



OPERATION MEDICAL NEWSLETTER

Providing Global Healthcare

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To paraphrase Charles Dickens: it is not the best of times, but not the worst of times for Operation Medical.

On the down side, COVID continues to be a significant adversary as new variants crop up and make it more difficult to control in unvaccinated populations (although our US vaccines appear to be efficient against the current strains such as the Delta variant). Sadly, the already politically unstable country of Haiti is in even greater turmoil with the recent assassination of that country's president and prospects for continuing our longstanding outreach to that nation look to be highly problematic in the near future.

However, on the positive side, COVID cases are decreasing in communities where vaccination is available and accepted, giving hope for an eventual end to the pandemic. International travel is becoming a more common and safer possibility than just a few months ago as restrictions ease and testing is more available. We still have a strong network of individuals in India and East Africa ready and willing to help plan future missions when it is fully safe to do so. Finally, we have dozens of eager volunteers waiting anxiously for another opportunity to do what we do best – help others in need who otherwise would not be able to afford or obtain that help.

The Operation Medical Board of Directors and Executive Committee look forward to the day when it will be the best of times for Operation Medical and our mission and the worst of times for the COVID-19 virus. We know our volunteers and friends share that vision and we thank you all for your continued interest in and support of our cause!

Ken Arthur, MD



THANKS TO YOU!

Operation Medical's mission trips would not succeed without the dedication of our volunteers.

Mission days start early as the volunteers board a bus from their hotel for the hospital around 6:30 am and often don't return to the hotel until after 6pm each day. The hours are long, the conditions are less than desirable, the language barrier is challenging and fatigue can set in early. None of this deters many of our repeat volunteers from serving again and again. Of special note are four special health care professionals who in total have participated in 40 mission trips spanning the globe from Haiti, the Philippines, Thailand, Honduras, India, Nepal and Rwanda.

- Charmaine Garner, RN 5 mission trips
- Karmae Amsbaugh, ST 5 mission trips
- Suzanne Miller, CRNA 16 mission trips
- Bonnie Pepper, RN 14 mission trips



(Pictured on right)
Karmae Amsbaugh, ST:
"My heart is full when on a trip."

Why do they do this? These women all expressed that it was about helping others less fortunate who are in need of medical care.

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THANKS TO YOU (continued)

They also concurred that there is a bond that forms for long-lasting friendships that have developed during repeated trips together. Bonnie Peffer shared, “The mere fact that a group of professionals and non-professionals, many of whom start out as strangers, voluntarily come together for up to two weeks, traveling long distances and hours to a foreign country, living and working under less than optimal conditions, all with a common purpose to better the lives less fortunate — and in the end, lives are changed forever and lifelong friendships are made. It doesn’t get much better than that!”

Suzanne Miller reflected, “These trips have been challenging both professionally and personally. It never ceases to amaze me, the trust the patients have in our team. Communication is challenging if a team member does not speak the language and is done with gestures, smiles and hand holding. No matter what your assigned role is on the trip, we are all equals coming together to provide surgical care. The friendships that have been formed on these trips with other team member will last a lifetime.”

Thanks to you ladies for your generosity of time and talent to make a difference in the world in which we live.



Bonnie Peffer, RN:
“Nursing is in my heart and soul.”



Suzanne Miller, CRNA:
“It is wonderful to see the sheer joy on the face of family members knowing their loved one has received a life changing surgery.”



Charmaine Garner, RN:
“It’s my way of doing small acts of kindness that improve the quality of many lives.”

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.



CONTACT US:

Web: www.operationmedical.org
Email: info@operationmedical.org
Phone: 717-685-9199

Operation Medical
44 Hersha Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17102

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HOW TO SHARE | HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

You have received this issue of our quarterly newsletter because you shared your email with us in the past five years. This newsletter aligns with our goal to provide an electronic communication platform which will hold down printing and mailing costs while keeping you informed of our current initiatives, upcoming mission trips and more.

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.

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