

# AMRF NEWS



*American Medical Resources Foundation, Inc. Volume 17, No. 2, Summer / Fall 2006*

## AMRF in Siem Reap, Cambodia

**A**n international relief organization, Friends Without a Border, has established a fifty-five-bed hospital, a teaching facility and educational center in Siem Reap known as Angkor Hospital for Children (AHC). The facility was opened in 1999 and is a hospital within the Cambodian Ministry of Health System. Initially providing primarily outpatient care, the facility has now expanded services to surgery, in-patient care, emergency and trauma treatment, acute care unit, diagnostic testing, basic dental care and most importantly medical and nursing training for Cambodian healthcare providers. AHC now cares for 250-300 children per day. AHC was created by acclaimed photographer, Kenro Izu, and serves as a remarkable testament to one man's determination and the power of friendship can accomplish.

The purpose of the Angkor Hospital for Children is to



*General patient waiting area at AHC*



*Angkor Hospital for Children in Siem Reap, Cambodia*

indiscriminately provide essential and effective medical treatment and loving care to all children who seek its services.

The center of Siem Reap is located around "Psarchan," the old market and the Siem Reap River that flows north to south through the center of the city. Siem Reap is acclaimed for the famous temples of Angkor Wat and Angkor Tom.

Basil Stamos of Sterling Stamos sponsored an on-site medical equipment evaluation, assessment and survey at the AHC and is sponsoring the following shipment of medical equipment.

In April of 2006, AMRF's Vice President of Operations, Victor Solo, traveled Siem Reap to assess the equipment needs of the hospital as requested by Friends Without a Border. Victor recommended the replacement of aged equipment throughout several departments in the Hospital including the operation theater, the sterilization services

*Continued on page 2*

## AMRF Beds to India

**T**he Nathan Littauer Hospital and Nursing Home in Gloversville, New York, recently donated sixty electric beds to AMRF. In turn, these beds are being donated by AMRF to the KPC Medical College (KPC) in Kolkata, (formerly Calcutta) India. Medical equipment and additional beds have been previ-

ously donated by AMRF to KPC and arrangements for future shipments are continuing. Bob Shwajlyk coordinated the donation to AMRF by the Littauer Hospital, and stated that "Littauer is thrilled that these beds will find further use for one of the poorest communities in the world."

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

## Richard May

A long-time supporter and volunteer for several years, Dick May died June 2, 2006. He was 88. We'll miss Dick's cheery voice and enthusiastic encouragement that helped AMRF continue its humanitarian work even in difficult times.



## AMRF in Siem Reap, Cambodia *Continued from page 1*

department and the X-ray department. AMRF is currently assembling equipment items for a forty-foot container shipment of medical equipment and supplies to fill the top priority needs identified by Victor. Also, Victor determined that the establishment of an institute for training in the manage-



ment, maintenance and repair of medical equipment including test equipment, electronic tools, spare and replacement parts and technical literature is essential for effective functioning of the hospital. AMRF is cooperating with the staff of AHC to secure funding and logistical support for the establishment of the training institute.



*Angkor Wat Buddhist temple*

*Children's emergency room at AHC*

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

### AMRF NEWS

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## Cambodian Odyssey

The following article was based on writings by Carol Solo, LPN, and an article by Adrienne Bossi, staff reporter of the Middleboro Gazette.

Carol Solo, wife of AMRF vice president, Victor Solo, often volunteers for AMRF and accompanies her husband on foreign assignments donating her services as a nurse. “There are 250 - 300 kids at this 50-bed poor, little hospital each day” said Mrs. Solo, who took time away from her employ at the Sachus Skilled Nursing Home in East Bridgewater, Massachusetts. “Ev-

murky which looked like a cup of coffee with algae floating in it.”

They docked at a firmer landing than that from which they had departed. “Tiny, nasty-smelling fish to be used for fertilizer were drying everywhere. They were covered with flies,” Mrs. Solo recalled. “I felt like I was in an issue of National Geographic! The houses were on huge stilts, because when the rainy season comes, the river rises up so high. It was amazing. And the wood inside the homes was black mahogany.” But that village wasn’t their destination either. From there, it was three people to a motorcycle for a

bumpy, windy 30-minute ride. “I probably said, ‘Oh my God’ a thousand times!”

Finally, the group arrived at their destination, a remote health clinic. “It was probably only four rooms big; no need for a tour. The purpose of the visit was to invite and set up a meeting with Angkor Children’s Hospital. The hospital director is being given funds to set up health care clinics in these villages. Within minutes, the information was given, phone numbers were exchanged, and a date for the meeting was set up,” explained Mrs. Solo.

“Then, with all my courage mustered up, it was back on the 3-person motorcycle for another 30-minute bumpy ride, a three-hour endless boat ride, crossing the two-by-four dock, and the fifteen-minute van ride to return us to the children’s hospital.



*Houses raised on stilts along the adventurous route*

everyone was so organized and efficient. I worked in the post-op room doing dressings and bandages.”

Mrs. Solo was invited to accompany the hospital’s executive director, John Morgan, the director of nursing, Tep Navy, and the executive secretary, Vanna Dare to a health clinic in a village outside of Siem Reap. Had she known what she was getting herself into, she may not have been so quick to accept the invitation. “It was Monday, April 24, at 6 in the morning when a van arrived to bring me to the river in the village.” After a 15-minute car ride, she assumed they had arrived. She surveyed the rows of one-room shacks that housed entire families. There were no apparent bathroom facilities, and the cooking was done on the ground over open flames. “Children were running around half naked, but with big smiles and waving hands saying hello to all that passed by.”

To her surprise, this was not the destination but only the beginning of Carol’s adventure. The group had to cross a ramshackle dock constructed of a series of loosely connected wood planks to board the junk boat, “hardly wide enough to accommodate my large American feet,” she joked. The boat ride lasted three long hours. They crossed a lake that seemed endless. She described the water: “brown and



*Wood planks on stilts serve as a bridge to the remote clinic. The stilts serve to raise the bridge above flood levels that occur during the rainy season*





## **AMRF Monetary Donors**

**April 1, 2005 --- July 31, 2006**



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.

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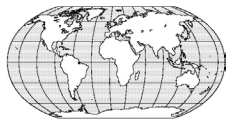
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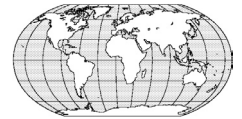
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## Lynette Lopes Joins Board of Directors

In May of 2006, Lynette Lopes was welcomed as a new member of the AMRF Board of Directors. Lynette, who resides in Providence, R.I., brings to the Board her expertise in community relations, communications, marketing and grant making. She is currently Program Coordinator of Community Relations at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Rhode Island. She is a spiritual, family-oriented individual who loves to read, sing, dance and horseback ride in her free time. Lynette lives with her 17-year old son, RJ. Lynette joins the board with the hope that she can “make a difference” in helping AMRF to achieve its mission of improving the quality of life for the less fortunate of the world.



## AMRF Shipments and Services April 1, 2006 – August 15, 2006



### Recipient of Containers of Equipment (quantity & length)

KPC Medical College and Hospital, Jadavpur, Kolkata, India	2 – 40 ft
Banda Aceh, Indonesia	5 – 40 ft

### Approved and in Process

KPC Medical College and Hospital, India	7 – 40 ft
Angkor Hospital for Children, Cambodia	1 - 40 ft
Abdirahman Medical Center, Somaliland	1 - 40 ft

Mwananchi Hosital, Tanzania	1 - 40 ft
Acha Presbytrrian General Hospital, Cameroon	1 - 40ft

### Training Programs

Central American Center of Training and Maintenance,  
San Salvador, El Salvador (in development stage)  
Medical Equipment Consultancy: National Survey of  
Medical Facilities Ethiopia

## Haikus

### by Dave Hamblen

*Dave Hamblen, a long-time steadfast volunteer for AMRF, is the creator of a form of poetry called haiku. The following haikus are his originals:*

### March Haiku

March - the redwings hold  
Town meeting in the meadow.  
Sun shines on red, gold.

### October Haiku

October sunlight  
Sneaks through brilliant Autumn leaves,  
Lighting up my soul.

### Grace Haiku

Grace came through the door  
Unbidden, on soft cat feet.  
Our lives become new.

### July Haiku

July's chicory  
Blazes blue by the wayside:  
Color of heaven.

## YOU Can Take the Lead in Sponsoring International Goodwill

Over the years, AMRF has shipped worldwide donated medical equipment and supplies to hundreds of hospitals and clinics serving the poor in less developed countries; thereby, improving the availability and quality of health care and saving lives in many parts of the world.

AMRF has had numerous sponsors and cooperators who have helped to support these medical equipment shipments. These sponsors have been Lions clubs, Rotary clubs, Kiwanis clubs, charitable foundations

based in America and foreign countries, churches and church groups, hospitals, cultural associations and clubs and professional associations.

If you are a member of a group or organization that would like to sponsor a shipment, please contact AMRF by phone, email or fax using the information on the front of this newsletter. Our staff will be pleased to assist you and guide you through any questions or issues you may have.

## 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 ( )

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to make a  
multi-year pledge of:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**with the following dona-  
tion schedule:**

Date	Amount
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_____	_____
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_____	_____
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*Please do not send cash*

## 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](mailto:amrf@amrf.com)

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