

# The RESOURCE

The Newsletter of Sharing Resources Worldwide

Spring 2024



## Returning to Siguatepeque

The second week of November 2023, a small advance team returned to the Providence site in Siguatepeque, Honduras, to prepare SRW's space and equipment for future missions. After a four-year absence, memories flooded back from our first mission to the same site in 2007. Our biomedical professionals tested and assessed equipment needing repair or replacement, uncrated new equipment, and put it into working

order. Other team members stocked storage bins with supplies recently shipped to the location. By the time the team left, the site was ready for the first mission of a new era, scheduled for later the same month.

The Providence staff was welcoming and helpful. It was wonderful to be back and to know that we can continue serving the children of Honduras with orthopedic and eye health needs. Thank you to all our

supporters, and to Horizon for the invitation to return.

Team members were:  
Gary Haefer, Biomed  
Jason Ryder, Biomed  
Marge Abegglen, RN  
Pat Kreibich, RN  
Mary Dowling, RN  
Hugo Romero, Coordinator

# Long time no see... but now they're seeing better

In November 2023 a team of eight SRW volunteers traveled to Siguatepeque, Honduras, for our first return mission since the pandemic pause. Our eyeglass team spent the week at Clinica Betania, a small but active medical clinic on the edge of town. We worked alongside new friends and staff, as well as several people we've known for years as former volunteers with our mission teams. One of these, Fernando Villatoro, who volunteered as a translator for SRW when he was 14 years old, is now the physician at this clinic, busy treating patients every day.

During the five days we worked at Clinica Betania, our team examined 478 persons, diagnosing numerous disorders and needs. Adults needing eyeglasses received them free of charge from the large stock donated



*Our team can help the family with vision needs*

to SRW by the Wisconsin Lions Foundation. All who were seen received sunglasses and information on the importance of protecting their eyes

in bright sunlight. Our team also checked blood pressures and made referrals as needed. Of the children we screened, ten needed glasses, which SRW purchased locally. Those



*On our way!*



*Our SRW team and our Clinica Betania volunteers*

ten children will find learning much easier with their improved vision.

Holding the clinic at Clinica Betania worked out very well. Thanks to the clinic staff's preparation and organization, our team was able to be efficient, welcoming, and productive. We look forward to returning!

Team members were:

- David Gamm, MD
- Todd Murdock, MD
- Bonnie Heberer, ABOC, COT
- Kari Baker, Optician
- Angela Hasse, Optician
- Becky Henke, COA
- Pat Kreibich, RN
- Mary Dowling, RN
- Iveth Villatoro, MD
- Hugo Romero, SRW Coordinator

Sharing Resources Worldwide

2405 Industrial Drive • Madison, WI 53713

Phone 608-445-8503 • E-mail [mmmmdo13@gmail.com](mailto:mmmmdo13@gmail.com) • [www.sharingresourcesworldwide.org](http://www.sharingresourcesworldwide.org)

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Donation checks should be made out to Sharing Resources Worldwide. Please return this card with your donation to the address above.

For your convenience, SRW can now accept your donation by credit card online. Just go to our website at [www.sharingresourcesworldwide.org](http://www.sharingresourcesworldwide.org) and donate via credit card on our secure site.

# We Are Back

by Kristan Sodergren

We are back! It was with great anticipation and excitement that we were able to return to Honduras and our family in Siguatpeque. For me, this mission is a reminder of why I practice nursing and medicine; it is the purist form of the job. Our time away, and the opportunity to come back, reminded me to not take our time in Honduras for granted.

Travel in January presented itself with the typical set of winter challenges. The team showed resilience, flexibility, and perseverance. In the interval years, our set-up at Providencia has changed, and our equipment has changed. What did this mean for the mission?

We had an awesome small-but-mighty crew who started seeing kids and setting them up for surgery. As the remainder of the team trickled in, we were able to set up operating rooms and get ready for cases to start late midday on Tuesday in one of the two operating rooms. For reference, we would have typically started surgery on Monday morning, using two operating rooms. We were still able to perform over twenty surgeries and see oh-so-many children and families. We were welcomed by many familiar faces, a few new faces, and some faces that have grown up to now become key supporters for us while we are there.

Our physical space and equipment underwent some changes. Providencia is now primarily a school, and spaces we once used for clinic and recovery / "inpatient" stays have changed. We appreciated



Maria on her way into the operating room

Providencia's flexibility while we were there. We were able to use space typically used for classrooms and teacher prep, and we thank them for their patience.

Prior to our visit in January we learned that our larger fluoroscopy machine did not appreciate the hiatus from work and took an early retirement. This is a vital piece of equipment that allows us to safely perform procedures, particularly hip procedures, that otherwise could not be done in Honduras. We are now in the process of finding a replacement. Then there was Puddles, the autoclave. Let's talk Puddles. Puddles gave us a few moments of anxiety. Really, I think Puddles was testing our patience and letting us know we'd been missed. Once we reached an understanding, and after some maintenance and repairs, we had a beautiful relationship for the remainder of the trip.

I cannot say enough about our team and leadership. We are a large group; we see a lot of kids and do a lot of surgery. The teamwork of old and new faces (and I am not talking age here!) was an inspiration. We look forward to next year and the hope of many years to come, but with humility, for this place is precious and we will not take our time in it for granted.

During this mission we screened 106 children under the age of 18 and 28 of them had surgery that week in Honduras.



Ready to go home!



Our entire orthopedic team

Team members were:

Annie Huang, MD  
David Mann, MD  
Ken Noonan, MD  
Tracy Cotter, MD  
Iveth Villatoro, MD  
Elizabeth Shimon, PA  
Marjorie Abegglen, RN  
Paula Kasuboski, RN  
Shannon Conlin, CRNA  
Dawn McComb, RN  
Wendy Read, RN  
Mary Dowling, RN  
James Albrecht, CRNA  
Tricia Ejzak, RN  
John McComb, Assistant  
Robert Machotka, RN  
Rachel Steiner, RN  
Erin Hernandez, RN  
Cassandra Senzig, RN  
Amanda Morris, RN  
Lindsey Kent, MD  
Kristan Sodergren, APNP  
Kyle Muckenhim, MD  
Jennifer Penston, PT  
Hugo Romero, Logistics



The ortho team does fashionable casting

# Hugs and smiles have no barrier... Reflections on my first mission trip

By Kim Decker

My first Mission Trip to Honduras was the week of January 20, 2024. From the first van ride leaving the airport to the medical clinic, I was like a child taking in all the new sights. From the cows and men on horses along the side of the road with no fences, to family houses in all shapes and sizes, very bumpy dirt roads, many workers in the back of open pick-up trucks, and the beautiful mountain scenery. I was so intrigued.

As we arrived at the medical clinic the very first day, I was amazed at the number of families with children waiting outside for hours to be seen by the pediatric ophthalmologists. It was a surreal moment, walking through the crowd. Everyone was waving and smiling, welcoming us... and no one was complaining about their wait.

My main concern about the trip was the language barrier. I soon came to realize that we had plenty of volunteers and medical personnel from Honduras to help us translate. Also, hugs and smiles have no barrier.

I also felt instantly at ease with the other team members that came to help on the Strabismus trip. I made friendships that will last forever. The team melded into a solid working force pre-operative, intra-op and post-op. We accomplished 36 pediatric surgeries, and 92 children were seen for ophthalmic-related issues.

As a prior surgical nurse, it was a true joy to be back in the operating room assisting with surgery. Providing medical care to those in need is the true definition a nurse lives by. It was an emotional experience to see the parents and children's joy and thankfulness for the service we provided.

This trip has made me realize how spoiled and privileged we are here in the U.S. I take for granted having food, a comfortable place to live, medical care, and clean water to drink.

A shout out to my amazing new friends... Staci, Mara, Jess, Jacque,



*Helping the patient go to sleep*

Susie, Pat, Wendy, Mary, Lloyd and Rob. Hugo our van driver, interpreter and tour guide, along Faith and the medical team from Honduras, were amazing. This mission trip to Honduras is an experience I will treasure for the rest of my life. Thanks, SRW and friends, for the memories.

Team members were:

Lloyd Bender, MD  
Rob Bechtel, MD  
Iveth Villatoro, MD  
Pat Kreibich, RN  
Mary Dowling, RN  
Staci Kothbauer, CRNA  
Jacquelyn Maki, RN  
Susan Eckenrode, RN  
Jessica Hoffmaster, CRNA  
Kim Decker, RN  
Mara Schaefer, CRNA  
Wendy Read, RN  
Hugo Romero, Logistics



*The strabismus surgery team*

## So far in 2024...

2024 has been a busy year so far. SRW teams have returned to faraway sites, restored broken equipment, stocked supplies, prepared operating rooms and clinic space, and renewed relationships with far-away colleagues. Our volunteer medical professionals have provided 478 eye exams (including 92 children seen for ophthalmic issues and 106 for orthopedic issues), performed 36 pediatric eye surgeries and 28 ortho procedures, casted and recasted limbs, and reached across cultural and physical barriers, working alongside new and old friends in a spirit of cooperation, resilience, flexibility, and perseverance.

Your support makes these successes possible: restoring sight, strengthening bodies, and improving lives. Our teams are thrilled to once again serve adults and children who could not otherwise access needed medical care. By donating to Sharing Resources Worldwide, you can ensure that patients will continue to receive life-changing services. Thank you for being on our team. It's your faithful support that makes the SRW mission a reality.

## Thank you Carlos

Carlos Alvarado recently completed his service on our SRW Board. We are very grateful for his input, which helped the board move forward during a period of especially challenging issues and decisions. Thank you, Carlos, for your service! We wish you and your family the very best.

Please go to our web page, [sharingresourcesworldwide.org](https://sharingresourcesworldwide.org), to read about our new SRW Board members, Kristan, Jessica and Mary Beth.

facebook

Look for us on facebook!

# Casting Light on our January Orthopedic Mission

Sharing Resources Worldwide teams have been busy! Six weeks after our January Orthopedic Team treated 28 children with ortho procedures, our Pin and Cast team returned to Honduras to pull pins and recast many of those children. While casts were removed, a local prosthetic professional began making braces for the children to wear after the final cast is removed. Then a new cast was applied and left in place for 4–6 weeks.

The team worked at this process for two days at Providencia. Some children were very disappointed that they were not quite done with casts, but parents were very pleased to see their child’s progress.

The weather was wonderful, and cooperation from Providence/Horizon staff was also much appreciated. Another mission is in the books, but our work is never done. Future missions are scheduled for November 2024 and early in 2025.

A big thank you to our team members:

David Mann, MD  
 Jessica Ebbert, CRNA  
 Mary Beth Schneider, CRNA  
 Kristine Longoria, PA  
 Bailey Bogatitus, PA  
 Wendy Read, RN  
 Mary Dowling, RN  
 Nathalie Quan, RN  
 Iveth Villatoro, MD  
 Hugo Romero, SRW Coordinator



*Waiting to receive a new cast*



*Our Neotec helpers*



## With Gratitude

There are many individuals and companies, both local and from across the U.S., that assist with surgical teams by donating funds and or supplies. The success of our missions is very dependent on these donors.

We wish to thank them and acknowledge their contributions to our efforts. There are too many to list here...but we thank you all!

Agiliti Health  
 Alcon  
 American Family Children’s Hospital  
 Bausch & Lomb  
 Beloit Memorial Hospital  
 Childrens Hospital of Philadelphia  
 Drs Oxygen  
 Epic  
 Essity HMS North America  
 Health Net of Rock County  
 Home Health United

Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach  
 McFarland Lions Club  
 Menomonie Wisconsin Lions Club  
 Midwest Biomedical Services  
 Reedsburg Area Medical Center  
 Samaritan’s Purse  
 SSM Health Janesville  
 SSM Health Madison  
 Transformations  
 UW Hospital and Clinics  
 VanDen Wymelenberg Foundation

Verona Lions Club  
 Waunakee Senior Center  
 West Coast Medical Resources  
 Zwingli United Church of Christ  
 and many individuals.

Thanks to Sylvia Boomsma for editing, Lisa Imhoff for design and layout, and Images Plus for printing this edition of The Resource.

SRW accepts gifts of appreciated stocks and mutual fund shares. Your gift of such qualifies for a tax deduction based on full market value of your stock or mutual fund shares plus you avoid the capital gains tax that would otherwise arise from the sale of stock or mutual fund shares.

Sharing Resources Worldwide  
2405 Industrial Drive  
Madison, WI 53713

Mary Dowling  
608-445-8503  
mmdo13@gmail.com

See more about SRW and make copies of this newsletter at:  
<http://www.sharingresourcesworldwide.org>

### **MISSION**

Through the delivery of excellent health care Sharing Resources Worldwide (SRW) endeavors to improve the quality of life of disadvantaged populations around the world.

### **VISION**

By organizing and supporting medical teams, SRW will provide surgical, medical, dental care, and eye care for disadvantaged people. When possible, SRW will work closely with in-country partners to deliver these kinds of care. SRW will provide on-site medical professionals and institutions with donated supplies and equipment and allow them to consistently offer needed services for their needy populations. SRW's primary concern will be meeting the needs of children 18 years old and younger.

### **VALUES**

SRW's board, director, and medical team members will provide needed care and treatment internationally, while consistently demonstrating the following core values:

- Excellence
- Respect
- Compassion
- Accountability

*All donations are tax deductible.*

*Please make checks payable to:*

***Sharing Resources Worldwide.***

*Sharing Resources Worldwide is incorporated in the state of Wisconsin and is a tax exempt charitable 501 ( c ) ( 3 ) organization.*

*For more information on Sharing Resources Worldwide, check out our Web site at*

**[www.sharingresourcesworldwide.org](http://www.sharingresourcesworldwide.org)**

### **Sharing Resources Worldwide**

Mary Dowling, Director  
Wendy Read, Mission Team Director

### **Governing Board**

Pat White, President  
Adam Dowling  
Neil Lucchese, M.D.  
Wendy Read, R.N.  
Kristan Sodergren, MSN, PCNP, APNP  
Jessica Hoffmaster, MSN, APNP, CRNA  
Mary Beth Schneider, CRNA, DNP, APNP