

AMRF NEWS



American Medical Resources Foundation, Inc. Volume 16, No. 3, May 2005

AMRF Equips Zambia Hospital

Two forty-foot containers of medical supplies and equipment were shipped to the Luwi Hospital, located in Solwezi, Copperbelt, Zambia, during November 2004. Luwi, in the native language of the people who inhabit that area, means "Grace."



The hospital structure is near completion and ready for equipping and initial medical activities.

And it is with grace that the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Service are the sponsors of this hospital. Although the sisters in the past have concentrated their benevolent

efforts in Korea, several years ago they initiated their work in Zambia. Since the nearest hospital is 180 miles away, the 100-bed Luwi Hospital also provides outpatient and educational services to over twenty thousand people.

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Many diseases prevalent among the local people are preventable through implementation of basic sanitation practices.

AMRF Provides Technical Assistance in Nicaragua and El Salvador

In October, 2004, AMRF Vice President Victor Solo traveled to Nicaragua and El Salvador to provide technical assistance to AMRF sister organizations who help provide medical care for the poor in those countries.

Cooperating with Partners in Health of Maine, Victor traveled to Managua, Nicaragua and Puerto Cabeza with Dr. Robert Boch, a Massachusetts internist, President of Partners in Health of Maine.

Victor evaluates an x-ray machine at the Puerto Cabeza hospital with Darren Beaupre of South Coast Hospitals of Southeastern Massachusetts



This organization has been helping to provide medical care to the less fortunate of Nicaragua primarily in the sixty-bed Puerto Cabeza Regional Hospital.

Partners maintains a modest warehouse, medical equipment repair facility and dormitory in Puerto Cabeza and sends medical professionals on a regular basis to assist in providing medical care to the local needy population. While in Puerto Cabeza, Victor provided advice and assistance to the biomedical technicians working on

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Assisting our less fortunate neighbors by donating medical equipment and supplies to hospitals and clinics in developing nations.

Equipment to Zambia

Continued from page 1

The economic activity of the local people is derived mainly from agriculture: growing maize, soy beans, rice, cabbage and raising pigs, chickens and fish in fish ponds. Annual income is about \$40 per person.

At the present time there is no electricity in the tribal areas, but a copper mine is under construction several miles away and the electric lines will be extended to the hospital at that time.

The major medical needs of the population relate to childbirth, malnutrition, malaria, tuberculosis, diarrhea, and skin disease.

The donated medical equipment shipped included a c-arm x-ray, a portable x-ray, an ultrasound, a fixed x-ray, infant warmers, birthing beds, an operating room table, operating room lights, anesthesia



The entire hospital structure was built locally by hand, including the manufacturing of bricks.

machines, exam tables, mechanical patient beds, patient monitors, autoclaves and defibrillators. The containers traveled a long, circuitous route by ship from the port of New York to the port of Durban, South Africa, than overland by truck through South Africa and Zimbabwe into Zambia.



Anthill soil is mixed with sand and dried to make blocks, which are then fired to result in hard bricks.

Sister Heide Brauckmann, who is spearheading the Luwi Hospital Project, visited the AMRF warehouse in Brockton, MA, several months ago and gratefully acknowledged that "Without the AMRF donated equipment, it would have been difficult if not impossible to bring timely medical care to the Luwi Hospital." Sister Heide has indicated that additional containers will be requested of AMRF in the future. She is also hopeful that AMRF can provide technical assistance in the set-up and operation of the hospital facilities and medical equipment.

AMRF

The American Medical Resources Foundation donates used, but totally functional medical equipment to hospitals serving the needy worldwide. AMRF also develops and provides training programs for medical equipment repair technicians and hospital managers responsible for the maintenance, repair, and calibration of medical equipment.

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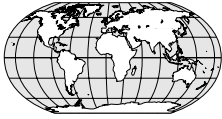
Vice President for Operations: Victor Sologaistoa

Directors: K. H. Barney; Steve Cunningham; Myra Edens; Robert M. Green; Michael Link; Thomas Magliocchetti; Walter Newman; and Victor Sologaistoa.

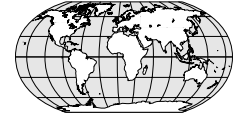
AMRF NEWS

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AMRF Shipments and Services



During 2005 to March 31, 2005

Containers/Equipment (quantity-size)

Alexandria Hospital, Nevis, West Indies: 1 – 40ft.
Bacadweyn Hospital Project, Puntland, Somalia: 1 – 20ft.
KPC Medical College and Hospital, Jadavpur,
Kolkata, India: 5 – 40ft.
Luwi Hospital, Zambia: 2 – 40ft.

Approved and in Process

Luwi Hospital, Zambia: 1 – 40ft.

KPC Medical College and Hospital, Jadavpur,
Kalkata: 4 – 40ft.

Training Programs

Center of Training and Maintenance, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Central American Center of Training and Maintenance, San
Salvador, El Salvador (In planning stage)

AMRF Monetary Donors

From October 31, 2004 – April 22, 2005

AMRF is deeply grateful to the following list of contributors who have graciously provided the financial resources which allowed AMRF to implement programs for improving medical care for the less fortunate of the Globe. **Many thanks.**

\$10,000 and over

The Millipore Foundation
Adelard A. Roy and Valeda
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Donated in Loving Memory of Basil Altobelli

(AMRF Volunteer)

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Kay and Marion Barney
Diane, David and Debbie
Mastrangelo
William and Phyllis Bonville
John, Cindy and Madeline Romano

A Loyal Friend Departs



Basil Altobelli

On January 15, 2005, AMRF lost one of the “original” active volunteers of AMRF. Basil Altobelli, 85 years of age, of Leominster, MA, a combat veteran of World War II, developed a pragmatic view of the world and life and enjoyed expressing it to others together with vignettes of his experiences.

During the initial formative years of AMRF operations, Basil was

energized by the idea and concept of the organization: “to deliver donated, surplus medical equipment from the United States to the downtrodden of the world.” For the next fifteen years, he tirelessly worked in mind and body to achieve AMRF objectives and to continuously look for ways to broaden and improve the delivery system.

Basil’s commitment was demonstrated by his long commute from his home in Leominster to the AMRF warehouse in Brockton, a round-trip distance of over 100 miles, each Tuesday, picking up and dropping off other volunteers along the way. He rarely missed a Tuesday of volunteer work from 1989 to 2004 when he was no longer able to volunteer.

Basil served on numerous AMRF missions including Romania and

India. One of his proudest moments was working on a project for Mother Theresa in Calcutta, India, and meeting with her. He also served on the AMRF Board of Directors and was the source of many valuable ideas and concepts which significantly strengthened AMRF programs and services.

All of his many friends and associates of AMRF will sorely miss his active support and worldly wisdom.



*Basil with
Mother
Theresa*

“All of his many friends and associates of AMRF will sorely miss his active support and worldly wisdom.”

AMRF President’s Day Job



AMRF President, Tom Magliocchetti, in the new Rhode Island Hospital Emergency facility, for which he played a major role in the design and construction as Vice President Facilities there. The facility, having a capacity of 120,000 patients per year is the largest in New England, cost \$70 million and took 2.5 years to build.

Passing of a Trusted AMRF Advisor

Paul Ehrlich MD, MPH, a member of the AMRF Board of International Advisors from 2000 until his death on January 6, 2005, was a valuable resource for AMRF programs and operations. The Board advises AMRF on the medical needs of the less developed world and provides advisories on possible new program potential and sources of donated equipment.

Paul had a distinguished career of 47 years serving the US Government and several non-profit health agencies. He was 72 years old. Characterized by his colleagues as a humble, non-aggressive, extremely trustworthy and thorough worker, who always could be counted on to complete his projects, Ehrlich spent most of his career as an officer in the US Public Health Service and made many major contributions to the

understanding of heart disease, stress control, Swine Disease, Legionnaire’s Disease and the dangers of smoking. His professional career was marked by his intense idealism and care for people.

A native of Minnesota, he served in important positions in the National Institutes of Health, the Center for Disease Control and many US International Public Health missions. He rose to the rank of one star general and became the Acting Surgeon General in the Nixon, Ford and Carter administrations. After retirement from the US Public Health Service, he continued a distinguished career in non-profit organizations as Vice President, American Institutes for Research, Dep. Director, Pan American Health Organization and as a health consultant. AMRF was honored and privileged to be associated with him and to receive his help and advice.

“AMRF was honored and privileged to be associated with him and to receive his help and advice.”

Mike Link Joins AMRF Board

In October 2004, Mike Link, a clinical engineer and AMRF volunteer, was elected to the Board of Directors. Mike has had fifteen years of experience in the biomedical engineering field and is a Director of Clinical Engineering for ARAMARK Healthcare Management Services providing biomedical services to St. Vincent Hospital located in Worcester, MA.

Mike and his wife, Christine,

recently traveled to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for AMRF where Mike presented a training course on the operation and maintenance of hospital cardiac equipment. Mike was extremely impressed with the enthusiasm and capabilities of many of the Ethiopian trainees.

Mike resides in Hope Valley, Rhode Island, on a two-acre farm with his family, which includes his wife, Christine, and four children

ranging in age from five to eleven. He is very active in his church and also serves as a Cub Scoutmaster. Between family, farm, job and volunteer work, Mike's a busy man!



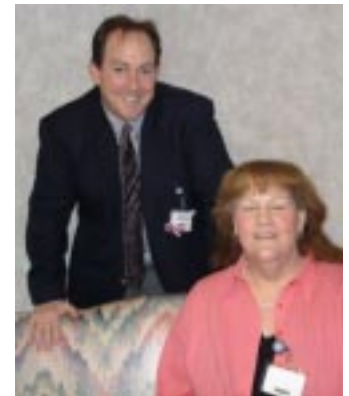
Mike Link

Sachem Nursing Center Sends Beds to India

In March of 2005 the Sachem Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center of East Bridgewater, MA donated ninety-two hydraulically operated beds to AMRF which were in turn donated by AMRF to the KPC Medical College and Hospital of Jadavpur, Kolkata, India.

AMRF Vice President Victor Solo's wife, Carol, who is Nurse Manager at the facility, was instrumental in arranging the donation. The Administrator of the Center, E.J. Richards and Director of Nursing, Patty Murphy were elated to know that these beds would find a new life helping to provide medical care for the neediest people of the world. Ms. Murphy was heard to say, "It is so gratifying to know that we will be helping the poor of India."

*E.J. Richards, Administrator and Patty Murphy,
Director of Nursing of the Sachem Nursing Center, E. Bridgewater, MA.*



AMRF Technical Assistance *Continued from page 1*

the maintenance and repair of medical equipment at the Partners in Health facility. He also brought with him an AMRF donated defibrillator tester, an ECG simulator and a voltmeter.

In Managua, Victor discussed AMRF programs with the Medical Director of the Lenin Fonseca Hospital, a 300-bed government operated hospital. He also met with representatives of the Ministry of Public Health who have responsibility for medical equipment management in El Salvador. They were very supportive of the proposed AMRF medical equipment training initiative and agreed that the government could provide housing and meals for the instructors.

In June of 2004 AMRF shipped a container of pediatric medical equipment to hospitals in San Salvador sponsored by the Salvadorian American Humanitarian Foundation. While in San Salvador, Victor discussed technical support of this equipment with the Executive Director of the Foundation.

Over the past several years, AMRF has cooperated with another international charitable medical organization headquartered in Hingham, MA, led by Dr. Alan Gruber, named Friends of ASAPROSAR. ASAPROSAR maintains a clinic in Santa Ana (a rural area outside of San Salvador). A large steam autoclave has been proposed for the clinic, and Victor provided



Victor Solo provides technical assistance to a biomedical technician in Puerto Cabeza, Nicaragua.

technical advice on infrastructure needed for the installation with the architect and electrician. Upon his return to the United States, Victor was enthusiastic about the synergy of working with sister organizations, which enables AMRF to make a significant impact on the quality of healthcare in underdeveloped countries.

PLEASE DONATE TO AMRF

I would like to discuss a Planned Giving Program.

Please contact me at:

Tel. _____

Email _____

As a person who desires to relieve suffering and assist hospitals and clinics serving the poor in developing nations, please enroll me as a contributor to the *American Medical Resources Foundation*. Enclosed is my contribution of:

\$5,000 () \$2,500 () \$1,000 () \$500 ()

\$100 () Other ()

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State _____ Zip _____

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Can You Help Us With Equipment or Supplies From Your Hospital or Company?

Donations of used, functioning or repairable medical equipment or supplies are urgently needed for shipment to hospitals and clinics serving the poor in developing countries around the world.

We will arrange pickup and/or shipping from anywhere in the U.S.

Equipment donations from for-profit organizations are exempt from Federal Income Tax. Donors should check with their tax advisors to

establish the value of the charitable deduction.

We are in need of any equipment and supplies used in patient care.

All the equipment is checked and repaired as needed in our own facility before being donated to hospitals overseas.

All donations will be greatly appreciated by the recipient.

Please call 508.580.3301 or fax 508.580.3306 with a list of equipment to donate. Or you may contact us by e-mail: amrf@amrf.com

AMRF

American Medical Resources Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 3609
36 Station Avenue
Brockton, MA 02304-3609

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