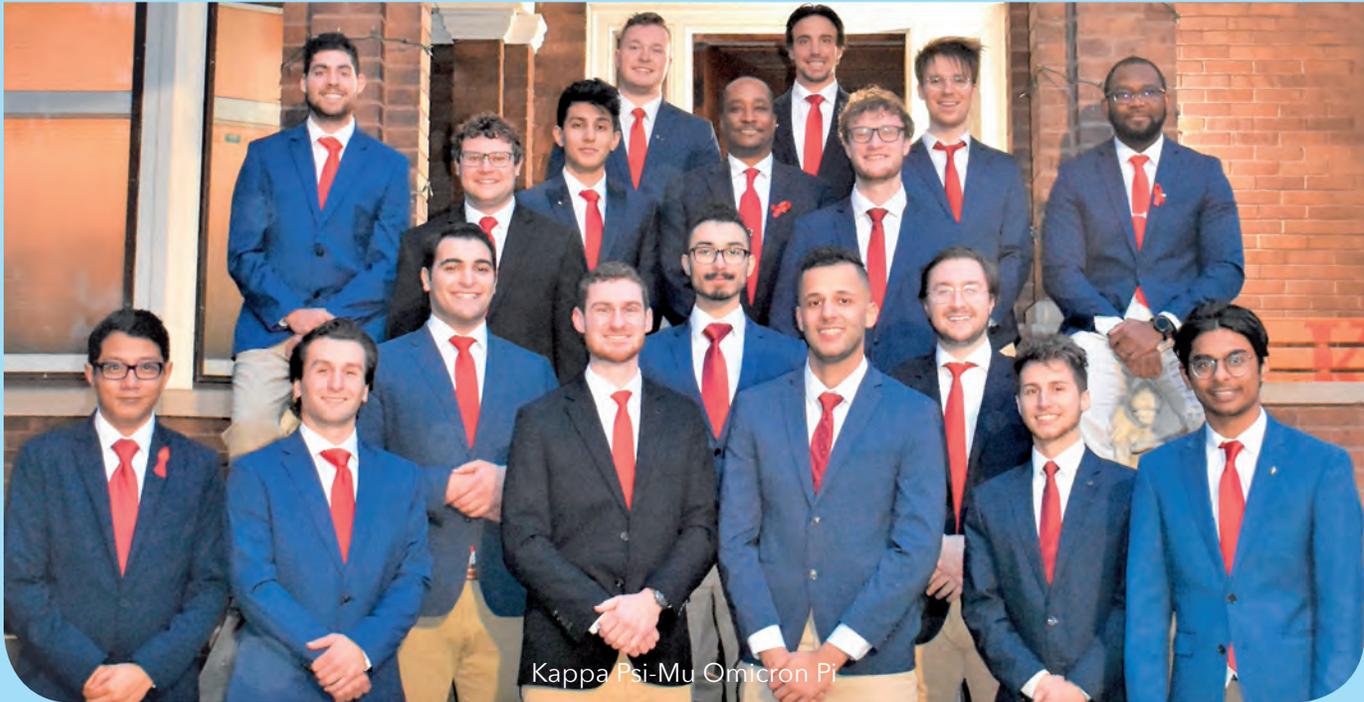




Winter
2021

WORLD MEDICAL RELIEF, INC.

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



Kappa Psi-Mu Omicron Pi

68TH ANNIVERSARY GALA CELEBRATES TODAY, TOMORROW, AND FOREVER

On Saturday, December 4, World Medical Relief celebrated another year of local and international aid at its 68th Anniversary Gala. Focusing on three exciting eras – our esteemed past, our exciting present, and our yet-to-be written future – the annual event was again held virtually for the safety of our supporters amidst rising COVID concerns. A theme of Today, Tomorrow, and FOREVER allowed World Medical Relief to tell its story across seven decades, highlighting the people and places that bring Irene Auberlin's mission – turning "the sins of waste into miracles of mercy" – to fruition. This year's stories included not only those of our award winners, but numerous tributes to World Medical Relief President and CEO Dr. George V. Samson, who was honored by colleagues, community leaders, and collaborators for his 30 years with the agency.

The Brother of Kappa Psi – Mu Omicron Pi Chapter, all of whom are Wayne State University Pharmaceutical students – were recognized with the 2021 Community Volunteer Service Excellence Award. Presented by World Medical Relief Board of Directors Vice Chair Nidhal Garmo, this award resonated with both Nidhal, a working pharmacist with a long history of international and local charity work, and the students, whose fraternity emphasizes philanthropy.

David B. Lomasney, known here at our offices as "Pastor Dave," was awarded this year's Ambassador Excellence Award. In addition to serving as a World Medical Relief Ambassador of Health to Guatemala, Pastor Dave has been part of several medical mission teams for years, most recently in

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**SAMARITAN
THE GOOD**



CEO NOTES

George V. Samson, Ph.D.

As the year is coming to a close, my heart is grateful that we made it through without any interruption of our services. In fact, we might be shipping more containers this year than

last (I will let you know in the next newsletter). Kudos to our dedicated staff, volunteers and financial supporters!

Last year, when the Covid-19 pandemic just began, we assisted many hospitals with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Now, these hospitals are returning these good deeds tenfold as World Medical Relief appears to be the prime recipient of any excess supplies. With these goods we can assist developing countries – also burdened by the pandemic, which have no access to these crucial items to keep their health care staff safe.

I would also like to mention a few of the wonderful companies that direct their supplies and hospital beds to us. Medline in Howell, Caniff Electric Supply in Hamtramck and Sam Tedrow in Indianapolis. A special place among the corporate supporters is reserved for Welch Packaging in Ohio as this company continues to

custom produce the cardboard gaylords for us, ensuring that we can ship the medical supplies safely and securely. With Welch's help World Medical Relief is able to operate within its budget while saving more people's lives.

The outpouring of support for the blanket program was heart-warming. It was a nice surprise to receive a generous grant from the Molinello Foundation for the blanket and hygiene kit programs. The enthusiasm for the campaign to raise money for the compactor was contagious. Unfortunately, as everything else,

the cost to acquire a compactor went up and we are still open to receiving donations towards this campaign.

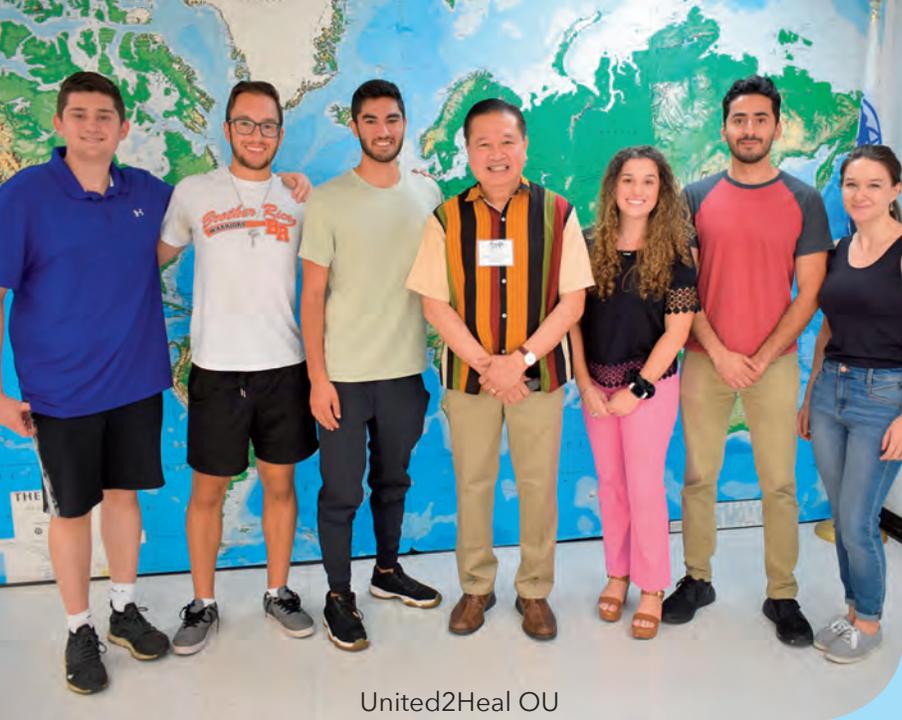
I hope you had a chance to see this year's virtual gala. It was exciting that technology allowed us to hear from our collaborators around the world. I think that everyone will agree that the nuns from Ghana stole the show! It was amazing to hear the tributes from everyone on the occasion of my 30th anniversary with the agency and I was deeply honored to receive the Spirit of Detroit award.

As you know, throughout time I have met with many government officials and NGOs from around the world to discuss their healthcare needs. Recently, I met with a group of Shriners from the Philippines who are in the process of building the only pediatric burn center in that country. It is an exciting project, not in the least because we will be able to assist! The items that they need are very particular and not often requested by other overseas partners and we happen to have a dermatome skin graft machine and many of the specialized ointments.

I am looking forward to seeing you in the New Year but for now, I wish you splendid holidays filled with Love and Cheer and a

Very Merry Christmas!





United2Heal OU



Roy McCalister Jr.,
Detroit Councilperson District 2

CONTINUATION OF 68TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

places like Mexico, Brazil, and, of course, Guatemala. Another World Medical Relief Board member, Greg Baise, was pleased to present the award to Pastor Dave because he too had a similar history: sorting and packing medical supplies for later delivery via a container shipment.

The third organization recognized at this year's gala was United2Heal – Oakland University. One of three chapters of the student-lead organization, which first formed at the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor in 2007, United2Heal – Oakland University received the 2021 Community Service Excellence Award from World Medical Relief Board member Wally Jadan, who's both an Oakland County business owner and an Oakland University alum. United2Heal – Oakland University members are so dedicated to volunteering in our warehouse, its members were featured in photos in *Oakland University Magazine* earlier this year.

Testimonials honoring Dr. Samson's multi-decade career at World Medical Relief came from World Medical Relief Ambassador for Nigeria Charles Amanze, medical missionaries Jon and Marilyn Hinton, United2Heal – Oakland University co-founder Doria Morante, and Kevin Mitchell, who symbolically presented Dr. Samson with the torch the long-time volunteer carried for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. Detroit Councilman Roy McCalister Jr. kicked off the accolades by giving the coveted Spirit of Detroit award to the

man many see as the public face and beating heart of World Medical Medical Relief.

Thank you to all of our 2021 Anniversary Gala sponsors and supporters – we literally cannot host this look back without you. Congratulations to all of our award winners, including Dr. George Samson, who has given so much of himself to World Medical Relief. As we move into 2022, we look forward to making history with all of you, now and forever.

Thank you sponsors!



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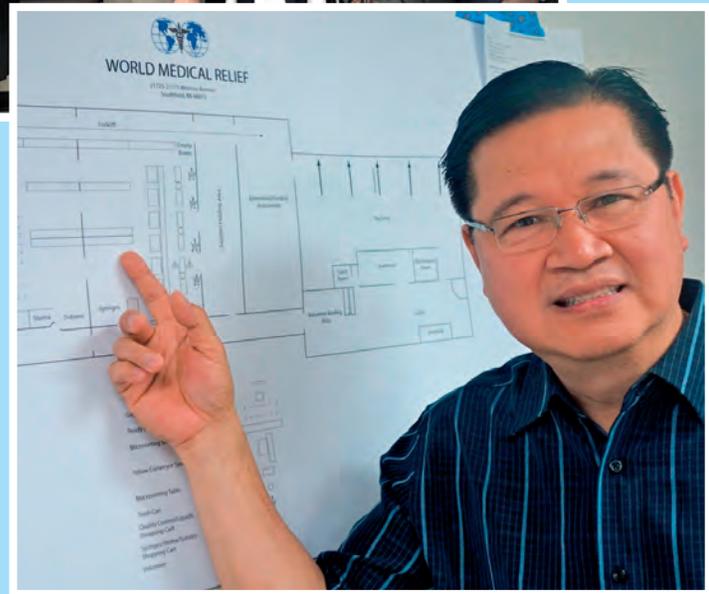
For the Past 30 Years

Dr. George V. Samson has been an indispensable part of turning tragedy into triumph at World Medical Relief. What began as a trip to supervise the shipment of needed medical equipment and supplies to the Philippines in the aftermath of the volcanic eruption which occurred at Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines on June 15, 1991, became a career that has seen four decades and saved countless lives everywhere, from his home county to his adopted homeland and beyond.

Thank you for your service and dedication to World Medical Relief, Dr. Samson.

Our organization has been made stronger – and our world made safer – *Because of You.*





PACEMAKER PROJECT LEAPS FORWARD

Each year, more than 1,000,000 people around the globe die due to a life-threatening slow heart rhythm and their inability to obtain a pacemaker or an implantable defibrillator (ICD). World Medical Relief houses the Sheldon & Marion Davis Pacemaker Center, the world's only pacemaker reconditioning site. Thousands of devices from across the country arrive here to be refurbished for future reuse. The center is part of Project My Heart Your Heart, which aims to scientifically research the feasibility of safely reconditioning these devices for implantation. As specified by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), these devices can only be exported and implanted in other countries. The major challenge has been to get the equivalent of the FDA in other countries, most often the Ministry of Health, to approve the trials. Thus far, this has been only successful in Sierra Leone, where six patients received these life-altering devices and are currently being studied longitudinally.

In March 2020, Project My Heart Your Heart/the pacemaker project came to a screeching halt because of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The planned trip to Nigeria was put on hold by Dr. Thomas Crawford who is the principal researcher, which proved fortuitous to those scheduled to travel, since the team members would have had to remain in the West African country until exit travel resumed, several months later.

While the trip's cancellation was disappointing, the pandemic stoppage gave the team time to reflect and re-evaluate its methodologies, specifically the ways in which patients would be tracked for continued care and data gathering. Ideally, patient follow-ups, at which they are checked for infection and software / hardware malfunctions, happen at least 4 times within one year of implant and continue on until they need another device or they die. All patients chosen for the trial have a life expectancy of two years or longer and those who do not qualify for the trial are provided a device through the philanthropic arm of Project My Heart Your Heart.

Soon, Project My Heart Your Heart is expected to start working in Venezuela and Kenya. Three



Eric Puroll, pacemaker project coordinator and Sharon Gadoth Goodman, device nurse, are testing pacemakers

additional countries are expected to come on board in 2022, further expanding the program's reach into the Caribbean and Africa. All of the efforts help toward the project's ultimate goal: hundreds of patients living longer lives in emerging world countries thanks to reconditioned pacemakers, all with the help of World Medical Relief, Project My Heart Your Heart, and generous donors of used pacemakers that would otherwise become medical waste. World Medical Relief thanks Dr. Kim Eagle, Dr. Thomas Crawford, Sheldon Davis, Implant Recycling (Sterling Heights, MI), NEScientific (Waterbury, CT), and Michigan Clinical Outcomes Research and Reporting Program (MORRP) at the University of Michigan and wishes them continuing success, in the new year and for decades to come!

LOCAL PROGRAMS CONTINUE TO ASSIST METRO DETROIT

When Veronica Claybrone spoke as part of the 2021 Fireside Chat with World Medical Relief president and CEO Dr. George Samson, she was slightly overwhelmed. "I know you're called World Medical Relief, but I didn't really think there would be people from all over the world on [the zoom feed] with me," she said with an incredulous laugh.

Veronica knows about the power of World Medical Relief's local programs from both sides of the aisle. As the founder and director of



Detroit Diaper Bank, she sees firsthand how the blanket program, which has provided more than 100,000 blankets to homeless and home insecure people since 2010, impacts those living in less-than-ideal conditions. "People living in shelters, men and women on the street, they're just so very grateful for that blanket."

Those blankets, along with hygiene kits containing items such as washcloths, hand sanitizer, and basic grooming supplies, are "critical" for the health and safety of those her agency serves. "I see what World Medical Relief does to help people every day."

Ironically, it was Veronica's assistance to another that helped her when she could no longer afford vital medication she needed to maintain her own quality of life.

"My COBRA had run out and I knew I wasn't going to be able to afford my medication, which I had been getting at the discounted rate of \$100 per dose," Veronica explained. I mentioned this to someone at the food pantry I help run and she said, 'Why don't you do what you told me to do?' I said, 'What did I tell you to do?' She said, 'You told me to call World Medical Relief.'"

Rather circuitously, Veronica took her own advice and she now gets her medication, which would cost hundreds of dollars were she to pay out of pocket, for only \$8.50, thanks to the World Medical Relief affordable prescription program.

Whether offering blankets, hygiene kits, or life-saving medication, World Medical Relief's local programs have been there throughout 2021, helping families and community members stay warm, clean, and properly medicated. From January 2021 to November 2021, World Medical Relief filled 5,229 prescriptions, all for under \$10 each.

Because the medication she receives through the Affordable Prescription Program is related to her lung capacity, Veronica said, "I attribute my continued breath to World Medical Relief. Because of you, I can breathe easier and I am so thankful."



Liz and Zoe, from Teksystems in Southfield, Michigan deliver the blankets made by its employees.



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VOLUNTEER SATURDAYS

January 2022: 8, 15, 22, 29

February 2022: 5, 12, 19, 26

March 2022: 5, 12, 19, 26

April 2022: 2, 9, 23, 30

May 2022: 7, 14, 21, 28

June 2022: 4, 11, 18, 25

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