



OPERATION MEDICAL NEWSLETTER

Thanks
To You

Providing Global Healthcare

AN INSIDE LOOK FROM OUR ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Larry Page, co-founder of Google, is known for saying “Small groups of people can have a really huge impact.” Having joined the organization 9 months ago, I can tell you this is a true depiction of the team here at Operation Medical. Throughout my training and development, I have admired the commitment to their good work, providing quality medical care to those in need. They have made a profound impact on me personally through mentorship, guidance, collaboration and genuinely welcoming me into the fold.



LINDSAY HOKE

volunteers who have selflessly served on our 18 missions to date. Gifts provided by our financial donors allow us to purchase the needed medical supplies, cover the costs of logistics while in the host country, and cover additional costs associated with these missions. As an organization, we are truly grateful for each and every volunteer, donor, and supporter of our mission.

Thank you all.

Having assisted in all administrative tasks in support of the highly successful January trip to Dharampur, India, I look forward to joining the mission team that is forming for our upcoming mission to Malawi, Africa. I am certain that having the opportunity to support this mission in-person will be eye-opening and satisfying for me, as it has been for so many of our current and prior volunteers. Working closely alongside Co-Team Leaders Dr. Mukul Parikh & Dr. Jeff Segil to assist with coordinating these efforts has shown just how much planning and advanced preparation goes into these trips. Behind the scenes, Operation Medical's competent Team Leaders, Logistics Committee volunteers, and our local hosts spend many hours planning every detail to make sure that the maximum number of surgical patients will be served effectively and efficiently.

Since inception in 2013, Operation Medical has had the support of over 200 individual

THANKS TO YOU, BONNIE PEFFER, RN

Operation Medical would like to express sincere and heartfelt gratitude to long-time supporter and volunteer, **Bonnie Peffer**.



BONNIE PEFFER

Bonnie started her nursing career in 1972 and in 2002 had the pleasure of experiencing her first mission trip as an RN. Since that time, she has participated in 17 mission trips to countries such as Ethiopia, Honduras, India, Kenya, Rwanda, and the Philippines. Operation Medical has benefited from Bonnie's presence on 10 of those 17 missions. These trips make a lasting impact on volunteers like Bonnie. On her first trip to India, just outside of Mumbai, she visited a leper colony and was greatly impacted by the care and compassion she witnessed there. She still carries that vivid memory with her today.

Her mantra, “If you have a skill that can be shared, it's the right thing to do” has guided her path in giving back to others. Bonnie has been essential to our organization since the inception in 2013.

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To see our latest updates, visit Operation Medical on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn or visit our website at www.operationmedical.org



THANKS TO YOU! *continued*

She has been a critical part of forming our Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) teams, caring for hundreds of patients over the years. Additionally, she is a vital member of Op Med's Logistics Team, where she volunteers her time and talents throughout the year in order to prepare for upcoming mission trips.



She is always amazed when a group of volunteers can come together as strangers, land in a foreign country and come together for a week, leaving that experience bonded forever by good works shared with those less fortunate. She is touched by the local people's acceptance and gratitude to the volunteers. Bonnie shared that the need is so great, and we cannot begin to comprehend the need until we experience true outreach. She thinks every health care professional should have the opportunity to go on a mission trip in or out of the U.S. to experience

what medicine can truly be.

When asked, "If you could change anything?" her answer was quick, "Get people to change their mindset of wanting to stay in their comfort zone." She shared that the travel is tough and the work is long – jetlag, length of travel, and lack of amenities can be tiring, but they pale in comparison to what you feel in your heart when you see the difference you are making for others. She shares the sentiment of another Op Med volunteer, Krishna Iyer, "It's hard to articulate, but easy to experience."



Thank you, Bonnie, from all of us!

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL MISSION IN THE BOOKS!

Earlier this year, a team of 22 Operation Medical volunteers from five different states traveled to Dharampur, Gujarat, India. This was Op Med's first time partnering with the Shrimad Rajchandra Hospital & Research Center. As both teams got to know each other, there was a strong sense of connection and shared purpose. The teamwork and collaboration formed quickly and was beneficial to the patients throughout the mission week.

Those patients came from the more rural areas of Dharampur, in the local tribal communities. Many relied on family and friends, as well as various forms of public transportation in order to make the long journey to the hospital for treatment. A total of 89 procedures were performed during the week, all patients expressing immense gratitude for a relief from



the medical conditions that had been afflicting them. The patients and their families left the hospital with renewed hope and energy for healing and a return to a more normal way of life.

With such a positive experience with the hospital and the local facilities, and the true collaboration with the local team, Op Med is looking forward to returning once again to Shrimad Rajchandra in the future for another mission.

To read more about this and other previous missions, please check out the Past Missions tab on our website. Through our trip reports you can learn more about the local regions and communities we serve, highlights from our volunteers, and even reflect on some of the patients' personal stories.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Operation Medical!



OP MED LOOKS FORWARD TO RETURN TO MALAWI, AFRICA

The team was excited to announce the details of our next mission to Malawi earlier this month. 10 years has passed since a group of Op Med volunteers visited this location. We will be partnering with Access Health Africa to address the medical needs of this community. The facility where our team will provide care is the Kabudula Community Hospital, located in the state's capital, Lilongwe.

The needs in this area are great. The population in the state of Malawi is more than 20 million people, who earn on average the equivalent of only \$640 USD each year. The government allocates less than 13% of its funds to healthcare in the region, unfortunately still leaving a wide gap between the available funds and the true costs of the people's medical needs. There exists only one surgeon for every 1,000,000 people. Due to the great healthcare needs and

personal desperation, tens of thousands of locals receive surgery every year by those who were never trained in surgical procedures.

This team will be lead by Dr. Mukul Parikh & Dr. Jeff Segil, who have been busy coordinating logistics and planning details. We are currently recruiting for and assembling a volunteer team to assist with these needs in September 2024. Our volunteer team will consist of a few surgical teams including

gynecology and general surgery to meet the needs of the local citizens.

The costs to Op Med and our volunteers to participate in this mission are greater than many of the other recent trips we have taken. Therefore, if you are able to support our team financially we welcome your donations. These financial contributions can be made by visiting our website, sent by mail, or by clicking the link in this newsletter.



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.



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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.

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