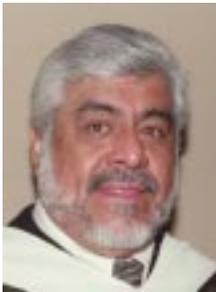


AMRF NEWS



American Medical Resources Foundation, Inc. Volume 16, No. 1, July 2004

Honorary Degree to AMRF VP Victor Solo



AMRF Vice President
Victor Solo

Victor Solo, AMRF Vice President for Operations was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree from Medical University of the Americas, located in Gardner, MA, in May of 2004.

Each year an honorary degree is awarded at graduation to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of health care and education in the worldwide community. The letter advising Victor of his award states: "Your long history of supplying medical donations to hospitals and clinics serving the poor

in developing nations through the American Medical Resources Foundation and your dedication to teaching individuals in underdeveloped countries to maintain and repair medical equipment made you an excellent candidate for this honorary degree."

Recognizing many years ago that surplus medical equipment from American hospitals would be invaluable in less developed countries, Victor was an initial, joint founder of AMRF. He has been active in many training and operations missions in Latin America, India, Ethiopia, Bosnia and

Russia and has been instrumental in the success of many AMRF programs.

In accepting the award Victor stated he was overwhelmed by the honor. He stated, "I never anticipated that AMRF would achieve the success and impact that it has accomplished around the world. What started as a unique idea of a few

people has evolved into a program having significant global impacts thanks to the leadership of (AMRF Chairman) Kay Barney."

We salute you, Victor.

AMRF Chairman Kay Barney congratulating Victor Solo.



Ethiopian Imperative

This March AMRF presented a ten-day biomedical engineering training course in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

You will note the banner in the picture on page four that indicates fifty per cent of the medical equipment in Ethiopia is not functioning; hence, the emphasis on restoring this equipment to active use. AMRF long-time volunteers Steve Cunningham, McKonnen Tache, and AMRF Vice President Victor Solo gave hands-on instruction on management, maintenance and repair of anesthesia machines, ventilators and respiratory therapy and neonatal equipment. They also presented phacoemulsifiers and lasers (both dealing with optical health)

and biomedical equipment management including software options.



A flavor of Ethiopia: The Black Lion of Judah is a national symbol, here depicted in a statue in Addis Ababa.

The students were all staff members of the Ethiopian National Scientific Equipment Center whose assignment will be to train other technicians throughout the country. Hands-on training and repair was also conducted at hospitals in Addis Ababa including the Blaklion, Menelik II, San Gabriel, and Iatekki.

Under the sponsorship of Orbis International (a major foundation for the prevention of blindness, worldwide) and in cooperation with the Ethiopian National Scientific Equip-

Continued on page 4

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

AMRF & SMMC Helping in Iraq

The Ibn Al-Bitar Hospital for Cardiac Surgery in Baghdad is one of the largest facilities for cardiac surgery in the Middle East. In 2002, 1,076 open-heart surgical procedures were performed at the Hospital. At the cessation of the recent military conflict, the Hospital sustained substantial damage due to looting, rioting and fire. Efforts are currently underway to fully restore the activities and services of the Hospital.

AMRF in partnership with the Southern Maine Medical Center (SMMC) of Biddeford, Maine, shipped a twenty-foot ocean freight container of medical equipment and supplies from the AMRF warehouse in Brockton, MA to Ibn Al-Bitar Hospital for Cardiac Surgery, during mid-December, 2003. The container included equipment donated by SMMC as well as equipment and supplies donated by AMRF including an echocardiography unit, an ultrasound diagnostic unit, a portable x-ray and several defibrillators.

SMMC employees and staff initiated the project as a way of celebrating National Hospital Week in a global, meaningful way.



The loading of the container for Iraq at the AMRF Warehouse in Brockton, MA, was attended by (L to R) Scott Peterson of the SMMC, Mark O'Reilly, Chief of Staff for the Mayor of Brockton, MA, and Walter Newman and Kay Barney of AMRF.



Volunteers of AMRF loading the equipment and supplies for Iraq.

“After a tremendous amount of work, we have identified a needy hospital in Baghdad, and cut through the administrative quagmire required to ship the container to Iraq,” reports Kay Barney, Chairman of AMRF. “We have been in correspondence with the Director and Chief Engineer of the Ibn Al-Bitar Cardiology Hospital in Baghdad. They have confirmed that they need and want the equipment that was donated by SMMC.” The journey for the container to this 200-bed, eight surgical theater hospital was complex. It traveled by ocean freight to Istanbul and Merseid, Turkey, and then by truck overland through Turkey and northern Iraq to Baghdad.

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: K. H. Barney

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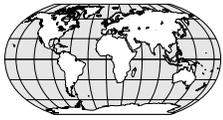
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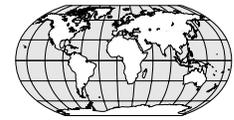
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AMRF Shipments and Services



May 1, 2003 to June 15, 2004

Containers/Equipment (quantity-size)

Diocese of Kikwit, Democratic Republic of Congo: 1 – 20 ft
 Yordanos Clinic, Ethiopia: 1 – 40 ft
 Ibn Al-Bitar Hospital, Iraq: 1 – 20 ft
 Kilimanjaro Hospital, Tanzania: 1 – 20ft.
 Health Ministry of Palestine, Gaza: 1 – 20 ft.
 Fundacion Isaias & Fundacion, Tierra Nueva, Ecuador: 1 – 40 ft.

Approved and in Process:

Alexandra Hospital, Nevis, West Indies: 1 – 40 ft.
 Rosales and Bloom Hospitals, El Salvador: 1 – 40 ft.

Training Programs

Center of Training and Maintenance, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Victor Finds “Cumbas” in Addis Ababa

An interesting sidelight of the AMRF Ethiopian training mission (written about in this issue), relates to Vice-President Victor Solo’s Latino roots. Victor was born in Guatemala, speaks fluent Spanish and has family members remaining in Guatemala.

During this training mission, Victor presented hands-on equipment repair training at several hospitals and, to his astonishment, encountered numerous Ethiopians who spoke fluent Spanish. It seems that during the 1970’s, Ethiopia was ruled for several years by a Communist dictator who

maintained strong ties to the Communist world including Cuba. During this time a number of orphans from Ethiopia were sent to Cuba for care where they matured and eventually received higher education, often in the medical field. Many of these Ethiopians have now returned to Ethiopia and are now active in medical fields.

Victor and his Ethiopian friends found a linguistic and cultural bond. In the Latino culture these friends are called “Cumbas.”

Central American Training Facility Progresses

In late May, 2004, members of an AMRF team, which consisted of Victor Solo, VP of Operations, President Tom Magliochetti, and intern volunteer, Nina Magliochetti, traveled to San Salvador, El Salvador, to meet with Salvadoran Lions Club officials and medical and public health officials.

Their discussions centered on establishing a partnership for a pilot

medical equipment training center for biomedical technicians in El Salvador that would serve that country as well as neighboring Central American countries.

Highlights of their discussions concerned training needs and priorities, logistics for the training sessions and initial training activities. A trip to a local hospital enabled the team to assess the specific needs of the locale and to shape their

recommendations for implementation.

A location for the Center has been identified as a Don Bosco University in San Salvador, the Capital.

Moving forward, AMRF is energized by the prospect of mounting a major effort to improve the quality of health care in Latin America in cooperation with the Lions.

“AMRF is energized by the prospect of mounting a major effort to improve the quality of health care in Latin America in cooperation with the Lions.”

Ethiopian Imperative Continued from page 1

ment Center (the local sponsor), AMRF has been conducting training on biomedical equipment under the umbrella of the BETTER program (Biomedical Engineers and Technicians Training and Equipment

Rehabilitation) in Ethiopia.

The following kaleidoscope of pictures provides an insight to the scope and breadth of these training programs which are crucial for improving medical care in Ethiopia.



The start of the training sessions. The banner with text overhead proclaims that fifty percent of the medical equipment in Ethiopia is not functioning.



Steve Cunningham explains anesthesia machine operation and repair.



Victor Solo presents equipment management.



Victor Solo checks out and clarifies ventilator operation.



Steve Cunningham explains slit lamp operation.

Tache Mekonnen clarifies the operation of lasers for optical procedures.





Hands-on repair of ventilators.



Preparing incubators for class instruction.



Victor Solo presents lecture on equipment management.



Victor Solo working with trainees on ventilator repair.



The Graduating Class 2004.



Ethiopian trainees working on an anesthesia machine.

PLEASE DONATE TO AMRF

I would like to discuss a Planned Giving Program.

Please contact me at:

Tel. _____

Email _____

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:

\$5,000 () \$2,500 () \$1,000 () \$500 ()

\$100 () Other ()

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

I would like to make a multi-year pledge of:

\$ _____

with the following donation schedule:

Date	Amount
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Please do not send cash

Can You Help Us With Equipment or Supplies From Your Hospital or Company?

Donations of used, functioning or repairable medical equipment or supplies are urgently needed for shipment to hospitals and clinics serving the poor in developing countries around the world.

We will arrange pickup and/or shipping from anywhere in the U.S.

Equipment donations from for-profit organizations are exempt from Federal Income Tax. Donors should check with their tax advisors to

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 508.580.3306 with a list of equipment to donate. Or you may contact us by e-mail: amrf@amrf.com

AMRF

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