

## MEDICAL BRIGADE CONTRIBUTIONS HISTORY

The Medical Brigade's mission is funded by monetary and equipment donations. The 2006 Brigade received support from over 210 separate individuals, corporate entities, church groups, and service organizations.

Although every contribution is welcomed and sincerely appreciated, the Medical Brigade would like to specifically highlight the following organizations and individuals for their significant monetary donations or gifts valued at \$1,000 or more:

- Anonymous
- Berny J. Kreutz, MD
- Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
- Bo Connor
- Booz Allen Hamilton
- Ken and Lauren Burke
- CrossLink International
- James Earnest
- Engineers Without Borders
- Ethicon Endo-Surgery / Johnson & Johnson
- GE Healthcare
- Giroux Opticians
- Terence and Kathleen Golden
- Honduran Embassy in the United States
- Iridium Satellite (Phones) LLC
- James Isler
- Russell Lindner
- Lions Clubs International
- John Loyd / Patton Harris Rust & Associates
- MAP International
- Mark Matusiak
- Monsanto Fund
- Christopher Nassetta / Host Hotels & Resorts
- Paul and Kay Nassetta
- Novartis
- Lawrence Nussdorf
- Sheila Philips
- Phonak LLC
- Regent Medical
- SRI Surgical
- Saint Agnes Catholic Church
- Jack Sawyer
- Duane Schlegel
- Sowa Printing & Graphics
- Technical Exchange for Christian Healthcare
- Daniel & Katrina Tiedge
- Tyco Healthcare / ValleyLab Service
- Virginia Hospital Center
- WCI Communities, Inc.
- Steve Wooddell

*please send a check payable to the VHC Medical Brigade to:  
VHC Medical Brigade c/o Virginia Hospital Center  
Medical Staff Office  
1701 N. George Mason Drive  
Arlington, VA 22205*

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**MISSION**  
Provide humanitarian healthcare to the underserved of Honduras

**VISION**  
Improve the health of underserved communities through high-impact, short-term mission trips and sustainable, reproducible models empowering community health workers and facilitating public health measures

## COMAYAGUA 2007

For the third consecutive year, the Virginia Hospital Center Medical Brigade will travel to Comayagua and its surrounding villages this fall. This year's humanitarian healthcare mission trip has been set for November 3 – 10, 2007. As in prior years, the Surgical and Audiology teams will take up residence at the Regional Hospital Santa Teresa in Comayagua. The General and Pediatric Medicine, Vision, Pharmacy, and Physical Therapy teams will stage healthcare clinics in Comayagua and the following villages:



- Flores • San Jeronimo
- La Libertad • Iamani

Comayagua is located northwest of the capital city of Tegucigalpa. It was the colonial-era capital of Honduras and is rich in history. Located in a large, flat valley, the climate is temperate. Many of the citizens in the outlying villages farm for a living, raising food on small plots of land to also feed their families. Some sell homemade crafts on the street. Others work as unskilled laborers.

The need for medical care is enormous. The most basic care is beyond the reach of the average person. Due to lacking conditions in health education, potable water, and basic hygiene, and to cramped living conditions that often-times feature insufficient ventilation, earthen floors, and malfunctioning or non-existent latrines, disease and misery are commonplace. With strong support from Lions Clubs in both Northern Virginia and Comayagua, the Medical Brigade is providing the medical care to address these conditions, the only such care some will ever receive.

## WAREHOUSE UPDATE

The Medical Brigade is pleased to announce that Mr. Steve Wooddell has once again seen to it that we will be able to stage our 2007 state-side operations out of Pearson's Funeral Home in Falls Church – at no cost to the Brigade! Having a central facility to sort, pack, and ship the tons of medications and supplies that go by ocean container to Honduras in advance of our mission trips is critical to our success. In part due to his generosity with the work of the Brigade, which has included contributions in many other areas in addition to space needs, Steve was recently presented with the Greater Falls Church Chamber of Commerce 2007 James Elkin Award for Humanitarianism. Congratulations Steve!

A mixed-use redevelopment plan for the Pearson's site has recently been approved by the City of Falls Church and the Brigade is presently in search of a new Falls Church home for warehouse operations. Please let us know if you have ideas!

The Medical Brigade welcomes additional community support for its expanded mission. For more information, access [www.virginiahospitalcenter.com](http://www.virginiahospitalcenter.com) and click on "Ways to Give."



## 2007 MEDICAL BRIGADE WISH LIST

### Can you supply any of the following?

1. Dental clinic supplies and equipment
2. Over-the-counter medications
3. White bed linens (twin-size flat only - not fitted)
4. Cloth diapers
5. New or used durable medical equipment
  - Wheelchairs
  - Walkers and canes
  - Crutches
  - Braces (wrist, knee, ankle, back)
  - Other physical therapy supplies
6. Baby strollers
7. New or slightly used sneakers
  - men's (sizes 7-12)
  - women's (sizes 5-10)
  - children's (all sizes)

If so, please contact Bruce Geoffrion at [brucegeoffrion@att.net](mailto:brucegeoffrion@att.net)



## U.S. ARMY SOUTH INITIATIVE

As part of its mission to maintain a stable and secure Central America, U.S. Army South (USARSO) develops school and medical clinic buildings throughout Central America. Unfortunately, experience shows that after a period of time, not all of facilities constructed by USARSO are being used for their intended purpose. USARSO is researching opportunities to improve the sustainability of their contributions. The Medical Brigade is in discussions with the USARSO about the formation of a tri-party, public-private partnership between the U.S. Army, the Honduran Government, and the Virginia Hospital Center Medical Brigade. Such a partnership would have USARSO provide the physical clinics, the Medical Brigade's Remote Village Project (see next page) provide staffing and sustainability with trained community health workers, and the appropriate branch of the Honduran Ministry of Health provide the medicine and supplies. We are hopeful that these discussions will open up a new avenue of service for the Medical Brigade!

## THE REMOTE VILLAGE PROJECT

The Medical Brigade has implemented a reproducible model of sustainable healthcare to supplement its annual high-impact mission trips. Our outreach mission was expanded by receiving full support from the Honduran government for the Remote Village Project. The Remote Village Project provides didactic classroom instruction and clinical training to well-respected rural community leaders from remote villages to function as Community Health Workers (CHWs). Trained CHWs in the remote villages of Valle Bonito and San Antonio de la Libertad are now providing year-round counseling on community health improvements and preventive care, and diagnosing and treating a limited number of medical conditions common to central Honduras, including infant diarrhea, ear infections, bronchitis, simple skin disorders, and intestinal parasites. The Medical Brigade has provided all necessary equipment and medications to appropriately empower both locations.



A 9-member, Brigade fact-finding team visited both villages on February 11 and 12, 2007 to assess progress. The CHWs credibility, status, and leadership in both communities has been elevated as a result of their training and new roles. Both groups requested additional training, expanded formularies, and additional medical instruments. The CHWs have taken pride in new their new roles, as demonstrated through observed interaction with patients, excellent record keeping, and an overall professional approach. Both of our communities, and their surrounding areas, have accepted the CHWs well, as evidenced by strong usage of the new clinical facilities; over 400 patients have been seen since November, 2006. Overall improvements in community health were perceived, even after just a single calendar quarter.

The Remote Village Project also has embarked on preventive-health initiatives to bring potable water and functioning latrines to both communities. The fact-finding team, which included consultants from both Engineers Without Borders ([www.engineerswithoutborders.org](http://www.engineerswithoutborders.org)) and Booz Allen Hamilton ([www.bah.com](http://www.bah.com)), held meetings with the water boards and other community leaders of both villages, performed physical inspections of existing and future potential water sources and systems, and facilitated the purchase, by the San Antonio de la Libertad water board, of 1.68 acres of land on which the water source for the potential potable water system is located. Meetings were also held in Tegucigalpa and Comayagua with a number of NGOs as the Brigade began to build its development teams. All observations on the trip indicate that the provision of clean water and sanitation systems to these communities is indeed feasible. Next steps include water testing, technical design, in-depth needs analyses, and continued research on funding and financing.



MEDICAL BRIGADE SERVICE TO THE HONDURAN COMMUNITY -	2006	Since 1999
Value of Medical & Surgical Supplies	> \$600,000	> \$3.7 Million
Surgical Procedures	109	584
Primary-Care Patients	6,885	21,208
Eyeglasses Fitted	2,400	13,104
Physical Therapy Patients	> 200	> 1,500
Audiology Patients	80	80

## MEDICAL BRIGADE'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BARRY BYER, MD, HONORED FOR BRIGADE'S SERVICE



The Medical Brigade's record of sustained service to the people of Honduras was recently recognized by the Virginia Medical Society Foundation. The Foundation awarded its 2006 Salute to Service Award for Service to the International Community to Barry Byer, MD. Created three years ago, the Salute to Service Awards recognize physicians who go above and beyond for their communities. "The international community award is for physicians who give their all to serve patients in other countries," says Beth Bortz, the Foundation's executive director. "Dr. Byer's incredible commitment to the people of Honduras, and his foresight in creating CrossLink International, which brings the medications and supplies to people in those countries, really epitomize what this award is all about."

The award was presented at the Foundation's gala event by Virginia's First Lady, Anne Holton. "Governor Tim Kaine did a year's missionary service in Honduras, so he and his wife felt a personal connection to recognizing Dr. Byer for his service," says Bortz.

