



SU Global Medical Brigades
Sadler Hall Mailbox #272
1000 Irving Avenue
Syracuse, New York 13210
williamlam@globalbrigades.org

Dear Medical Staff,

I am a biology major and pre-medical undergraduate student at Syracuse University writing on behalf of the secular, international volunteer organization Global Medical Brigades. The organization's mission is to provide sustained health care relief to underserved communities throughout the world. Our current emphasis is to help the impoverished villages of Honduras in collaboration with one of their country's most highly regarded nonprofits, Sociedad Amigos de los Niños led by Sister Maria Rosa Leggol, a recent nominee of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Our organization is planning a medical brigade to Honduras which will take place January 4th-10th. We would like to ask you if you would like to participate by donating your time, skills, and experience to help provide much-needed medical relief to thousands of Hondurans living in some of the most impoverished villages in the world.

With a standard of living index of 116th of 170 countries, Honduras is one of the most destitute countries in Latin America. On top of a 28% unemployment rate, approximately 53% of the population lives in poverty and many without access to healthy water resources. Disease and malnutrition are the leading causes of death in children under the age of five. *In addition to facilitating the development of micro/social enterprises to perpetuate self sustainability in local villages, the goal of Global Medical Brigades is to provide for the neediest of these communities via medical brigade trips.*

A medical brigade consists of dedicated student volunteers, doctors, pharmacists, and nurses providing health care to these communities. The group functions like a mobile medical unit, setting up small clinics to diagnose and treat patients at no cost. From in-take to triage, medical consultations to prescription filling, the group experiences multiple facets of the medical profession under the guidance of licensed medical professionals. The group travels to different villages to set-up temporary one-day primary care clinics – caring for hundreds of people each day! Medical professionals return from the trip having not only served some of the neediest people in the world, but also positively influenced the next generation of working professionals and aspiring physicians. You are welcome to learn more about the physician's experience through the enclosed testimonials of Dr. Jess Adams and Dr. David Magorien.

We hope that you are available to join us and are interested in participating in this medical brigade. We are hoping to make a great difference and a significant contribution to the Honduran communities this coming summer, not to mention the indescribable personal growth that will take place in such a short time.

Please visit our website at www.medicalbrigades.com for more information. Also please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns via email at williamlam@globalbrigades.org or via phone at (347) 543-8756. You may also contact our regional advisor, Ryan Leary, at ryanleary@globalbrigades.org

Thank you for your time and consideration.

www.medicalbrigades.com



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Sincerely,

William Lam
SU Global Medical Brigade President



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Trip Information

Tentative Date: January 4th- 10th, 2010

Location: Nuevo Paraiso (fly into Tegucigalpa, Honduras)

Goal: To provide much-needed medical care to some of the poorest citizens of the world

Cost: In-country costs are all-inclusive (housing, food, transportation, laundry, tips, fees, etc)

is \$650. Airfare is the only other cost and is typically between \$600 - \$900.

Other Ways You Can Help

If you are unable to accompany us, we still greatly need your support to make our brigade a success. Without donations from members of the medical community these brigades would not be possible.

Medications/Healthcare-related Supplies Donations:

To effectively treat as many people as possible, it is essential that we bring enough medications and supplies with us to Honduras. Enclosed you will find a brief list of items that are greatly needed by the people we will be treating. We will also accept medications and healthcare-related supplies that are not on the list.

Financial Sponsorship:

Monetary donations will go towards purchasing medications and supplies that are difficult to collect in the United States. Please make checks payable to "Syracuse University -Global Medical Brigades."

We will gladly make arrangements to come and pick up the donation at your convenience. Any and all support that you can give is greatly appreciated and will help bring medical relief to a population in desperate need of assistance.

Physician Testimonial

Jess Adams, MD
Chief Hematology/Oncology, Kaiser Permanente

12/26/2006

The best part for me was the opportunity to connect on a personal level with people of another world and culture, in a way which would otherwise be impossible for the usual traveler or tourist. I came away with a great deal of affection and respect for these tough and cheerful people who manage to be happy with so little. I hope that they also are left with some respect and affection for Americans, and that they can see that, spoiled and ignorant as we are, nevertheless we came out of our way to try to know and help them. The second best part of the trip was the interaction with the young college and post-grad students from USC. It would be hard to imagine a more impressive and likeable group of young people. Their idealism is the perfect antidote to the harmful cynicism which to some degree is almost unavoidable in mid career. They inspired me, and I tried to inspire them. Third, I was very impressed with Sister Marie Rosa, Quique, Cato, and their work. It is an amazing charity, and a striking example of what can be accomplished with faith and determination. Fourth, I feel good about the medical care we provided, though I do believe that in a material sense the people would be more benefited by having small wells or water purification systems built in their village centers, than by the medicines we provided. I hope to go on another such trip, especially if my daughter Barbara goes again which I hope she will. I would be happy to provide a medical briefing and perspective to any doctors who are considering doing this for the first time.



Physician Testimonial

David Magorien, MD

9/4/06

This past June I had the fortunate opportunity to participate in the first medical brigade to Honduras sponsored by USC. Prior to making the trip, I really did not know what to expect, as I had never been involved in such a mission. Upon arriving in Honduras, I was overwhelmed by the extreme poverty and poor living conditions. I am a cardiologist, however throughout the brigade I encountered very little cardiovascular disease. Because of the poverty, typical risk factors for heart disease including cigarette smoking, poor dietary habits and obesity was not observed. More common diseases which I came across while in Honduras included malaria, dengue fever and parasites. These are disease processes which I read about in medical school but had never previously treated in all the years of my practice.



I was truly humbled by the kindness and unassuming nature of the Honduran people. They were very appreciative of any medical treatment or advice that I could offer. In many instances the people would walk incredibly long distances and wait patiently in long lines to receive medical care.



I was extremely impressed by the catholic organization which coordinated the brigade. The entire operation was very well organized which allowed me to best utilize my time and skills in caring for patients.

I really enjoyed working alongside the students from USC. I was impressed with their professionalism, stamina and compassion towards the less fortunate. They were always willing to put in long hours and eager to learn new skills.

I have been in private practice for 23 years and I can honestly say this has been one of the most worthwhile and humbling experiences of my career. I was truly honored to be part of the medical brigade and have the opportunity to care for the Honduran people.