



OPERATION MEDICAL NEWSLETTER

Providing Global Healthcare

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Usually at this point in the year Operation Medical would have recently completed a mission trip to Haiti and perhaps also one to Africa or Asia, and our warehouse team would already be hard at work packing supplies for a visit to India in January of the coming year. Unfortunately, as we are all too well aware, these are not “usual” or “normal” times and we continue to keep mission trips “on hold” for now due to the coronavirus pandemic. That does not mean that we are not continuing to plan for future trips, however, and a mission to Haiti is tentatively scheduled for Spring 2021, while we also network to find possible locations for an autumn trip to Kenya or elsewhere in East Africa next year as well. Op Med is also exploring opportunities for local outreach at this time as many of our volunteers are eager to provide assistance wherever and whenever possible. I will keep you updated on these plans in future newsletters.

Finally, some of our mission volunteers, myself included, are keeping in touch with our friends and extended Op Med family overseas and are happy to report that while many are busy with COVID care in their own hospitals, they are remaining healthy and as safe as possible. I sincerely hope all of you reading this are staying healthy and safe as well and I extend my best wishes to you for a Happy Thanksgiving and for the rest of 2020 and beyond.

Ken Arthur, MD



THANKS TO YOU!

Operation Medical would like to say a very big “Thank You” to Mary Jensik! Our founding group held its first meeting to create the organization at Mary’s home and she has played an enormous part in its success ever since. Some of Mary’s roles

have included Board Member, Executive Director, Treasurer, and Vice President. She served on numerous committees and was very active with fundraising and marketing. She even found time to travel with mission teams on several trips! While she has elected to end her time on the Board, we are so grateful for her guidance, experience and friendship.

Thanks again, Mary!



SPECIAL REPORT: OPERATION MEDICAL'S WAREHOUSE COMMITTEE'S CRITICAL SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION TRIPS

Logistics play a key role in organizing a Mission Trip, and the hub of logistics for Operation Medical is our warehouse and the team of volunteers who run it. Once a Mission Trip is decided upon, and a Mission Leader is selected, work begins for the Warehouse Committee Volunteers.

Counting and sorting supplies for up to three Mission Trips in a given year is an ongoing task for our Warehouse Volunteers. As basic supplies become available, they are organized for the upcoming trips and inventory lists are compiled. The Warehouse Volunteers need to know approximately how many and what types of surgeries are anticipated for each Mission Trip and they reach out to the surgeons who will be on the Mission Trip to determine their special needs such as sutures, instruments, and specialized medical supplies. Much of what is packed for the mission team depends on the surgical specialty and equipment the hospitals have available such as laparoscopic equipment, harmonic scalpels, cautery devices and anesthesia machines.

Once details are fine-tuned, the Warehouse team begins sourcing needed supplies. This is accomplished by reviewing on-hand items in Operation Medical's Harrisburg warehouse and making contact with local hospitals, medical suppliers and other non-profits such as Americares – a health-focused relief organization. Supplies are either donated to or purchased by Operation Medical.

Once all of the necessary supplies are received at the warehouse the packing process begins. Each participating mission volunteer residing close to the Harrisburg warehouse is required to carry a medical bag along with their personal checked bag. Each bag is carefully packed and padded to prevent breakage or damage and a detailed inventory sheet is provided for customs. Bags are numbered and cataloged. All information regarding each bag and its content is entered into an Excel spreadsheet which can then be sorted by item, bag number and individual carrier.

Warehouse Committee Volunteers also meet at other times to sort, inventory, and organize supplies. They spend many hours outside the warehouse searching for and ordering supplies, sterilizing supplies, communicating with trip participants, calculating needed supplies for trips based on surgeon specialty and number of cases, creating spread sheets for physician/nurse preferences and guidelines on packing anesthesia and operating room supplies, creating lists of supplies in each medical bag, tracking bags going to mission and returning, writing reports, and tracking volunteer hours on a yearly basis.

Operation Medical is grateful for their generosity as well as that of HERSHA Corporation which donates warehouse space to Operation Medical.



If you are interested in helping to support our warehouse mission by volunteering your time or by donating supplies, please call 717-685-9199 or email info@operationmedical.org.

WHAT'S NEW

If you're looking for a simple, automatic way to continue supporting Operation Medical, please consider doing your on-line shopping with AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile is a way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop with Amazon.

Amazon shopping at smile.amazon.com.

You shop as you normally would on the site, at no extra cost to you, and you don't need to make a separate account. Amazon will donate a portion of the price of eligible purchases to the charity of your choice.

- AmazonSmile is a program that donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon to a charity of your choice.
- **All you need to do is start your shopping at smile.amazon.com.** The donation will be made at no extra cost to you and you can choose from nearly one million public charitable organizations.
- Though 0.5% is not a large donation and it isn't intended to replace your regular charitable activities, AmazonSmile is still

a great way to take advantage of a service you're using anyways.

SIGNING UP IS EASY!

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4. Select your charity
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5. Add a bookmark for smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile

Turn on AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping app

1. Make sure you're signed up for AmazonSmile (use your web browser to visit smile.amazon.com)
2. Download or update to the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app for iOS or Android
3. Open the app and find "Settings" in the main menu.

4. Tap on "AmazonSmile" and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile in the app.

You'll be able to tell you're shopping from the correct page if you see the AmazonSmile logo in the corner of the page and "Supporting [charity of your choice]" below the search bar. When you hover over the name of the charity, you can see additional information about it and track the donation amount you've generated through your purchases.

Tens of millions of products are eligible for donations — just look for "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on its product detail page. At this time, Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals aren't eligible for AmazonSmile.



Happy Friday

Shop your Black Friday deals at smile.amazon.com or with AmazonSmile ON in the app and Amazon donates



ABOUT US:

Operation Medical is an organization of volunteers made up of trained medical professionals and other individuals committed to promoting and providing high quality medical care and education to communities that do not have adequate access to medical care.



Our emphasis is on the medical needs of the community, with the safety of our patients and our volunteers our #1 priority. Our safety and quality protocols ensure our patients receive the best care possible. All trips are carefully coordinated with local hosts and their medical community in order to optimize



the success of our visit and make certain our volunteers have a positive experience. We audit results and provide training for all of our partners.

HOW TO SHARE HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Please consider sharing with friends and family. Know that we will never share your contact information with anyone outside of Operation Medical or any third-party advertiser or organization.

You can make sure we have your most up-to-date information three ways:

1. Log on to www.operationmedical.org, and click on the Subscribe tab, complete the contact form and click SUBMIT
2. Use your smartphone to scan the QR code here to be taken directly to the contact form
3. Email us at info@operationmedical.org



If you would like to speak with someone, you can reach us at 717-685-9199.

We invite you to follow us on Facebook



CONTACT US:

Web: www.operationmedical.org

Email: info@operationmedical.org

Phone: 717-685-9199

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