



HEAL THE SICK

and say to them
The Kingdom of God is at hand
Luke 10:9-10

MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

Trusting a Call I Didn't Hear

It is hard to believe that we have been here at St. Martin de Porres Hospital in Njinikom, Cameroon for almost a year. Sometimes it seems like we just left home. And, sometimes it feels like we are at home. I can't explain it. I still can't walk with a bucket of water on my head, and not get a shower. I still can't beat a drum with any sort of rhythm. I don't know how to make Corn Fu-fu. But, I can tell you seeing and hearing and tasting, all of those things makes me happy. And I can't help but smile when I see a baby, cozy and sleeping on his mama's back.

I remember when I was discerning whether or not I could do this—a three year mission, I kept telling myself "You should be able to do this, Terry. You should be able to do this." I knew how important it was to Jim to do this mission. And so I wrestled with "the monster." I did not come quietly. I did not come peacefully. And much of the time, I did not come willingly. But, finally, I said, "Okay—if it is that important to Jim, I can do it, after all, it is only three years." "Only three years," I wonder how many times I played that line through my mind. "It is only three years, it isn't a lifetime", at least that is how I rationalized the surrender. You see I was still not quite ready to accept that the call Jim received



Terry Hake and baby Mercy

"...I was still not quite ready to accept that the call Jim received over thirty years earlier was meant for both of us."

over thirty years earlier was meant for both of us. I hadn't heard anything too life-changing that Mission Sunday back in Minnesota. And I certainly didn't think that God made conference calls. How foolish of me, and how little was my faith. And, so here we are today, closing in on our first year in mission. Oh yes, we miss our family immensely. And I

(please see TRUSTING A CALL on page 2)

...love surrounds those who trust in the Lord (Psalm 32:10)

TRUST: *assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something*

This word encompasses the leap of faith doctors and their families take when they follow the call to serve. It is also seen in the eyes of patients and their families as a mission doctor steps to their bedside.

It is at this intersection of trust, that there is a connection in faith. You too are an integral part of this connection.

Our doctors and their families rely on our ability to make it possible for them to serve. With your help, we provide the organizational connections for those who serve short-term and the direct support for doctors and their families who are able to commit to serve for three-years.

We continue to see a growth in the number of requests and in the number of doctors following this call. We too must take the leap of faith to meet this growing need and ***we rely on our partnership with you!***

Elise Frederick Elise Frederick, Executive Director, Mission Doctors Association

2011
IN THIS ISSUE

2
Ugandan Connections

3
Faith, Hope, and Love in Guatemala

4
Update: St. Theresa Hospital
Connecting for Service

5
Love Overpowers
A Bridge to Belize
Catholic Doctor of the Year

6
Many Are Called
Celebrating the Mission

7
Creating the Possible
Belief in Mission Brings Us Together

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Visit us also on:



Ugandan Connections



Dr. Kate Bolton with nursing students.

After a grueling 8 hour drive perched on the console between my husband John and the driver in the hospital's ambulance, we arrived at one of the more remote hospitals I have had the opportunity to serve. St. Francis Hospital, Mutolere, is located in the beautiful mountain region of southwestern Uganda where the film *Gorillas in the Mist* was set.

Welcomed by a small staff of dedicated local doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers, **we were impressed with the tremendous job they do caring for a huge number of patients with problems ranging from a simple broken leg to malaria and HIV.**

One little seven-year-old girl, Suzan, came in with her stomach so bloated she looked nine months pregnant. Her mother carried medical records carefully stored in a protective pouch. While a number of children came in that month with puzzling, complex problems that were hard to diagnose, I was pleased and surprised to find that Suzan already had a diagnosis. She was fortunate to have visited St. Francis when my friend and fellow mission doctor Lou Coda was serving here. With the help of blood

“...Suzan already had a diagnosis. She was fortunate to have visited St. Francis when my friend and fellow mission doctor Lou Coda was serving here.”

tests and an under used ultrasound machine, he had identified chronic kidney failure and congestive heart failure. Suzan had returned after running out of medicine. As a result, fluid backed up in her abdomen so badly that she was having trouble breathing. A local surgeon helped drain much of the excess fluid, and we worked with the only physician at the nearby Kisoro hospital to get an oxygen tank. Finally, thanks to Mutolere's hospital pharmacy, which struggles but does a miraculous job getting needed medicines, we were able to restart her Digoxin and Lasix.

We couldn't provide a new kidney or heart, but we were able to give her at least a bit more time to love, laugh, and live.

— Kathryn J. Bolton, MD

(TRUSTING A CALL, continued from page 1)

wouldn't be even remotely truthful, if I didn't say that I am so looking forward to our holiday back with family and friends. **However, I must say that this has been a wonderful year.** Our time here is a beautiful composition of opposites. We live in a fishbowl of black and white. We never blend-in in the crowd, and yet we are comfortable. We live and work in harmony with Christians and Moslems. We are working side by side to heal the sick and reduce their suffering. We live in a world of rich and poor. Many of the patients are so poor materially. So many of our patients are extremely rich. **Each and every day, we witness the richness of their faith and their spirit. They have given much more to us than they could ever know.**

We live in a world of both weakness and strength. We often witness the strength of diseases, especially HIV, as it weakens the body. Simultaneously, we witness the strength of faith exhibited by both the patient and his family as they spend there last days or hours together.

As I look back over this first year, I realize how life really is so simple. We are all just people—all God's people. We are much more alike than different. And we are all on this mission together and

because of that, this world is not all that large. This whole world truly does fit in “the hollow of His hand.” **I don't know now what it was that I thought would be so difficult about this task, and I look forward to the next two years.** For us, there can be no better companion on this mission journey than to walk it with Jesus.

—Terry Hake



Dr. James Hake

Yannick's Story

Malaria is as common a problem here as an ear infection is back at home. It accounts for more admissions to the hospital than any other disease. It is a serious illness accounting for over one million deaths worldwide annually. In its worse form patients develop cerebral malaria affecting the brain. 10% of patients die and another 25% are left with some neurological residual.



Yannick, a 13-year-old boy admitted to the hospital with cerebral malaria. He was comatose with a very high fever and having seizures. His mother, Anna, remained at his side stroking his hand as he remained in a coma for 4 days. He then started to wake up very slowly, 2 weeks after he was admitted he was

still too weak to even sit and was not speaking or able to recognize his mother. At three weeks his brain started to work better and he soon was able to sit, then stand, then walk. To Anna's delight he began to recognize her and began saying a few words. After 4 weeks Anna was able to take Yannick home fully recovered from his potentially fatal illness. As I reflect on Yannick's story I realize it is also Anna's story. She never complained and was thankful for everything done for her son.

Yannick and Anna were able to go home because of a great deal of trust on the parts of many people. Yannick's trust in his mother. Anna's trust in the medical care. The medical staff, knowing they had done all they could do and placing their trust in the healing power of God. We also place our trust in the generosity and support of MDA and our friends and family to make it possible for us to care for Yannick and so many others.

— James Hake, MD



Visit my blog at
www.hakesincameroon.blogspot.com

Faith, Hope, and Love in Guatemala

When going to the missions trust is paramount.

First, we had to trust that it is God who is calling us to serve in this way.

Then we needed to trust that our extended family would understand and support us.

We needed to trust that our marriage is strong enough and that our children would adapt and be happy.

We worked to believe that we will adjust to a new culture and learn a new language.

And we also needed to trust that our skills are needed and that we would not be overwhelmed.

So after being here for about a year and a half, how have we done with all this trusting?

We continue to feel God's call to serve here and are very thankful for the opportunity that our many supporters, and the supporters of MDA, have granted us. **Without you, our work here would not be possible.**

Many, many thanks.

Our families continue to be supportive, but, for us, being away from family is the single most difficult thing about being here. We were sent out from our families who helped shape us into the people we are today.

We are increasingly grateful, especially as parents now, for what they gave us — love, faith, stability, opportunity. However, as our parents age and our siblings' children grow, there is a part of us that longs to be physically closer, to share more of the day-to-day of life, and to be able to sit in the arms of our families, that secure place where you know you are loved unconditionally.

Faith, hope, and love are what brought the two of us together and are still the glue that keeps us together. We share the same faith or trust in a God who loves us and calls us to serve. We share a common hope for our lives of being able to work with an under-served people wherever that may be. We share love that looks past ones shortcomings, sees the good in the other, and helps that love to grow.

We (mostly Jennifer) worried before we left about how school would be for our children, if we would have enough things for them to do, will they make friends, what they will eat. Our children have done amazingly well. Christopher and Elizabeth are now in the second grade and Julianne is in kindergarten at the local Catholic school. Nicholas goes to an early stimulation program at the children's library. They are all learning Spanish just by immersion and it is surprising how easily they learn. They mostly play outside or they play

make-believe games and really don't need many "things" to do. They have friends and they are all growing, even Christopher, who won't eat eggs or beans which are staples here and which we eat, in some form, 4 or 5 times a week. They all have friends and they are all growing.

We are getting by with our Spanish and it seems it is time for us to learn some of the local language, Tz'utujil. The work at Hospitalito Atitlán is going well, challenging at times, but not overwhelming. We feel that we do have a place here and that we are filling a need. The staff is excellent and the patients are so grateful.

Our trust was well founded. All the things we worried about before coming here have worked themselves out.

We trusted. Of course, there are always challenges in life that one doesn't expect. So we continue to place our trust in God, our families, our marriage, our children, the community here, and our work.

Thanks to all who share in this trust.

— Jennifer Thoene, MD and Brent Burket, MD



Brent, Christopher, Elizabeth, Nicholas, Jennifer, and Julianne



Visit my blog at
www.burketthoenefamilymission.blogspot.com

Update: St. Theresa Hospital, Zimbabwe

One feels like a “successful missionary” when, after leaving a place, all the programs and ideas that you worked so very hard for, are not only continuing, but are being improved upon. During the eight years that we were at St. Theresa’s we had a tremendous amount of support from so many of you — both directly from people that we knew and indirectly from all of you who regularly support Mission Doctors. Much of the “direct support” did go “directly” to helping with all kinds of needs at the hospital: little needs like copy paper and ink for printers, and big needs like a new ambulance and a new hospital truck! **We continue to be amazed and humbled by how generous you all were and continue to be.** While there, we were able to keep you informed as to what we were doing, what progress was being made, what “big purchases” had been made, and how we were doing personally. We tried to keep you informed with newsletters and pictures. You had “trust” that we would use your donations for the very best purposes and that they were not wasted. Now it is “trust” in the Dominican Sisters and the Administrator at St. Theresa Hospital. Trust that they will continue to use those donations wisely. I can tell you that I feel very confident that they are.

I continue to plan an annual trip to St. Theresa’s. I also receive monthly reports as to where all donor money is being spent, and reports as to the finances of the hospital with very specific reports about the AIDS treatment program. It makes me feel very good to see that everything is going so well at the hospital. **The biggest need at this time is to be able to make it possible for the two Zimbabwean doctors to stay and serve here at this rural hospital.** The hospital is trying to raise this money through patient fees, but in such a poor area, it is just not possible. With your help, we work to provide each approximately \$1,000 per month to ensure they can stay and serve. So, I am asking you for the “trust” in my judgment and in my keeping involved with the hospital to see that any and all monies donated will continue to go for such a very good cause.



St. Theresa’s Hospital says, “Thank you.”

Just a few specific numbers from the most recent report: there are now 1,927 AIDS patients on full treatment; 971 of them have been alive for longer than two years, and many for longer than five years; patients who in turn can continue to care for their families, ensuring their children don’t join the ranks of the AIDS orphans. Additionally, 36 children between birth and 5 years, and 168 children between 5 and 15 years who are HIV positive, are alive after 6 months on treatment, and the program to prevent the transmission of HIV from mother to child continues to be extremely successful. **Without treatment, ALL of these people would have died.** Seeing them after being on treatment for just 6 months is like seeing Lazarus rising from the dead!

TRUST that what you can do can make a difference. It can!

— Dick and Loretta Stoughton



Visit my blog at
www.astepalongtheway.blogspot.com

Connecting for Service

The 2011 Retreat / Seminar brought together doctors who have served in the missions and others who are considering the opportunities. Dr. Joe Llewellyn, a general surgeon from Alaska who attended the 2010 Retreat / Seminar, and subsequently served at St. Martin de Porres Hospital in Cameroon for one month, was a presenter this year.

Titled “Thoughts from a First-timer” he told how he had arrived at last year’s Retreat / Seminar, starting the weekend off, arms folded and telling everyone he was ‘just checking it out’. By Sunday of that weekend, Joe was sure this was the right group and the right time and was already making his plans for a trip that took place less than six months later. **Upon returning, Joe sent a very short e-mail to the MDA office ‘I’m hooked.’ He shared stories of successes and challenges and the gratitude he felt for MDA, Dr. and**



2011 Retreat / Seminar Attendees

Mrs. Hake, Sr. Xaveria and everyone at the hospital.

Others attending included Dr. Crystal Cunningham, a general surgeon from Pennsylvania, who has been trying to attend this gathering for three years. Finally able to get the time to be with us, Dr. Cunningham will follow in the footsteps of Dr. Llewellyn, serving for three months at St. Martin de Porres this summer / fall.

Love Overpowers

Our journey to mission work has been somewhat circuitous and unexpected, but one filled with God's spectacular grace at every turn. We met and married in medical school, unexpectedly drawn together both by our shared faith and by the One whose ways are always so much bigger and better than our own. We loved the idea of being involved in medical missions, and that dream was further strengthened by a month-long rotation at a mission hospital in southern India during our final year in medical school. However, the details of when and how missionary life would eventually be incorporated into our lives were never really ironed out.

Through a series of God-ordained events, we learned of Mission Doctors Association and the wonderful opportunities offered not only for physicians, but for their families as well. After much prayer and great encouragement through our experiences at the MDA discernment weekend, we (along with Joshua (10), Madison (almost 8), and Caroline (5)) have joyfully committed to three years of service as long-term missionaries starting in 2012.



Joshua, Caroline, Maya, Madison and Chris

As we continue to make preparations for this much-anticipated phase in our lives, **we want to thank you, the Mission Doctors family, for allowing us the chance to be the hands and feet of Christ.** We know that there will be many challenges and hurdles, personally, logistically, culturally, and spiritually. However, we remember the words of Christ in John 16:33, when he remarked that "in this life, you will have trouble," followed immediately by His reassuring promise, "but take heart! I have overcome the world." **Please keep us in your prayers as we take our own steps in bringing God's kingdom to our broken world, one patient, one prayer, one day at a time.**

— Chris Powers, MD, and Maya Powers, MD

A Bridge to Belize

Finding a site to be a volunteer physician is harder than you might expect. The very nature of many "underserved areas" is that most can't or don't communicate their needs well. What is missing for many is a group or an individual who can bridge the gap, relaying needs to people willing to help. **That's where an organization like Mission Doctors can be invaluable.**



Roy, KK, Melanie, Teresa, James and Mary

We have dreamed of doing long-term medical mission service for years. But with six children, including two in college, we find our volunteer time limited by the reality of needing to provide for our family. Also, the criteria for "a good mission site" change. Safety is of more concern than finding the perfect clinical situation. We discussed all this with Elise Frederick at Mission Doctors. She had a couple of good suggestions. And thanks to contacts she had made, last year our family found a clinic billed as a terrific place to go with kids: Hillside Clinic, near Punta Gorda, Belize.

We were surprised to learn that they actually needed help the very next month! So off we went: Roy, a general surgeon; Melanie, family practice; and four children, ranging in age from 5-14. The staff and the people we met in and out of clinic were kind and welcoming to us. During our stay, there were also seven UK medical students just getting started with their clinical experience, and two pharmacy students from Drake University who were in their final year.

The pace of the clinic varies, allowing more clinical teaching when it's slower, and requiring plenty of calm encouragement when it's hectic. The students and preceptors are divided into two teams; each day one team stays at Hillside Clinic to see patients while the other team packs up in a sturdy four-wheel drive vehicle to have a rural clinic day. An hour or more of riding, unpacking two big duffels full of meds, then setting up the clinic may include sweeping animal waste out, trying to minimize the number of wasps flying around the room, and moving plastic chairs to create makeshift clinic "rooms." It made for a noisy, somewhat chaotic experience, but the people coming to clinic were gracious, patient, and appreciative.

Belize is a site where volunteers can truly "hit the ground running." Hillside Clinic lived up to its billing as a good site to volunteer with kids in tow. Our kids loved the family time, the adventure and the relaxed pace. **We are grateful to Mission Doctors for helping make our dreams of short-term service with kids a reality.** We are all looking forward to going back next month.

— Melanie Elfrink, MD, and Roy Elfrink, MD

2011
CATHOLIC
DOCTOR
OF THE YEAR

What makes a Catholic doctor special? Is it their faith-filled service in their own practice, volunteer work in their community, international mission service?

For the 2010 honoree, Dr. Paat of Cleveland Ohio all of the above are true. The 2011 honoree will be named August 15th and will be honored at the Los Angeles Archdiocese White Mass, October 18, 2011 at Holy Family Parish in South Pasadena.

Many Are Called and Respond

From Alaska to Florida, from New York to California — In the past twelve months surgeons, pediatricians, anesthesiologists, family practice specialists and others, have answered the call and freely given their time to share their skills as an outward sign of their faith.

They have served in small rural clinics in villages in Guatemala; cared for Maasai tribesman in Tanzania; performed surgeries in northwest Cameroon; treated children in Uganda; performed C-sections in Douala; provided ongoing oversight for a hospital in Zimbabwe; they have provided training for nurses, local doctors, and other health providers. **Without your support none of this would be possible.**

- ◆ **Kate Bolton and John Ruley**, Modesto, CA – one month in Mutolere, Uganda, Pediatrician and Writer
- ◆ **Tim Cavanagh**, Scottsdale, AZ – three months Njinikom, Cameroon, Family Practice

- ◆ **Crystal Cunningham**, Kunkletown, PA – three months Njinikom, Cameroon, Surgeon
- ◆ **Maria H. Curlej**, Windber, PA – two months Njinikom, Cameroon, Family Nurse Practitioner
- ◆ **Mark and Molly Druffner and family**, Hudson, WI – to Bwambo Clinic, Tanzania, Family Practice
- ◆ **Roy and Melanie Elfrink and family**, Marshall, MO – 2010 & 2011 Hillside Clinic Belize, Family Practice and Surgeon
- ◆ **Phil Hawley**, Los Angeles, CA – Petén, Guatemala, Pediatrics
- ◆ **Ellen Ianolli**, Honeoye Falls, NY – one month Njinikom, Cameroon, Anesthesiologist
- ◆ **Maged Khouzam**, Lecther, KY – one month Njinikom, Cameroon, Surgeon
- ◆ **Joseph Llewellyn**, Palmer, Alaska – one month Njinikom, Cameroon, Surgeon
- ◆ **Ed Malphus**, Santa Monica, CA – one month Njinikom, Cameroon, Pediatrics

- ◆ **Jaime Perea**, Rancho Mirage, CA – two months Douala, Cameroon, OBGYN
- ◆ **Lynn Powe**, Portland, OR – one month Lake Atitlan, Guatemala, RN
- ◆ **Dick Talbot and Jane Fehrenbacher**, Santa Barbara, CA – one month Njinikom, Cameroon, Dentist and Teacher
- ◆ **Bill and Kate Walsh**, Chicago, IL – one month Njinikom and two months Shisong, Cameroon, Surgeon and RN
- ◆ **Ron and Barbara Wick**, Spirit Lake, ID – one month Mutolere, Uganda, Family Practice and RN
- ◆ **Richard Stoughton**, Niceville, FL – one month Zimbabwe, Family Practice
- ◆ **Jim and Rose Unger**, Shreveport, LA – one month Cameroon, OBGYN & RN

Making plans:

- ◆ **David and Heather Cooper**, Visalia, CA – Rehabilitation Specialist and Attorney
- ◆ **Rusty Exner**, Elizabeth City, NC – St. Theresa's, Zimbabwe, Family Practice

Celebrating the Mission



Mistress of Ceremonies, Clare Carey



Dr. Richard Stoughton, last year's recipient, presents Msgr. Brouwers Award to Dr. Ed Malphus

One of the largest Auxiliary Benefit Galas in years took place on February 16, 2011 at the Jonathan Club in Los Angeles. This year's honorees, Dr. Ed and Mrs. Mary Lou Malphus have been deeply connected to the work of MDA for more than 20 years. Mary Lou served as Auxiliary President and as co-chair of the benefit for many years. Ed served as MDA Board President a total of 10 years and was recognized for his service with the Msgr. Brouwers Award, for faith and service. Not resting on this honor, Dr. Malphus made plans to serve for one month in Cameroon and did so this year from May - June. Special thanks to Benefit Chairwoman, Diane Kelterer and Margaret Liautaud for their work making the evening such a success.

2012 honorees will be Dr. Timothy and Mrs. Sheila Cavanagh. **The 2012 Gala Benefit will be held at the Wilshire Country Club on February 18th. Contact our office for additional information.**

'Keep Up the Good Work'

Dr. Leo Poxon joined others at the annual Retreat / Seminar this year and said that although he may not be able to serve himself, he is happy to be a part of the work of MDA and glad to see the growth in the number of doctors serving.

Leo was among the very first members of the Mission Doctors Century Club nearly 50 years ago. On a recent visit to his home, Dr. Poxon shared photos of his family and friends.



He said that he is impressed with the work of mission doctors today and added, "Keep up the good work!" From his back yard garden he shared his hope that others will continue to serve and support!

Creating the Possible

For more than 50 years, MDA has worked to provide the necessary funding to recruit, train, send and support Catholic doctors and their families. This support has come in the form of annual gifts and the tremendous support provided by the ladies of our Mission Doctors Auxiliary who have sponsored everything from gala benefits to yard sales.

We know, if we are going to be in a position to meet the growing needs in the missions for more faith filled doctors, ***we must also look to the future.*** Our Mission Possible Campaign does just that. Ensuring that the support for MDA will be there not only today, but tomorrow as well.

A gift to an endowment is unique. The gift remains intact, is not used up — except to be the engine to generate the interest income to ensure the future. **Therefore, a gift to the Mission Possible Campaign is a gift with a view to tomorrow.**

Our initial goal of five mil-



Interest on this endowment will allow MDA to double our impact.

lion dollars was chosen because the income generated on such an endowed fund will allow MDA to double the impact we can have by supporting twice as many doctors serving long-term. An ambitious goal for an organization that has raised what it needed each year — with little left for the next. **The good news is that we have gifts pledged that get us to the half way mark on this goal — and now, in the next two years we are striving to raise the remaining funds.**

Some of our partners are making a single one-time gift to the endowment. Others are making a five-year pledge and some are, in addition, electing to make a planned gift; a bequest, a trust, or naming MDA as the secondary beneficiary of an IRA.

We would love to speak with you about how we, together, can ensure the legacy of Msgr. Brouwers vision of faith and service. Call me directly and I will be happy to provide additional information: Elise Frederick (213) 368-1875.



SPECIAL ENDOWMENT OPENS DOOR FOR MORE DOCTORS TO SERVE.

There is a separate memorial fund within our endowment, named for one of the first Mission Doctors, Dr. James Carey. This fund is set up with a very specific purpose, to provide loan payments for a doctor while they are serving long-term. The burden of debt young doctors come out of their residency with can be a hindrance to service. The first recipient will be a member of the 2012 formation class. Those interested in supporting this fund within the endowment may designate their gift. Contact us for more information.

Belief in Mission Brings us Together

A beautiful Sunday in spring on the campus of Loyola Marymount, the friends of Mission Doctors gather for Mass, a lovely brunch, and the opportunity to hear from the doctors attending the Retreat / Seminar. **Every year, people tell me as they are leaving, this is the event that reinforces their commitment to the work of MDA.** They see first hand and have the opportunity to hear from, and speak with, doctors who have served and who are making plans for service.

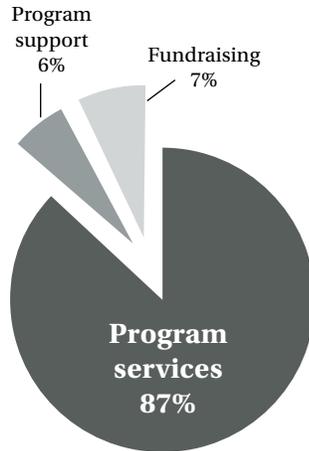
In addition to the opportunity to pray together, to share a meal, and connect with the mission doctors, this is the event where the Mission Doctors Auxiliary presents the fruit of their year's labors. This year, a check for \$50,000 was presented to MDA President, Tom Liautaud by Auxiliary President, Jan Horger and Benefit Chair, Diane Kelterer.



Stewardship: Time, Talent & Treasure

The work of MDA is made possible with both the generous donation of time and talent of the doctors and their families, and the generous financial support of all our friends.

Together, their service, and your financial support, ensures that MDA can provide quality care to those most in need.



Use of Resources in 2010

Value of professional time donated	\$874,767.00
Funds used for program service.....	\$349,186.00
Program services total.....	\$1,223,953.00
Funds used for program support	\$80,966.00
Funds used for fundraising.....	\$105,090.00

Friends of Mission Doctors

Two years ago, Molly Druffner, who served in Tanzania with her husband Dr. Mark Druffner and their seven children, returned to Wisconsin and asked how she could help MDA. Being involved in the work of our Los Angeles based Auxiliary was a bit of a stretch, but working with friends and family close to home, Molly formed the first, of what we hope will be many, chapters supporting the work of MDA. This group has already hosted several events raising thousands of dollars to help make the work of our doctors possible.



Mardi Gras, St. Paul Minnesota

The Mid West Friends of Mission Doctors is our model and we are ready to establish similar groups around the country. **We have prepared materials for leaders to provide the necessary support from our Los Angeles office, including a "how to guide,"**

information and answers to frequently asked questions as well as materials to share with others including a quick facts guide about Mission Doctors Association. **You may want to have a gathering at your home, or parish, a card party, or a yard sale to bring people together to learn more about the work of MDA.** We will also include some ideas and organization materials that are tried and true.

Are you interested in joining or starting a 'Friends of Mission Doctors' in your area? Contact our office to learn more, and visit the website for updates on groups that may be forming in your area.

SAVE THE DATE

AUGUST 1, 2011: Application Deadline to the 2012 long-term program ■ Doctors and their spouses considering the long-term program need to have an application in by August 1st. Discernment weekend is in September; and the four-month formation program begins in January 2012.

SEPTEMBER 9-11, 2011: Discernment Weekend ■ Candidates for the long-term program are invited to attend a "Discernment Weekend" offered twice a year, to reflect on their call and learn more about this option. Please contact the office for more information.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2011: Card Party/ Wilshire Country Club ■ Join members of the Auxiliary for a day of bridge, kings in the corner or the game of your choice and a wonderful lunch. No need to be a card master, come and learn a new game, or just join us for lunch.

OCTOBER 16, 2011: Feast of St. Luke 'White Mass' ■ With the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, MDA is a sponsor of the annual White Mass celebrating Catholic medical professionals. Visit our website for more information. MDA will present the Catholic Doctor of the Year Award at this Mass. Everyone is welcome.

FEBRUARY 18, 2012: Mission Doctors Auxiliary Annual Gala ■ Mark your calendars and plan to join us at the historic Wilshire Country Club, for a lovely evening of dinner and dancing. MDA will also present the Msgr. Anthony Brouwers Award to Dr. and Mrs. Timothy Cavanagh.

MARCH 30-APRIL 1 2012: Retreat Seminar at Loyola Marymount University ■ Doctors and their spouses considering short-term service are invited to attend the annual Retreat / Seminar to hear from doctors who have served, to learn about current needs, and to discuss the practical aspects of service.

APRIL 1, 2012: Annual Mass/Sacred Heart Chapel / LMU ■ Friends and members of the Mission Doctors Auxiliary are invited to join us to celebrate our annual Mass, followed by a brunch at St. Robert's Hall, and an opportunity to meet the doctors who have come together for the Retreat/ Seminar.

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