

The Good Samaritan



The newsletter of World Medical Relief

February 2014

VAN TO BOOST DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT RE-USE

Did you ever break your leg? Sprained your knee? Needed a shower chair? People do all the time and then they do not know what to do with the equipment afterwards. Considering it too valuable to throw away, World Medical Relief gets calls from people daily who have so much durable medical equipment (DME) that it takes more space than a regular car to transport the stuff to World Medical Relief.

SENIORS SUFFERING

The recent restructuring of the Medicare reimbursement to the durable medical equipment companies has dire consequences for the seniors it supposed to serve.



The elderly often do not qualify for durable medical equipment insurance reimbursement anymore and the companies can no longer afford to deliver the equipment to the seniors.

The impact might be devastating; causing more falls, decreased mobility and perhaps shortening the time that people can live independently.

MATCH SUPPLY & DEMAND

World Medical Relief has a DME program for local low-income people but due to the costs does not deliver the equipment.

Requests for bariatric equipment (for very heavy clients) can often not be fulfilled. Considering these emerging problems in the community we are now investigating how we can assist and how to fund it.

NEW VAN IS COMING

Generous donations made it possible to purchase a van for picking up equipment and supplies from individuals, community centers, churches etc. If additional funding can be secured delivery to seniors might become possible too.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- ♦ Donate your DME to World medical Relief!
- ♦ Tell all your friends & family to do the same!
- ♦ Support World Medical Relief financially.

Celebrate the new van on Monday April 21, 2014. All are invited to tour the van, have refreshments and meet CEO Samson, Board Directors and World Medical Relief staff!

ORGANIZATIONS THAT VOLUNTEERED IN 2013

Alpha Phi Omega (APO) Dela Paz	Fordson High School/UNICEF CLUB	Oakwood Hospital
American Axle & Manufacturing	Greenhill School - Ann Arbor	Open Door Fellowship
American Marketing Association	Grosse Pointe South Interact	PEACUSA - Filipino American Assoc.
Ann Arbor Hope Church	Grosse Pointe Rotary/Various	Plymouth Christian Academy
Bethel United Church of Christ	Henry Ford Community College	Prezens for Charity
Build On	Henry Ford Hospital	Rotary Clubs: Milford & Grosse Pointe
Build On - Books	J.U.S.T.	S.T.E.P. (Striving To Enhance Potential)
Cabrini High School	Jewish Vocational Service	Southeastern MI Returned Peace Corps
City year Detroit	Knights of Columbus	Southfield- A.K.A.- Teens
Coalition 100 Black Women-Mumford	La Pieta International	St Paul Presbyterian Church
Constellation Energy	M - Heal	U of D Mercy School of Nursing
D.T.E.	Mariner's Inn	United 2 Heal
Delta sigma Theta	MCORRP - U of M - Hospital	University of Detroit Mercy College
Detroit AM Rotary	Metropolitan United Methodist Church	University of Michigan Health Systems
Detroit Job Corps	MI Minority Supplier Dev. Council	University of Michigan-Dearborn
Detroit Presbytery	Michigan State University	University of Michigan- various groups
Drayton Avenue Presbyterian Church	Mongolian Cultural Org. (MCO)	University preparatory Academy
Eastern Michigan University-IBSA	New Providence Greeters	Walgreens
Engineers Without Borders	New Providence Baptist Church	Waverly High School
Fellowship Baptist Church-Chapel	Northbrook Presbyterian	Wayne State University - Various gr.
First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak	Oakland University	You and I Alliance
First United Methodist Church	Oakland University-Beaumont Hosp.	Zion Christian Church



The Exler, Johnson and Marquez families, Bethel Church, Detroit AM Rotary, Detroit Rotary, Delta Sigma Theta, and students from Wayne State University volunteering on November 9, 2013.

Photo: Karen Joyce.

2013
 International
 Program
 results
56 containers
29 missions
 Total Value
\$27,845,979
 Thank you all
 regular &
 group
 volunteers!!!!

CEO Message

Happy New Year! I hope that you are feeling renewed after the Holidays and reenergized from the longer and lighter days.

CHRISTMAS BREAK

During a Christmas break in the Philippines we received a visit from Mike Baydoun, Chairman of the Board of Directors from World Medical Relief. Together we visited an evacuation center in Angeles City where large families huddled together in a tent city. We were struck by how well everybody endured the tough circumstances; especially the children still seem to have some fun.

NO LANDING POSSIBLE

I also met up with our Ambassador of Health in the Philippines, Dr. David Zarate and we made several attempts to fly to Tacloban, the area so severely hit by the powerful typhoon Haiyan.

The equipment of Tacloban's airport tower had been destroyed by the typhoon and the air traffic controllers had been using binoculars to guide the planes during the landing. The monsoon rains had started and reduced the

visibility to such extent that even the binocular guided landings were no longer possible. I was not keen on using a helicopter either because several had crashed in the recent days.



Sister Eloisa David with
CEO Samson

GOOD NEWS

The good news is that we were able to secure a highly recommended coordinator for that region; Sister Eloisa David, Administrator of the Divine Word Hospital. The medicines that Delta Airlines allowed as extra baggage were donated in her care. We also heard that there is progress in the rebuilding of the hospitals, most had lost their roofs as a results of the two hundred mile per hour winds.

This means that we can prepare our shipments to the area. The containers will hold medical supplies, canned food, beds, medicines and vitamins. The beds come all the way from Corry, Pennsylvania, where one local doctor native to the Philippines, made sure that 26 beds from a shuttered hospital were directed to World Medical Relief.

The shipping cost will be paid for by the donations that came in from around the U.S. to World Medical Relief and to the Philippine American Community Center of Michigan.

THANK YOU FOR CARING!

I know how it feels when you are hit with a typhoon. I was a 12 year old when a strong typhoon hit the region where I grew up. The people were devastated, frustrated, hungry, sad, hopeless, and overwhelmed until we received aid from the Americans stationed in Angeles City.

I am so thankful for all the support you are extending to the typhoon victims.

You are an answer to their prayers!

FUNDING FOR LOCAL PRESCRIPTIONS

Metro Detroit residents who have a very low income and trouble affording their prescription medicines have called on World Medical Relief for prescription assistance since 1966 when the agency launched its local prescription assistance program for seniors. In 2007 the program expanded its service to include people 18 years and older.

MCGREGOR FUND

Recognizing the necessity to help low-income people with the management of their often chronic illness the McGregor Fund awarded World Medical Relief a \$50,000 grant in support of the program.

The Fund has been a longtime supporter of this prescription assistance. It is a private foundation established in 1925 by gifts from Katherine and Tracy McGregor “to relieve the misfortunes and promote the well-being of mankind.”

The foundation awards grants to organizations in the following areas: human services, education, health care, arts and culture, and public benefit. The area of principal



interest of the foundation is the City of Detroit and Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties.

The McGregor Fund has granted over \$200 million since its founding and had assets of \$164 million as of June 30, 2013.

BERMAN FOUNDATION

The Mandell L. and Madeleine H. Berman Foundation also announced its support for the program with a \$10,000 grant.

This Foundation supports Jewish education and research, and the study of the contemporary American Jewish community; focuses in Is-

rael on employment and education for its Arab citizens; and funds projects in Detroit that address urgent needs, provide youth enrichment opportunities, assist toward graduation from college and/or are perceived as ‘engines of recovery’ for the city.

CITY OF DETROIT

The City of Detroit surprised World Medical Relief with the wonderful news that it plans to fully fund the request that was made for the 2013-2014 program year.

Payment is contingent on approval from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the entity funding this “Community Development Block Grant”. If the City is able to fulfill its commitment it will be the largest CDBG grant ever received by World Medical Relief (\$103,000).

Since the start of the Affordable Prescriptions Program over 1.4 million prescriptions have been dispensed from its pharmacy. The value of the medications dispensed in 2013 exceeded 4.4 million dollars. The drugs are valued independently through a pharmacy software system.

CANADIAN HUMANITARIAN KEYNOTE AT GALA



World Medical Relief's annual gala which will take place on Saturday November 1, 2014 will be graced with the celebrity keynote speaker Craig Kielburger.

Craig, together with his brother Marc, founded Free the Children, a Canadian charity with the mission to create a world where all young people are free to achieve their fullest potential as agents of change.

A MORNING TO REMEMBER

On a morning in 1995 when Craig flipped through the *Toronto Star* in search of the comics, he was struck by a story. A raw, but courageous story of a boy his age named Iqbal.

Iqbal Masih was born in South Asia and sold into slavery at the age of four. In

his short life, he had spent six years chained to a carpet-weaving loom. Iqbal captured the world's attention by speaking out for children's rights.

A DREAM IS SPARKED

Eventually, Iqbal's wide media coverage caught the attention of those who wished to silence him. At 12, Iqbal lost his life defending the rights of children. What Craig learned from Iqbal's story was that the bravest voice can live in the smallest body. Craig had to do something.

A MOVEMENT BEGINS

Craig gathered together a small group of his Grade 7 classmates from his Thornhill, Ontario, school and Free The Children was born. Free the children from poverty. Free the children from exploitation. Free the children from the no-

tion that they are powerless to effect change.

Those are the messages that sparked Craig's passion, and continue to fuel the mission of the organization today.



Craig Kielburger

In the early stages of its development Free the Children also incorporated health care in the mission and started collaborating with World Medical Relief. The first time Craig came to World Medical Relief he was so young that his parents had to accompany him. Now, Free The Children is an international charity with more than 2.3 million youth involved.

CREDIT UNION SURPRISE GIFT



Photo: Laura Cipielewski

The Metro East Chapter of Credit Unions and the Detroit Metropolitan Credit Union selected World Medical Relief as their preferred charity in December. As a result Ronnie Johnson (on the right) from the Detroit Metropolitan Credit Union presented Carolyn Racklyeft, local program director and Josephine Jabara, director of development a check for a wonderful \$2,684.04 for its local blanket/hygiene program!

Based on the most recent tax information rating agency Charity Navigator issued another 4-star charity rating. Receiving four out of four stars indicates according to Charity Navigator that World Medical Relief adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way. Only 19% of the charities rated have received at least 2 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that World Medical Relief outperforms most other charities in America.



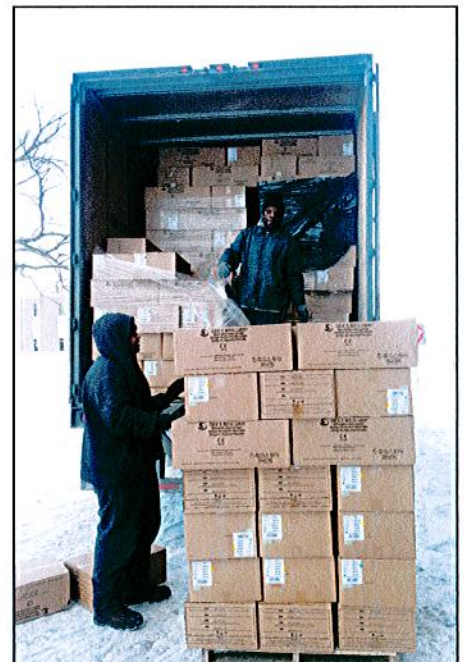
1.5 MILLION SYRINGES

On February 17, 2014 a fifty three foot truck arrived at World Medical Relief to drop off 1.5 million syringes. You might wonder what the story is behind such donation.

The syringes are safety syringes that prevent secondary stick by retracting after the first injection. According to the owner of the syringes, Andrew Bello, the health care market was not ready for this new type of syringe and he had to choose between throwing them away, which would be much cheaper or donating

them to a charity.

He went online and searched for a suitable charity. World Medical Relief was the only suitable charity willing to accept the goods and swiftly the transaction was arranged. Bello even paid for the transportation cost. A cancer survivor himself, he hopes that these syringes will save many lives and prevent that diseases are spread accidentally. For more information about this product please contact World Medical Relief's CEO George Samson.



Warehouse man Keenan Meeks and the driver of the truck unloading in frigid cold. The 53 foot truck did not fit the dock. Photo: Josephine Jabara

LONGTIME VOLUNTEER LEAVES BEQUEST

Lorraine Sievers dreamed of being a medical technologist. It was only because she stood in the wrong registration line as a college freshman that she became a nurse. This was the start of a medical career that would span more than four decades.

As a young nurse, Lorraine continued her studies and received a Master's Degree in Nursing. It was a department professor who encouraged her to further her education, and he presented her with two options: a PhD in zoology studying snakes in her native Midwest---or---medical school.

Once a physician Lorraine established her Obstetrics practice in downtown Detroit and remained there until 1986. She also established a practice serving the north Woodward area and was one of the original doctors at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak.

Upon her retirement from her solo private practice, she served in an administra-



Dr. Lorraine Sievers (right) with long time friend and fellow volunteer Ann McGuckin.

tive capacity at Beaumont Hospital, overseeing the Utilization Review Department for 10 years.

Lorraine began her volunteer work with World Medical Relief in 1988. Using her expertise as a medical doctor, she coordinated the sorting and packing of complicated surgical instruments, equipment, and supplies, often coming several times a week and almost every Saturday. Her skills were very valuable.

George Samson, then Director of International Programs, remembers Dr. Sievers fondly: "She had such a great sense of humor and would tease me when I would ask her to work on projects not related to her field of expertise."

She was also a great ambassador for the agency and recruited many others to join the volunteer ranks. Dr. Sievers was a two-time recipient of the prestigious Irene M. Auberlin award, an honor bestowed by World Medical Relief for Service Beyond Self.

A broken leg due to a fall in her apartment brought a sudden end to her presence at World Medical Relief. On March 24, 2010 Dr. Sievers passed on.

Recently World Medical Relief received a check for \$7,952.45 out of the estate of Dr. Sievers with a note from her brother that her will directed him to send World Medical Relief this money. He also writes: "Thank you for permitting her to be a part of your operation throughout the years. She had a real passion for your organization. Best of luck to you!"

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World Medical Relief offers a booklet with more information about bequests. Please call 313-866-5333 ext. 243 to order your free copy.

World Medical Relief

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★★★★
CHARITY NAVIGATOR
Four Star Charity

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
GALA: NOVEMBER 1, 2014

TOUR World Medical Relief in 2014!

Dates:

March 31

April 28

May 19

June 30

July 28

Tours start at 11 a.m.

Please register at 313-866-5333 ext. 243

Or by e-mail: tour@worldmedicalrelief.org

Mondays do not work for you? Call us!

VOLUNTEERING?

2014 Volunteer Saturdays

MARCH 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

APRIL 5, 12 and 26 (Not 19 due to Easter)

MAY 3, 10, 17 and 31

(Not 24 due to Memorial Day)

JUNE 7, 14, 21, 28

JULY 12, 19, 26

(Not July 5 because of 4th Holiday)

Call (313) 866-5333 ext. 222 to reserve your

Saturday or if you would like to come
during the week.

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Founded in 1953, World Medical Relief's mission is to help the sick and poor both at home and abroad by collecting and distributing medicines, medical equipment, medical supplies and related materials.