

The Good Samaritan



World Medical Relief, Inc.

December 2011

MAYOR BING MEETS VOLUNTEERS AT WORLD MEDICAL RELIEF



On November 9, 2011 **Detroit Mayor Dave Bing** took time out of his busy schedule to come to World Medical Relief and meet the volunteers who are instrumental in delivering its humanitarian services locally and internationally.

Arriving at 9 a.m. he walked into the hustle and bustle of the first day of the 2011 **blanket distribution**. Members of the blanket committee and students of the Detroit Job Corps were busy bringing thousands of blankets down from the seventh floor to the loading dock. Here they loaded the waiting trucks and vans from the Detroit area homeless shelters. The Mayor took time to meet with all.

The Mayor then visited the pharmacy on the second floor. He was very impressed with the **Affordable Prescription Program** which is the longest running program of its kind. He also praised World Medical Relief for the efficiency of its operations.

At the third floor the Mayor took great interest in learning about the sorting process of the medical supplies and had the chance to meet with many of the volunteers working here.

Visit our website www.worldmedicalrelief.org for an exclusive video interview with the Mayor.

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*Happy Holidays
and a
Blessed 2012!*

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Mayor's visit—Continued



Pharmacy volunteer Sister Beth is inquiring whether Mayor Bing is a runner too. He stuck with basketball, was the Mayor's reply.

Front page: Mayor Bing greets Blanket Relief for Area Shelters volunteers Veron and Charlene McKibben. The McKibben's have been involved with local blanket relief for many years.

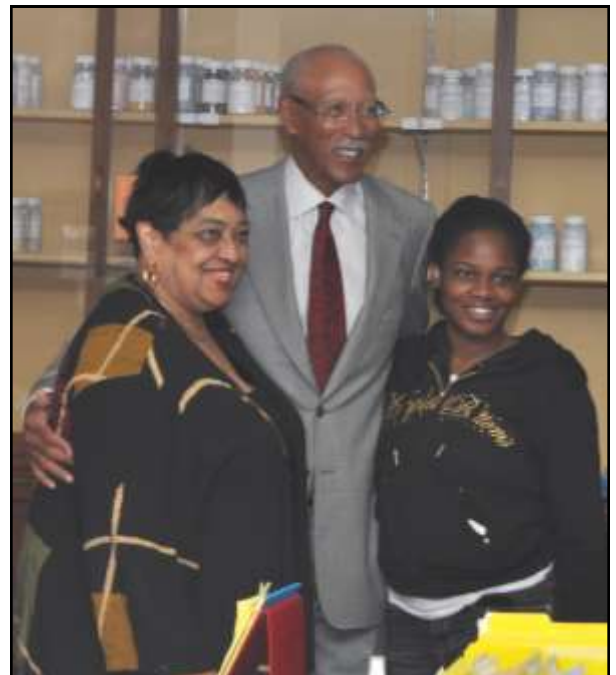


The Mayor surrounded by volunteers from Detroit Job Corps. They did the bulk of the logistics of the blanket distribution within the building. You also see the smiling faces of George Samson, CEO, Josephine Jabara, Julia Martin, assistant to the CEO and Carolyn Racklyeft, the coordinator of the Blanket Relief for Area Shelters.

Photo Credits: Bernie Beutel



The Mayor receives a crash course in Gaylord packing from CEO George Samson and volunteer Jackie Davis.



Mayor with international pharmacy assistant Anita Harris and pharmacy volunteer.

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RICHARD L. JUSTICE AWARD



At a special award ceremony World Medical Relief representatives Carolyn Racklyeft, Director of Local Programs and Josephine Jabara, Director of Development received the trophy for the Richard L. Justice award. This \$10,000 grant, administered by Metro Health Foundation, is to support the development of a donor database system and planned giving materials.



Thanks to hundreds of contributors and volunteers Christmas will be a little warmer for the thousands of people who are displaced and in shelters or other temporarily housing.

The Blanket Relief for Area Shelters has distributed **12,750** twin size blankets and **2,607** crib blankets to **64** homeless shelters and other agencies. **Thank you so much!!!!**

Especially the strong arms and legs of the students from Detroit Job Corps made the distribution much easier for the blanket committee to coordinate!

BREAKING RECORDS

104 YEARS YOUNG

World Medical Relief serves thousands of Michiganders every year including perhaps one of Michigan's oldest resident.

Mrs. A. is a client of the supply program and is 104 years young! Her niece, who picks up the supplies, tells us that "her aunt is still quite spry!"

1800 AND COUNTING

Since its start in 1953, much of the work at World Medical Relief is done by volunteers. At the end of October this year we calculated that over 1800 people lend a hand to fulfill World Medical Relief's mission to relieve human suffering. In comparison: At the end of December 2010 we recorded a total number of 1770 volunteers.

GAYLORDS GALORE

Many records are broken this year but the last week in November saw some amazing work of the volunteer packers on the third floor.

Sixty six gaylords (4'x4'x4' cardboard shipping crates) were packed with medical supplies in one week. Julia Martin, the assistant of George Samson, CEO, also broke her personal record by typing the packing lists for this record number of gaylords. It surely helped that her formal training was in court reporting.

In 2011, 2000 gaylords were packed. An increase from the 1,800 in 2010.

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PEACE THROUGH HEALTH CARE

Pikit is a Filipino word which literally means “closed eyes”. It is also the name of a town in the Mindanao region, in the troubled Southern Philippines.

The ongoing struggle between government forces and other armed groups makes this town a dangerous place. Its residents disappear into their homes before the sun goes down, adding a sad ring to the name Pikit because the people close their eyes early to go to sleep to avoid the dangers outside the home.

Yet, amidst this turmoil there is a place where both sides of the armed conflict can come and find medical help in time of need. It is the local hospital equipped by World Medical Relief. Run by a courageous doctor who opted to stay, despite the danger, and to practice medicine, his confidence bolstered by the support of World Medical Relief. The peaceful clinic creates a zone of harmony showing the city’s residents that it is possible to co-exist without strife.

The armed conflict in Mindanao has raged since the 70s and has claimed around 120,000 lives with an estimated 2-3 billion dollars in economic losses, deepening the sense of hopelessness and lack of peace in the hearts of people who were already downtrodden by poverty. Pockets of hope and peace do exist in the many other clinics which also received shipments with medical equipment and supplies from World Medical Relief.

In the long and troubled history of Philippine local governance, local leaders usually use their position, power and influence to secure benefits in their personal favor. Seeing the positive effects of accessible health care, top officials are now putting their self interests aside and are requesting assistance from World Medical Relief

My wish is that in the future history books will tell that once upon a time, the elusive peace in Mindanao was acquired through the hard-working doctors, supported by their dedicated government officials in hospitals properly equipped by the generosity of a Detroit based charity named World Medical Relief. The history books will say: World Medical Relief gave us hope, peace and enduring belief that there are still many wonderful people in this world!

Having said all this.....I thank you for honoring me with the Global Humanitarian Award. It is encouraging to be recognized by you. I would also like to thank you for your continued support providing health care and hope for a better future!

Dr. David Zarate

(This letter was submitted by Dr. David Zarate, the 2011 recipient of World Medical Relief’s Global Humanitarian Award and World Medical Relief Ambassador in the Philippines.)

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FOUNDATIONS MAKING MEDICINES AFFORDABLE

World Medical Relief is profoundly grateful for the support of several local foundations for the local Affordable Prescriptions Program. This program provides affordable medicines to low income people who are under- or uninsured and cannot afford to purchase their drugs through the regular pharmacy.

Ford Motor Company Fund has supported the program for many years and renewed its support with a contribution of \$20,000.



Bank of America announced a \$10,000 grant at World Medical Relief's 58th anniversary gala.



Metro Health Foundation, also a long time supporter of the program, contributed \$10,000 to assist in the cost of the purchase of the generic medications. With the Affordable Prescriptions Program World Medical Relief continues to help people to manage their, often chronic, illness and balance their budget leaving more money for other basic needs like food and housing.

WMR VOLUNTEERS DO THE DARNDDEST THINGS



Sister Beth, a local pharmacy program volunteer, started running in her fifties. Little by little she taught herself to run longer distances and a ten mile walk-a-thon turned into a run once she had some real running shoes. Her first real race was a 7 mile stretch sponsored by 7Up. "I was a winner before I even began", she says because she was the only one running in her age group.

Sister Beth went on to run many full 26.2 mile marathons and while on assignment in Rome she even ran races where the runners were blessed by the Pope on the starting line.

Last October, a few weeks before her 83rd birthday she ran a half Detroit Free Press Marathon. "It was wonderful to hear people cheering me on. It was probably not because of my speed but my white hair", remarked Sister Beth, with a twinkle in her eyes. In any case we congratulate her with this amazing accomplishment!

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LEVIN, POMFRET AND OTHERS HONORED AT GALA

World Medical Relief's 58th anniversary event took place on November 5, 2011 at the Somerset Inn, Troy. Master of Ceremonies, Dr. Frank McGeorge, health reporter from Channel 4 and emergency physician at Henry Ford Hospital guided the evening's activities skillfully.

The breadth and reach of the agency's activities was evident by the sheer number and diversity of people honored at the event. In all 16 people received awards. Three honorees were from other states. One of the award recipients resides in the Philippines.

The **Irene Auberlin Award** was presented to the current Board Chair Terri Pomfret for her leadership in the improvement of the third floor. Eight third and second floor volunteers received the **Volunteer Excellence Award**.

Wayne State Professor Gerri Smith received recognition for her collaboration in the local prescriptions program.



Professor Smith receives her award
Photo credit: Percy Antonio



Photo: Percy Antonio

Teresa DeBastiani, Senior Vice President and Consumer Market Executive, Michigan market of Bank of America received the **Philanthropy award** on behalf of the bank. During her thank you speech she surprised the audience with a big check of \$10,000 for the local prescriptions program.

Van Sullan Ong received the 2011 **Achievement Award** for his efforts as a third floor volunteer and his ability to gather support for so many shipments of medical supplies and equipment.

The **Leadership in Health Care Award** went to J & B Medical for its contributions to World Medical Relief's International and Local Programs. The second honoree in this category was Sam Tedrowe who owns a medical furniture company.

Sam Tedrowe with his donated equipment

Photo:
Derryl Hardy



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GALA CONTINUED



Photo: Howard Mitchell

Nidhal Garmo, pharmacy owner and founder of For Victims of War and Poverty, was surprised with a special recognition for all her support. Johnson Controls also received an appreciation award for providing assistance with the third floor overhaul.

The **Director's award** went to honorees Karen Bragg and Robert Wright. Dr. David Zarate was this year's recipient of the 2011 **Global Humanitarian Award**. Receiving the award on his behalf was the Mr. Jess Eres who flew in from the Philippines on the occasion of the event. See page 4 for a letter from Dr. Zarate.

Another guest who flew in from the Philippines was the Mayor of Angeles City in the Philippines, Edgardo Pamintuan. He immortalized the name of the founder of World Medical Relief, Irene Auberlin by building the first and only city hospital in the Philippines named after her.

Barbara Gates, Advisory Board member announced the Honorable Carl Levin, United States Senator from Michigan whom was honored with World Medical Relief's first **Government Leadership Award** in recognition of his support of the agency.



Senator Carl Levin with Terri Pomfret, Board Chair, George Samson, President & CEO
Photo: Howard Mitchell

Delivering a brief remark after receiving the award, Levin said that "more and more people are looking at us, Americans, and judging us." Levin said that the great work of WMR is giving the United States a good image, adding that because of this he is elated to honor the organization founded in 1953 by Detroit housewife Irene Auberlin.

A delicious dinner, silent and live auction and the premier of the video titled "Opening Doors to World Health" filled the rest of the evening which raised a net of \$36,000 to support World Medical Relief's programs.

Both the program book which has detailed information about the honorees and the video can be ordered with Josephine Jabara, Director of Development, phone 313-866-5333 ext. 243 or by e-mail jjabara@worldmedicalrelief.org.

World Medical Relief

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TOUR WORLD MEDICAL RELIEF

Dates: January 30
February 27
March 26
April 30

Please register at 313-866-5333 ext. 243
Or by e-mail: tour@worldmedicalrelief.org

VOLUNTEERING? 2012 Volunteer Saturdays

January 14, 21 and 28
February 4, 11, 18, and 25
March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31
Call (313) 866-5333 ext. 222
to make group reservations



REMINDER:

When Detroit Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather, World Medical Relief will be closed as well.



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.