

# AMRF NEWS



American Medical Resources Foundation, Inc. Volume 21, No. 1, Winter/Spring, 2010

## Central American Initiative

**A**MRF has partnered with the SABA Health Foundation and ASAPRO-SAR (Rural Salvadoran Health Association) to initiate a program for strengthening healthcare in Central America. During January 2010 AMRF President Victor Sologastoa visited several hospitals and clinics in Guatemala and El Salvador with the representatives of SABA and ASAPROSAR,



*The waiting room at the San Juan de Dios Hospital.*

Dr. Patricia Hough and Dr. Alan Gruber respectively. The objective of the trip was to assess the needs of the medical facilities serving the rural areas of Guatemala populated by the less-privileged indigenous Mayan citizens. During this fact-finding expedition Victor was able to visit two facilities where AMRF had previously donated equipment and supplies. He viewed first-hand the vital medical care that this donated equipment provides. (There will

be more on this in the next issue of the AMRF News.) As a result of the assessment, the team partners concluded that a general hospital in San Benito, within a remote area of Peten Province in the northern part of Guatemala, was in substantial need of an upgrade of healthcare facilities. They found that this hospital lacked basic equipment and furnishings, and would benefit substantially from technical support and training. They concurred that this facility would be a prime candidate from which to launch the “Central American Strengthened Healthcare Initiative”.

As a part of this program, and in cooperation with these partners, AMRF will be shipping donated equipment to the designated medical facilities in the near future. Victor stated that he is pleased that AMRF can participate in this humanitarian initiative.



*The Salud y Paz Eye Clinic in Camanchaj, Guatemala.*



*Hospital San Juan de Dios, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala: Dr. Marvin Giovanni Ortega, Director; Victor Sologastoa, AMRF President; and Dr. Patricia Hough of the Saba Foundation.*

## Barney Becomes Emeritus, Magliocchetti Chairman, Sologastoa CEO/President

**A**fter volunteering 21 years as Chairman and, in the early days of AMRF, additionally as President and CEO, Kay Barney has resigned as Chairman of the Board of Directors effective December 31, 2009. He will continue as a volunteer and Board member with the title of Chairman Emeritus.

Kay took early retirement from his position as an international program manager at Raytheon to co-found AMRF with Tom Magliocchetti and Victor



Sologastoa in 1988. Since then he has assisted in the development of medical equipment and hospital supply donation programs and initiated AMRF’s medical equipment maintenance personnel training programs by starting projects in Nicaragua and Ethiopia. He plans to continue serving as AMRF treasurer and working in the AMRF Brockton warehouse. He says that AMRF continues to be a very

*Continued on page 2*

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

# Where Is Puntland?

At the beginning of 2010 AMRF is preparing to ship a 40 ft container of medical equipment and supplies to a hospital in Bosasso, Puntland. Puntland is a peaceful sub-state of Somalia located on the northeast sector of the country bordering the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden. Bosasso is a major city with a population of one million. Puntland has a population of about 2.4 million people, 75% of which are nomadic, herding animals for subsistence. The livestock sector dominates the economy of Puntland. Fisheries are secondary. Seventy percent of the population is below the age of 30. Many of the nomadic people



*A view of Bosasso City, Puntland.*



*Citizens of Puntland.*

migrate to the city for medical assistance. Although the southern part of Somalia is war torn and in violent and chaotic condition, Puntland, in the north, seems removed from this violence.

The shiplist includes neurological testing equipment (EEG), sphygmomanometers, EKG machines, surgical equipment and supplies, autoclave, mobile x-ray, cardiac monitors, oxygen monitors, ultrasounds, vital signs monitors, infant incubators, defibrillators, an electrosurgical unit, complete dental suites including dental equipment and supplies, OR lights, exam tables, motorized wheelchairs, gurneys and large quantities of hospital and medical supplies for patient care.

Dr. Abdulaziz Farah, who represents the Humanitarian Endeavoring & Life Promotion (Help 'Gargaar') NGO organization, which is sponsoring the shipment, stated that, "these equipments and supplies will help to save many lives in Puntland".

## Barney Becomes Emeritus *Continued from page 1*

exciting activity in his life in retirement.

Tom Magliocchetti will become Chairman of the Board. Victor Sologaistoa has been advanced to the position of President/CEO of all operations. Tom is currently Vice President of Facilities at Rhode Island Hospital. Victor has served many

years as a clinical and biomedical engineer at several leading hospitals in the Boston and Rhode Island areas as well as with medical equipment suppliers in those areas. He has been AMRF Vice President for Operations.

## 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.

### *Board of Directors*

**Chairman** Thomas Magliocchetti

**President & CEO** Victor Sologaistoa

### **Directors**

*K. H. Barney • Steve Cunningham*

*Myra Edens • Michael Link*

*Thomas Magliocchetti • Walter Newman*

*Natasha Ryback, MD • Victor Sologaistoa*

### *AMRF NEWS*

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*This issue of the AMRF NEWS was written by Walter Newman, designed and typeset by Bob Schecter for Bartleby Scriveners, "Newsletters and Content for All Media."*

# AMRF Monetary Donors

January 1, 2009–December 31, 2009

AMRF is deeply grateful to the following 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 from the Volunteers and Staff of AMRF!

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Ellis & Joyce Rottman

## AMRF Assists Divino Niño

The Divino Niño Child (DNC) Foundation located in Corona N. Y. is dedicated to providing medical assistance to the children and needy population of Central and South America through volunteer medical care programs. In December of 2009 the Foundation staffed and equipped a mission to the Juan Bosch Hospital in La Vega, Dominican Republic. La Vega has a population of about 450,000 people and is located in the center of the northern section of the country.



Young patients at the Juan Bosch Hospital.

It is the third largest city of the Dominican Republic.

The DNC delegation was staffed by 40 surgeons from across the United States. Their work helped over three hundred people who required surgical attention but did not have the financial means to

receive it otherwise. AMRF was pleased to assist this humanitarian project and donated a 20 ft container of medical supplies.

*Volunteer doctors performing surgery at Juan Bosch Hospital.*



*American volunteers from the DNC Foundation, Corona, NY.*

# AMRF Celebrates Its 21st Year

**V**olunteers, contributors and friends of AMRF gathered for a banquet January 8 at Carleton-Willard Village, in Bedford, MA to recognize the 21<sup>st</sup> year of AMRF operations and to thank its volunteers and contributors. Highlights of the evening included presentations by the guest of honor, James Umlas, MD and members of the AMRF Board of Directors, and the honoring of current AMRF volunteers. Many Carleton Willard "villagers" attended the presentations as well.

Following an overview by AMRF Chairman, Tom Magliocchetti and a summary of AMRF operations by AMRF CEO/President, Victor Sologaistoa, Guest of Honor, James Umlas, MD described his experiences in eye surgery and

the establishment of eye clinics in El Salvador. Board member Steve Cunningham presented information and conclusions gathered in his survey of hospitals in Kosovo and East/Central Africa. Board member Natasha Rybak, MD described her work in the evolution of hospitals in Burundi. Tom Magliocchetti and Victor Sologaistoa presented AMRF volunteers with small trophies of recognition and thanks. The evening concluded with a surprise tribute to Kay Barney with pictures and text by Victor and Carol Sologaistoa covering his years of work with AMRF. At the end of the evening it was evident that everyone is looking forward to a great new year of accomplishments by AMRF.



*James Umlas, MD*



*Victor Sologaistoa*



*Steve Cunningham*



*Natasha Rybak, MD*



*Carol Sologaistoa*

## Tom and Victor Honor AMRF Volunteers



*Ted Bergey*



*Dave Hamblen*



*David Hathaway*



*John Nickles*



*Pat Blum*



*Bob Schecter*



*Jim Stockwell*



*Jim Hitzrot*



*Charles Webster*



*Kay Barney*



*Walter Newman in absentia*



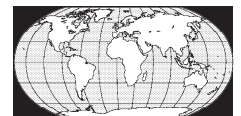
*Bill Clapp in absentia*

# Volunteers and Guests at Banquet



## AMRF Shipments and Services

January 22, 2009 to July 30, 2009



### Recipient of Containers Shipped (Quantity and Length)

*Tarloc Provincial Hospital, Philippines* 2 – 40 ft.  
Anesthesia, ultrasound diagnostic, other operating room equipment, monitors, hospital beds, exam tables, x-ray, patient handling equipment, other low technology equipment. Sponsored by the Government of Tarlac. Training program under negotiation.

*Salvadoran American Humanitarian Foundation (SAHF)* 3 – 40 ft.

Beds, gurneys, patient handling equipment, dressings, surgical supplies, physical therapy, wheel chairs, walkers, commodes exam tables and other low tech equipment. Sponsored by the Fundación Salvadoreña (FUSAL)

*Hospitals in Dominican Republic* 1 – 20 ft.

Hospital supplies such as catheters, dressings, exam gloves, drapes, surgical supplies and more. Sponsored by Divino Niño Fundación de Nueva York. No training program.

*Salvadoran Association for Rural Health* 1 – 40 ft.

Surgical equipment, eye glasses, eye exam equipment and supplies to support a team of surgeons from US performing eye surgery in El Salvador for each year. Sponsored by Asociación Salvadoreña Pro-Salud Rural.

### Completed, Ready to be Shipped:

*Inca Cuzco Hospital, Peru* 1 – 40 ft.

Mammogram, anesthesia, x-ray, ultrasound diagnostic, other operating room equipment, monitors, defibrillators, pulse oxymeters, beds, wheelchairs, other patient handling equipment, hospital supplies, sponsored by Rotary Club of Charlotte-South, SC USA. Training program to be negotiated.

*Hospitals in Bosaso Puntland, Somalia* 1 – 40 ft.

Same type of equipment as above. Sponsored by the Humanitarian Endeavoring Society of Bosaso, Somalia.

### Consultant Services in 2009

Kosovo Ministry of Health, survey of medical equipment needs in hospitals in Kosovo

Design and Construction of Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya for Mapendo Foundation

Establishment of Technical Services for Hospitals in Tarloc, Philippines

Assessment of Hospital Needs for the Government of Honduras

Assessment of Hospital Needs in Burundi and Rwanda

**AMRF**

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

## PLEASE DONATE TO AMRF

**I would like to discuss a Planned Giving Program.**

**Please contact me at:**

**Tel.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

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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:

\$10,000 ( ) \$5,000 ( ) \$2,500 ( )

\$1,000 ( ) \$500 ( ) \$100 ( ) Other ( )

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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