Lisa Fernandez (608-445-8504).

Thank you Sweeney Construction

Sweeney Construction of Madison recently donated a copy machine for use in our SRW office in Madison. Thanks so much for thinking of us. We will make very good use of this machine as we plan for missions and shipments!

The Gift that Keeps On Giving

Casting about for the perfect holiday gift? Why give socks or a calendar, when you can give a donation to SRW in honor of a friend, family member or coworker? You needn't worry about size or color, and there's no better way to honor someone than to help relieve poverty and suffering in his or her name. SRW will send honorees an acknowledgement to let them know that a donation has been made in their name. Then, on a cold Midwestern day, they can enjoy the warmth of knowing others are benefiting from a good deed done on their behalf.

Since our beginning in 2002

- Fourteen missions have been completed by SRW teams.
- Over 700 wheelchairs have been distributed.
- 3,900 eye exams have been completed by our eye teams.
- 3,131 pairs of glasses were distributed after those exams.
- 736 children were screened on our medical/surgical missions.
- 366 children received surgical services by our surgeons on our fourteen missions—117 of them on our missions thus far in 2006 to Peru and Honduras.



Facts and Figures

In 2005

- Twenty-two shipping containers left SRW docks for worldwide destinations that included:
 - o Iran
 - o Peru
 - o Nicaragua
 - o Honduras
 - o Cuba
 - o Philippines
- o Guatemala
- o Haiti
- o Panama
- Other items were hand carried to the following destinations:
 - o Nepal
 - o Uganda
 - o Ecuador
 - o Bolivia
- More than 368 tons were shipped from

our docks, recycled worldwide and saved from Wisconsin landfills.

- The combined value of the our products shipped, carried and our services on missions totaled at least \$2.5 million.
- Volunteers at SRW donated 3,635 hours.

Sharing Resources Worldwide

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www.sharingresourcesworldwide.org

Your Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

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.

Bringing New Vision to Tongue, *con't from page 1*

iar food, and traveled far to deliver service and work with the local professionals. The fact that we gave of ourselves meant more to them than any material thing we could ever send them. Though there are many differences between our cultures and ways, our six days of life and work in

this Muslim country brought about new friendships and built bridges whose value we may never realize but from which we will all benefit.

Special thanks to team members
Robert Bechtel MD, Eric Steffen MD,
and Mary Dowling RN.

Those contributing inventory, in-kind services or other support for SRW. Thank you all!

Madison United Hospital Laundry	Durham Bus Company	Midwest Biomedical Services, Inc.	Zwingli United Church of Christ	<i>All donations are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to Sharing Resources Worldwide.</i>
Quarles and Brady LLP	Don Imhoff/Imhoff Real Estate	St Mary's Hospital Medical Center	Ingleside Nursing Home	<i>Sharing Resources Worldwide is incorporated in the state of Wisconsin and is a tax exempt charitable 501 (c) (3) organization.</i>
Roy Neunshwander	Val Schroeder	WITCO Systems, Inc	Meriter Hospital	
Jane Topper	Tyco Healthcare/Valley Lab	O'Mara Moving Systems, Inc.	Menomonie Falls Nursing Home	
Jody Burmeister	Sweeney Construction Corp.	Carlson Communications, LLC	Great White Fleet	Wisconsin State Journal
Olds Garden Seed	Oakwood Village	Oak Park Nursing Home	Gargano Ventures	Sunny Hill Nursing Home
Genesis Painting	Doctors Oxygen Service, Inc	and Rehab	Froedert Hospital	VFW Post 8483/ Men's and Women's Aux.
Oscar Meyer	Black River Falls Hospital	Dean Clinic	Heartland Nursing Home	Wisconsin Lions Foundation
Spectraprint Corp.	Many Hospice Patients and families	Bethel Home	Aljan Co.	Penske
Grey Horse Studio	Gunderson Lutheran Hospital	Viroqua Nursing Home	Middleton Village Nursing Home	Keith Katers Club
University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics	Beaver Dam Hospital	Mercy Health System	Norseland Nursing Home	Johnson and Johnson
UW Foundation	Hope Haven International	Hospital	Pizza Hut of Wisconsin	Hospice Care, Inc.
Medline Industries, Inc	Western Wisconsin Technical School	Bruker AXS, Inc	Middleton Sunrise Rotary Club	
Owen and Minor	Oakwood Village East	Alliance Trailer	Physicians Plus	
Wheelchair Recycling Project	Placon	American Cancer Society		
	Four Winds Manor Nursing Home	Oregon Schools	Bonnet Prairie ELCA	
		Verona Schools		

Founded in January 2002, Sharing Resources Worldwide makes surplus and recycled medical supplies, durable medical equipment, and related items and activities available to needy populations around the world. SRW endeavors to improve the health and quality of life of its recipients and to empower them to live with increased dignity, independence, and hope.

We do this through three areas—medical missions, shipping and the wheelchair project.

*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.*

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

Sharing Resources Worldwide

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Email- mdowl@tds.net or pocoapocolisa@juno.com

Your Name _____

Addresss _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Donation checks should be made out to **Sharing Resources Worldwide**.

Please return this card with your donation to the address above.

Your donation will help Sharing Resources Worldwide provide the following:

- \$50 will fund postoperative glasses or casting material for a child we serve on a medical mission.
- \$100 will fund medications needed for a child's surgery on a medical mission.
- \$200 will fund the shipment of 4 pallets of medical supplies in a shipment.
- \$250 will fund wheelchair parts for several wheelchairs that need repairs in Nicaragua.
- \$2000 will fund the medications needed for 40-50 children receiving our services during one of our upcoming medical missions.
- \$4000 will fund the cost of a shipment of wheelchairs, medical, and school supplies to Central America.
- This the amount I can send you at this time. \$_____
- Please contact us about a presentation to our group or an appointment with me to discuss how I can help SRW in other ways.
- Please include me on your mailing list for future newsletters and information about SRW.

We accept donor gifts of appreciated stocks and mutual fund shares. Your gift 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 this stock or mutual fund shares.

Presenting SRW...

If your group or organization would like to hear about the projects and mission of Sharing Resources Worldwide, please contact one of our founders, Mary or Lisa, to schedule a presentation. SRW's short video is very informative, and Mary and Lisa have entertaining personal experiences to share with your group. Their contact information appears on the back of this newsletter.

Help SRW provide Independence, Improved Health, Mobility, Dignity, and Hope worldwide

Wish List

In addition to funding for SRW we are also in need of the following items for our shipments and medical missions/wheelchair missions programs:

- Hospital equipment and supplies
- Volunteers to sort medical supplies
- Sponsor for a volunteer appreciation dinner/event
- Volunteer with technical assistance/computer skills for our programs
- Microwave
- Computers that work for word processing
- School supplies and back packs (no 3 ring binders, please)
- Sewing supplies and sewing machines



What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us.