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Living the Mission Experience

Delivering compassionate healthcare and the Gospel
to the most needy in the developing world

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Forward to a Friend

Collaboration



The Marian Webster Dictionary defines collaboration as, working with another person or group in order to achieve or do something. The ability to collaborate with others from different countries and different cultures is an essential element of running a successful mission. Helping Hands Medical Missions would not have had the impact it has had around the world if not for the wonderful ability of our missionaries to collaborate with our host country Ground Team Members and others at our mission sites. I believe good collaboration is rooted in the virtue of charity. When we see a need and want to do something to solve that need we must think collaboration. Many of the customs and cultures that we encounter on our missions are vastly different from the culture we have grown accustomed to in the states. Therefore, it is imperative we ask questions and receive feedback from our local Ground Teams before launching various charitable initiatives at our mission sites. This issue's story is about a generous nurse and creative HHMM Ground Team Members who worked together to provide a positive experience for over 100 people. So the next time you see a need and want to lend assistance, either at home or abroad, think about working with others, you may be surprised at the scope and the impact you will have.

If you feel that God has been calling you to a mission or know someone who is considering attending a mission, please contact us for more information.

Lupita Assad, RN

International Missions Coordinator

Meet the Missionaries



Zita Ibrahim ICU Nurse

Home State: California
Parish: St. Joseph
Catholic Church
Mission: Second

It was mid-2014 when I corresponded with Cary, an HHMM Ground Team

Member in the Philippines. I met Cary during the February 2014 medical mission in Tanauan City, Batangas, Philippines. Cary has worked collaboratively with Helping Hands Medical Missions for a number of years.

A simple suggestion of providing sandals to the children in the poverty stricken villages became a beautiful story. I arranged with Cary that once I arrived in Batangas for this year's medical mission, he and I will go to the local market to purchase the sandals. He contacted a vendor and informed him of my intended budget of \$100.00 USD which would allow me to purchase about 96 pairs of sandals.

After our mission team had arrived in Manila I met with Cary at the airport. I anticipated a quick visit to the market. Instead, Cary introduced me to Luisa, a volunteer from Manila. Luisa came and brought with her three huge bags of sandals, most likely more than 100 pair! Luisa informed me that "they're paid for." She claimed that she did not pay for them, and declined to be reimbursed. "You'll know it soon", was her response.

As we began seeing patients at the village clinics, the rubber sandals were being distributed by other volunteers. The following day, I was introduced to Kumar, an entrepreneur in Divisoria, the hub of wholesale transactions in Manila. Luisa apparently came to Kumar's store, and explained some of the goals of the upcoming medical mission. Not only did Kumar send the three huge bags of sandals, he came and joined us at a village clinic and helped as translator. He also brought mosquito nets which are essential to protect infants and young children from mosquito bites, which is the leading cause of Dengue Fever, an often fatal disease. Kumar expressed gratitude for being able to contribute to the medical missions through the merchandise he brought, and made a commitment to continue his support in the future.

So children of various ages, as well as adults, left the village clinic with huge smiles on their faces, as they accepted their new pair of sandals. No longer will they walk home barefooted. However, one boy declined to replace his old pair of favorite sandals he only agreed to wear a new pair if he could take the old pair home.

We love, we care, without boundaries. If you would like to experience the joy of collaborating on a Helping Hands Medical Mission I encourage you to contact Gloria Madrigal for more details about upcoming missions.

Serve with us on a mission. Learn more at www.hhmm.org.