

Team Member Spotlight

While no longer on the staff at Virginia Hospital Center, Andy Gunter, MD is a loyal member of the annual mission trip who travels from his practice in North Carolina to help the children of Honduras. Andy is married and has two children of his own. When asked why he takes time away from his office and his own family to participate in the Medical Brigade he says, *"I travel on these mission trips to make a difference. No matter whether it is helping a child with a minor scrape or injury or treating a child with acute asthma there is a peace in it. You never 'get used to' the deprivation but you learn to look at it one patient at a time, one treatment at a time, and in pediatrics one smile at a time."* His ready wit and sense of humor make him an indispensable asset to our team.



SPECIAL NEED

The Comayagua Lions are asking for help to support 5 dedicated nuns running an orphanage in Valle Bonito serving 13 children ranging in age from 7 to 17. They need clothing, school supplies and would love a TV, microwave, CD player and an electric stove. (They currently cook on wood stove.)

2005 Accomplishments

- 8105 primary care patients treated (adult & pediatric)
- 89 surgeries performed
- Over 2300 pair of eyeglasses dispensed
- Hundreds of physical therapy services provided

Medical Staff Office
Virginia Hospital Center
1701 N. George Mason Drive
Arlington, VA 22205



Providing and supporting humanitarian healthcare to the underserved

Spring & Summer 2006 News



The most

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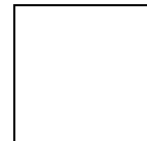
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Comayagua 2006

Once again, VHC Medical Brigade will travel to Comayagua, Honduras in 2006. Comayagua is located north-west of the capital city Tegucigalpa. It is a very old city, and a former capital of Honduras. Located in a valley, the climate is temperate. Many of the people farm for a living, working on small plots of land to raise food for their families. Some support themselves by selling food or homemade crafts on the street. Others work as laborers. The need for medical care is enormous. The most basic care is beyond the reach of the average person, and because of the cramped living conditions, lack of basic hygiene, and a lack of health education, there is a lot of disease and misery. With the strong support of the Lions Club of Comayagua, we are able to provide the only medical care that some people will ever receive.

Warehouse Space Secured!

Thanks to the generosity of Steve Woodell of Pearson's Funeral Home in Falls Church, the Brigade will be using their vacant facility to warehouse and inventory supplies and equipment prior to shipment of these goods by ocean container 6 weeks before the Brigade departs for Comayagua on October 28, 2006.

The Ambulance is Coming!!

Bruce Geoffrion and Kate Walker have pulled off a minor miracle. Working through TECH (Technical Exchange for Christian Healthcare) they have arranged for a refurbished ambulance in excellent condition to be shipped from North Carolina to the Lions of Comayagua. The Lions have been in desperate need of another ambulance. They provide free emergency transportation for this very needy community of 70,000 people.

2006 Medical Brigade Wish List

Can You Help Supply Any Of The Following?

1. Commercial clothes washer and dryer
2. Computers, monitors and printers
3. Dental clinic supplies & equipment
4. Over-The-Counter medications
5. White bed sheets - twin size flat only (not fitted)
6. Cloth diapers
7. New or used durable medical equipment
 - A. Wheelchairs
 - B. Walkers & canes
 - C. Commode chairs
 - D. Braces (wrist, knee, ankle)
 - E. Other physical therapy supplies



7th Annual Honduran Mission Takes Shape

The seventh annual Virginia Hospital Center Medical Brigade trip to Honduras is scheduled for October 28 – November 4, 2006. Plans are under way to insure that this is our most successful trip ever!

We are busy making lists of needed equipment, supplies and medications, as well as staffing the medical teams. Preparing for our annual trip starts almost as soon as we return to the US.

Please contact us to find out how you can help us help the needy people of Honduras. There are lots of opportunities to volunteer – even if you only have a few hours to give.

Email the Brigade at vcbnsgade@virginiahospitalcenter.com
or call Barry Byer, M.D., Executive Director
at 703/532-5436 for more information

Special Plans for 2006

The Brigade's Strategic Planning Committee is studying a model of ongoing patient care that has been successfully implemented in remote areas of Africa since 1995. This model involves training and equipping indigenous healthcare providers to diagnose and treat common illness in remote villages 52 weeks a year providing a more lasting impact on the health of the medically underserved population.

CONTRIBUTIONS HISTORY

Because of the generosity of hundreds of people and many organizations, businesses and churches we have had the financial resources to purchase much needed items not available to us free of charge.

Special thanks to

- CrossLink International
- Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center of Northern Virginia
- Virginia Hospital Center
- Arlington County Medical Society
- Jennings Properties - Ken Jennings
- Iridium Satellite Telephone - John Rice
- Pearson's Funeral Home - Steve Woodell
- Shreve/McGonegal Plumbing
- Sowa Printing and Graphics - Lenora Sowa
- TECH (Technical Exchange for Christian Healthcare)

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

To make a **tax deductible contribution** please send a check payable to the **VHC - Medical Brigade** and mail it to:

Medical Staff Office

*Virginia Hospital Center
1701 N. George Mason Drive
Arlington, VA 22205*