

MEDIA KIT



MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

A Mission of Healing, A Partnership of Hope

Patients around the world are waiting for a doctor.

Millions of people suffer with preventable diseases, lower quality of life, and shortened life spans.

TOGETHER WE ARE DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

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Following Christ's call to heal the sick, Mission Doctors Association provides life-saving medical care for the poor and training for local healthcare professionals around the world.

We do this by sending Catholic doctors and other Catholic medical professionals short and long-term to locations at the request of local bishops and religious orders. Our doctors provide direct patient care and training for local healthcare professionals, always working toward the goal of sustainable healthcare.

Our vision is that Christ's mission to heal the sick will be fulfilled.



Our Story



In 1954, Monsignor Anthony Brouwers traveled to Africa. He saw religious brothers and sisters delivering babies and performing medical procedures with no training. He met priests and bishops who were building roads and fixing cars. As the Director of the Propagation of the Faith in Los Angeles, he asked the people how the Archdiocese could be of help.

He thought he would receive requests for funds to build a church, school or hospital. There were requests, but overwhelmingly he was asked for people to come and share their professional skills and live their faith.

Msgr. Brouwers founded Lay Mission Helpers in 1955 and Mission Doctors Association in 1959. These organizations have sent individuals, couples and families who have served three years and more in 36 countries providing more than 2500 cumulative years of service to the Church.

In 1997, MDA added a short-term program to make it possible for Catholic Doctors to serve one - three months. Catholic Doctors can serve for three years or short-term missions (one to three months).



The Need

Nearly every minute, a child under five dies of malaria

Every hour, more than 33 women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth

There are an estimated 38.4 million people living with HIV - two thirds of whom (25.6 million) are in Africa

In the United States, there averages one doctor for every 395 people.

In the countries where Mission Doctors serve, there is less than one doctor for 20,000 people.

When factoring in the rural nature of the locations, the realities of poverty and burden of disease, the problem of lack of healthcare professionals is only exacerbated.

This is where Mission Doctors responds.



What are we doing about it?

Mission Doctors Association has two programs:

Short-term service of 1-3 months

doctors, dentists, nurse practitioners and physician assistants and their spouses considering short-term service are invited to attend a weekend Retreat/Seminar, now held twice a year, in Los Angeles and Chicago.

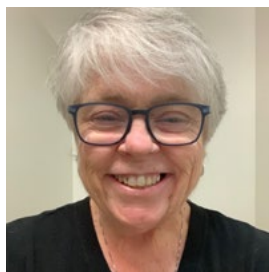
Long-term service of 3 years

doctors and their spouses preparing for long-term service take part in a four month residential formation program in Los Angeles.

All placements are filled at the request of local bishops, and religious orders who run the hospitals and clinics. Mission Doctors strive to become part of the community and help create sustainable healthcare.

Treating patients of all faiths, Mission Doctors work to provide outstanding healthcare, within the limitations of the existing location and improve the care that can be provided long after they return home.

SPOKESPERSONS BIOS



Elise Frederick

Elise is the Executive Director of the Mission Doctors Association. She has worked with MDA since 1981. She served with her husband and young family for three years in Thailand with the sister program, Lay Mission-Helpers Association, and then came to work with MDA. Elise has visited the mission sites where our doctors serve and has developed relationships with Bishops and Religious who run the mission hospitals and clinics.



Amie Garcia

Amie is the Program Coordinator of the Mission Doctors Association. In her role, Amie also has the opportunity to visit mission sites and create relationships with our mission partners in Africa and Latin America. Before working with MDA, Amie served as a Youth Development Peace Corps Volunteer in the Dominican Republic. Following her return, Amie began working for the Catholic Charities of Los Angeles at the Good Shepherd Center for Homeless Women and Children as a Case Manager.



Martha Franz

Martha Franz, MD is a Family Practice Physician based in Idaho. She served long-term in rural Cameroon and is a member of our Board of Directors. After returning from Africa, Martha completed a fellowship in HIV/AIDS research and treatment. She also brings a critical element to the Retreat/Seminars by providing resources for doctors and an overview of the realities they can expect to face in a resource-poor setting.



Roy and Melanie Elfrink

Roy Elfrink, MD is a General Surgeon and Melanie Elfrink, MD is a Family Practice Physician. Roy and Melanie have served short-term in Peru, Uganda, and Ecuador. The Elfrinks are currently assisting the Mission Doctors staff in visiting and evaluating mission locations and facilities. Roy and Melanie also provide support and education for doctors, dentists, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants interested in serving with MDA.



William and Susan Stavinoha

William Stavinoha, MD is a Family Physician who practiced in Austin, TX until 2016. Susan Stavinoha, PA-C is a Physician Assistant in Womens' Health. They have three grown children and eight grandchildren. William and Susan serve and live in community with the children and staff in Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos in Honduras each year.



Brother John Kiesler, OFM

Brother John is a member of the board of directors of Mission Doctors Association and serves on the faculty of the formation program for those preparing to serve long-term. He is also a presenter at the Retreat/Seminars held for doctors who are considering the short-term program. As an expert in Mission Theology, Brother John teaches at the Franciscan School of Theology in Oceanside, CA.



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To learn more about Mission Doctors, visit www.MissionDoctors.org