



WORLD MEDICAL RELIEF, INC.

Serving the Sick & Poor Locally, Nationally, and Internationally Since 1953

RECORD YEAR FOR HUMANITARIAN RELIEF

In 2018, history was made at World Medical Relief. A record number of 40-foot sea-land containers - seventy -were shipped from its headquarters in Southfield with a combined value of more than thirty million dollars. Never before in the history of the organization was such a number of containers shipped in one year, keeping almost one million tons of supplies and equipment out of landfills.

Delivering humanitarian relief is an intricate dance between many partners. Hospitals donate the equipment and supplies and World Medical Relief staff transports the donations to the agency. Volunteer team leaders and warehouse staff guide volunteers in the sorting process of the medical supplies. Other volunteers repair wheelchairs and under supervision of World Medical Relief's biomedical technician, equipment is checked out, calibrated and readied with the correct accessories. In all in 2018 about 3,000 volunteers came to the rescue.

The international department meets with potential partners and reviews applications for container shipments while World Medical Relief's national ambassadors assist the applicants with the application and ensuing logistics. Staff packs the gaylords (which are large cardboard boxes) holding the medical supplies while a specially trained office clerk prepares the packing lists as each item has to be accounted for on the shipping documents. A designated staff member then loads the supplies, beds, office furniture and equipment in the container which will be sealed and picked up by the shipping company.

Last year's container recipient countries were: Haiti, Tanzania, Philippines, Israel, Uganda, Jordan, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Lebanon, Kenya,

Jordan, Yemen, Senegal, Nigeria and Iraq. But what is the impact of all this work?

Through the partnership with One World Medical Mission, OWMM, World Medical Relief assists some of the most fragile people - the disabled refugees - with durable medical equipment and adult diapers. Often, after receiving the treasured aid, recipients can be seen venturing outside - something that was not easily done in the past.



THE GOOD SAMARITAN

CEO NOTES

George V. Samson, Ph.D.

I hope that you are well and enjoying the new World Medical Relief newsletter. We are pleased with last year's results and we are very grateful for the hard work of World Medical Relief's staff and volunteers and the support of World Medical Relief's Board of Directors and donors. We could not have done this without you! We must continue on this course as the need around the world is greater than ever and I hope to see you soon to sort medical supplies, assist with equipment or wheel chair repair, or help with the pacemaker project on a weekday or a Saturday.

2019 had a flying start with the signing of container shipment Memorandum of Understanding with partner agencies Pure Hands, United Mission Relief as well as Life for Relief and Development. Many other partner shipments are in the works; St. John Armenian Church will be sponsoring a container to India, the University of Michigan student organization United 2 Heal is raising money for a container



shipment to Ivory Coast and Rotary clubs in Livingston County are preparing a shipment to Kenya. The shipment goal for this year is to hit 70 or more containers. The more aid we send, the more lives we could save.

As you know, our building is in urgent need of roof repair. Many donors stepped up but I would like to give a shout out to Dr. Peter Miller who supported a grant proposal for roof repair to Birmingham's First Presbyterian Church Foundation of which \$10,000 was approved. I am also so grateful for the technical support of Vice Chair Mike Baydoun and the generous donations from Dr. Mac and Bernie Beutel.

Yet, we have a little ways to go. An additional \$4,000 will need to be raised before we can start the first phase of repair which can commence as soon as the outside temperature is consistently in the fifties. For phase 2 and 3 additional costs of \$65,000 are projected.

World Medical Relief has long enjoyed the support of automotive company foundations. In 2018, Ford Motor Company supported the local hygiene kit program with a \$5,000 grant and the Affordable Prescriptions Program with a \$10,000 grant. The FCA Foundation provided \$7,500 unrestricted support. The Francis P. and Nell A. Rhoades Memorial Foundation, also a longtime supporter, recently approved a \$3,000 grant for the Affordable Prescription Program while the Metro Health Foundation supported the community conversation event with a grant of \$1,000.

The community conversation was held on February 15, 2019 and assessed from residents living near World Medical Relief's headquarters what they would like to see in the clinic space that is set aside in the building for the local community. The partner in exploring how to best serve the residents around us is Honor Community Health - an Oakland County Federally Qualified Health Center.

This initiative has received support of Oakland County Commissioner Jackson, and Detroit Council Members Tate and McCalister as well as Southfield's Mayor Ken Siver. The event was well-attended. It was no surprise that navigation help for referral to existing services, dental care, wrap around mental health care, diabetes prevention and management, and tools for a healthier life style like education and exercise were on the wish list. I hope that plans will have firmed up by the summer - stay tuned!



CONTINUATION OF RECORD YEAR FOR HUMANITARIAN RELIEF

Nidhal Garmo, President of One World Medical Mission (OWMM) and World Medical Relief Board member and Ambassador for Iraq has many stories to tell of how items in last year's shipments that were sponsored by OWMM improved people's quality of life. She oversees the arrival of the containers and the distribution of the goods and knows many recipients of the aid personally. She recalls the story of Ayman who was living in pain and suffered such depression that he tried to kill himself. He was bombed while fighting Isis and the wounds on his legs were so severe that he no longer could use them. His grieving mom had a heart attack and his young bride divorced him within months after they got married. After unsuccessful surgeries, the Iraqi surgeons could not save the bones in his leg and removed them. Ayman lost the use of his leg that cannot bend any more. The wheelchair that he received provides some mobility and perhaps an improved outlook on life.

Yemen, one of the Arab world's poorest countries, has been devastated by a civil war. With only half of the country's 3,500 health facilities fully functioning, at least 16 million people are lacking basic health-care. World Medical Relief Ambassador Moussa Niang, MBA, CCRM, who is assisting with the relief to Yemen and Senegal says, "When you take a country like Yemen where the war is not only creating a carnage but is also causing the hospitals to be so short of supplies that they cannot provide care to the children and other vulnerable people, the intervention of World Medical Relief is imperative. Also, in some countries like Senegal, we witness pregnant women walking miles to get an ultrasound. Imagine the relief they have when we bring them the machine in their neighborhood."

In Nigeria, Yobe State and Borno State are located in the north east part of Nigeria; this geographic location made them vulnerable to and targets of Boko Haram insurgents. The insurgency completely destroyed more than 250 health and medical facilities in that region. Both states sent top government officials to World Medical Relief describing the severe need for medical assistance for the people of their states. Dr. Samson, President & CEO of World Medical Relief gave the unequivocal support of World Medical Relief to help with the improvement of the situation.

Charles Amanze, World Medical Relief Ambassador for Nigeria says, "Since the level of devastation suffered by the medical and health facilities in both Yobe and Borno state is huge, its citizens are suffering the brunt of the destruction. Therefore, donations from World Medical Relief will go a very long way to ameliorate the suffering of the internally displaced people in those states. As we evaluate how our donations are used in Yobe and Borno States, WMR is poised to increase the shipment of additional medical goods."

The 2018 shipments made a tremendous impact on the lives of thousands around the globe by turning the "sins of waste into miracles of mercy."



Ayman



MAGNET PROGRAM ATTRACTS NEW PARTNER

World Medical Relief has been the recipient of donations from Beaumont Hospitals across Metro Detroit for many years. Beaumont Hospital, Trenton, was making donations occasionally.

When Kari Szczechowski, RN, was a critical care bedside nurse, she volunteered at World Medical Relief in Detroit sorting donated medical supplies. In 2018 Kari was appointed to be the Magnet Program Director for Beaumont Hospital, Trenton. In her role, Kari is responsible for leading the hospital's initiatives to meet the requirements for the American Nurses Credentialing Center Magnet Program, which provides a framework for nursing excellence where nurses are valued as an integral part of the patient's health care experience.

Remembering how inspired she was by the amount of supplies donated to World Medical Relief that would otherwise be thrown out, Kari thought that volunteering at World Medical Relief would be a great opportunity for Trenton's nursing staff and scheduled a volunteer day. The day was a success and with the blessings of Sue Schulz, RN, Beaumont Hospital, Trenton's chief nursing officer and Chris Stesney-Ridenour, Beaumont Hospital, Trenton's President, monthly volunteer opportunities for the 450 strong nursing staff were scheduled.

Kari did not stop there. When a shuttered unit in her hospital that was used as a storage space was reopening, she immediately thought about WMR. George Samson, CEO of World Medical Relief accepted the donation offer with both hands and you will now see World Medical Relief's local program hallway nicely decorated with former Beaumont wall décor and comfortable waiting chairs.

Kari works closely with Alice Poe, the hospital's supply chain manager. Alice realized the potential savings of the collaboration with World Medical Relief. The two women hashed out the procedure for collecting unused materials and by December 2018, World Medical Relief donation bins were located on each unit of the 193 bed hospital accompanied by a flyer with the instructions on which materials could be donated. Poe says that this collaboration promotes efficiency, saves on storage cost and logistical expenses. The bins are picked up by her department weekly or biweekly depending on the volume a department produces.

As the project evolved, even the hospital's project management became involved as to better anticipate and schedule donations of especially furniture and beds before construction projects start. Through the hospital's community connections, word spread to local area churches who also want to be part of this humanitarian relief effort and hold collections of durable medical equipment to send with the World Medical Relief truck.

George Samson, President & CEO of World Medical Relief says, "We have been in awe of how fast this collaboration with Beaumont Trenton developed, and we are looking forward to years of working together providing meaningful volunteer opportunities to Beaumont staff while saving many lives around the world."



Chris Stesney-Ridenour, Beaumont Trenton's President,
George Samson, President & CEO World Medical Relief,
Kari Szczechowski, Magnet Program Coordinator,
Beaumont Hospital-Trenton



AIDS graves in South Africa

FRANK JULIAN: A CRUSADER IN THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS

The fight against the effects of AIDS

It was in the year 1988 when Frank Julian poked his finger with a “dirty needle” while performing screening tests on a hepatitis patient and IV drug abuser, a common risk factor for contracting or transmitting viral infections such as HIV/AIDS during the time. Julian was tormented that he might have been infected and fear of losing his family made him sleepless. “I’m driving and praying, please, God, I don’t want to lose my family,” Julian recalls. Thankfully, he was safe. But, the incident shuddered him so much that he ended up founding FAWN: Fighting AIDS with Nutrition.

Julian’s passion for help and care for those suffering and dying of the disease landed him in Africa, where he witnessed open graves prepared for AIDS patients facing death. ‘It was a terrifying sight, which made me depressed and anxious,’ recalls Julian. While on the trip, he was asked if he could help arrange for shipments of the nutrition supplement Ensure. He realized how improved nutrition could help AIDS patients live longer and stronger and he founded Ensure for Africa in 2001, which later became FAWN: Fighting AIDS with Nutrition.

‘We, at FAWN provide thousands of AIDS victims with the life giving nutrition that is so critically needed for their survival,’ says Julian.

‘This liquid nutrition greatly increases the strength and overall health of the AIDS patient when taken alongside Antiretroviral Therapy.

Many have been able to return to work and live a normal life after consuming the nutrition. People, who were unable to lift their child due to weakness, now play with them,’ added a smiling Julian.

Talking about partnership Julian says, ‘nothing could have been possible without World Medical Relief and President George Samson. Dr. Samson’s generosity has helped us maintain a consistent shipment schedule that resulted in dramatic enhancements in the quality and quantity of life among AIDS patients in Sub-Saharan Africa’. World Medical Relief has been collecting, storing and shipping the cans of nutrition for the past 17 years.

‘I was exhausted after the first shipment. A number of challenges created incredible vulnerabilities to delays, non-deliveries, damage of cans etc. Then, I reached out to Dr. Samson and asked if he could help and the rest is history. WMR helped FAWN since its second shipment that goes back to September, 2001,’ Julian said.

According to Julian, since FAWN partnered with World Medical Relief, their influence has expanded globally. “We started with Botswana and now we work together for Somalia, Philippines, Kurdistan, Haiti, Kenya and Senegal.”

FAWN also partners with school and colleges such as The Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, one of the founding colleges of Wayne State University (WSU) to collect cans of liquid nutrition. The FAWN student organization at WSU focusses on providing fortified liquid nutrition to support those living with HIV/AIDS and other catastrophic illnesses around the world and to support and educate the community about healthy and safe nutrition goals.

Being raised in the Catholic Church, Frank Julian’s call to ministry came at a young age. The boy from





FRANK JULIAN: A CRUSADER IN THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS

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Dearborn's Edsel Ford neighborhood graduated from Grand Valley State University in 1977. He has been awarded the Gordon Gayette Humanitarian Award from the Wayne County Pharmacists Association. Julian became nurse of the year in 2002 at Health Care Partners Home Care of Southfield, Michigan. He also served as a senior pastor at Faith Christian Assembly in Melvindale.

Julian is a charismatic man but perhaps the most striking part of his feature is his smile. He won the McDonald's Smiling Contest Award in 2000, where he smiled for 7 hours and 43 minutes winning \$10,000. Julian also authored a book titled "AIDS, Love's Fight", which turned into a motion picture – "Forbidden". The book is loosely based on Julian's life. Though married in real life, in the book he chose to be a priest instead of marrying his love interest. The book also portrayed his passion to help those dying of AIDS in Africa. He and his wife, Peggy, also a nurse, have two children and four grandchildren.

Julian recently retired and can often be seen at World Medical Relief where plans are in the works to showcase "Forbidden" to World Medical Relief supporters and further grow the collaboration with FAWN.

IN MEMORIAM

Garfield H. Laity, of Sterling Heights, loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, uncle, and true American patriot, passed away February 4th, 2019. The love of his life, **Ruth**, preceded him in death on May 6, 2016. They were married for over 70 years.

Gar and Ruth were long time volunteers. They began on February 1, 1988 and remained active until

April of 2007, just under 20 years! Gar was an 'all around guy'; he could do anything that was asked of him, especially make something out of wood. He measured meticulously and could hang a picture with such precision. Ruth typed hundreds and hundreds of letters thanking people for the items they donated to us. They were both so dependable and personable.

As active members in their Adult Sunday School class, they were instrumental in getting the class's support of our annual blanket drive. The money raised is used to purchase new twin-size blankets and baby blankets that are given to agencies helping families in addition to 10,000 disaster blankets donated from the Department of Defense that are shared with homeless shelters.

William A. Racklyeft, of Southgate, beloved husband of Carolyn M. Racklyeft, loving father, grandfather, great grandfather and uncle, passed away December 2, 2018.

Bill was in the army and sent to Japan as part of the occupying force after WWII, and when the Korean War began, he was sent there and served until May, 1952. Upon returning from service, he began working as a repair man in the family business owned by his father. He worked there until he was 65 having taken over as President of the company upon the retirement of his father.

In April of 1954, after returning from service, he married Corinne Frank; Corinne died in 1976 leaving him with a young family to raise. He married Carolyn Brandt who came with a son to add to the family. Carolyn had known Bill and his family all of her life as they attended the same church, sang in the church choir and served on the church council together. They enjoyed 42 wonderful years of marriage.

After retirement, Bill joined Carolyn as a volunteer at World Medical Relief - her place of employment. He used to pick up donated medications from doctor's offices across Metro Detroit and later worked in the international medication department sorting and packaging donated medication for their overseas program. He continued doing some of that at home when it became hard for him to physically come to WMR. Bill volunteered for 23 years.

Ruth, Gar and Bill are fondly remembered and greatly missed. They were our "Angels of Mercy."



JOIN THE GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN CLUB

Become a sustaining donor

Delivering lasting change by improving health care for women, children, men, and poor communities doesn't happen overnight. It takes hard work every day of the year and World Medical Relief cannot do this without your help.

Helping to sustain the mission of saving lives is now easier as you can join the Global Humanitarian Club and become a monthly donor. An affordable automatic tax-deductible gift each month makes on-going support of World Medical Relief's work so much simpler. On top of that it is convenient, environmentally friendly and saves on fundraising cost.

THERE ARE THREE EASY OPTIONS TO ENROLL:

1. **With your credit card information on the enclosed envelope.**

or

2. **With your credit card information through the website:**

Make sure to click the "monthly" button
www.worldmedicalrelief.org/donate

or

3. **With your checking account.**

Please download the form
www.worldmedicalrelief.org/global-humanitarian-club

Monthly donors automatically become a member of World Medical Relief's Global Humanitarian Club with special access to information and events. Club members will receive a special welcome letter, and will be recognized in annual reports.

JOIN THE CLUB!

SPRING 2019

WWW.WORLDMEDICALRELIEF.ORG

USING LIFE INSURANCE TO MAKE CHARITABLE DONATION

Millions of Americans make donations of cash and property to the charities of their choice each year. However, many donors are left wishing that they could do more for the charities that they love and support. Life insurance can be an effective and convenient asset to give.

POLICY DONATIONS

Gifting a life insurance policy can greatly reduce the donor's taxable estate. Gifting a policy can also yield a current income tax deduction of the policy's fair market value. The cost to the donor is the premium paid on the policy, and any premiums paid after the date of the gift will be deductible as well. This strategy does not impede the donor's current investment strategy, and can provide a useful way to dispose of an unwanted policy originally purchased to cover a need that no longer exists.

NAMING A CHARITY AS BENEFICIARY

Naming the charity of your choice as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy is the simplest way to provide a charity with the death benefit proceeds from a policy. It doesn't offer the income tax advantages that come with gifting a policy, but it still reduces the donor's estate by the amount of the death benefit.

Donors who aren't completely sure how they want to distribute their assets after death can list a charity as a revocable beneficiary. Naming a charity as a beneficiary also ensures the privacy of the transaction. Transfer of assets from an insurance contract cannot be contested, making it impossible for anyone to stop the donation from occurring.

For more information on the use of life insurance as a gifting tool, consult your insurance agent or financial advisor.

**SAVE THE DATE
ANNUAL GALA**



*Saturday,
November 2, 2019*

COMING SOON

Updates regarding this year's Annual Gala at:
www.worldmedicalrelief.org/anniversary-gala



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VOLUNTEER SATURDAYS

April 2019: 6, 13, & 27*

May 2019: 4, 11, 18, 25

June 2019: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

July 2019: 6, 13, 20, 27

**Please Note: No April 20th / Easter*



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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