

# NEWSPEACE

Physicians for Peace Newsletter – Summer 2009



## Physicians for Peace Provides Dental Care for Hundreds in Vietnam

When dental assistant Nicola Meastres traveled in April with Physicians for Peace to Vietnam, she knew she would be treating children desperately in need of dental care. What she didn't prepare for was the heartbreak of not being able to care for all the children in need. Over 3-1/2 days, the team, led by Warren Sachs, DDS, and including Joseph Gloria, DDS, and dental assistant Brenda Raymo, saw over 600 patients, mostly young children – where dental needs were nothing short of devastating.

With that many young patients needing care, the Physicians for Peace team had to turn some children away. Nicola remembers one young boy, about 8 or 9, who came in for treatment, and who didn't show any fear, despite this being his first visit with a dentist. "His whole lower jaw was a mess, with both baby teeth and adult teeth all so badly decayed that we could only extract the teeth on one side of his mouth, the side most in danger of infection or abscess."

The young boy had been brought in by his teacher, and Nicola begged her to bring him back the next day to continue his treatment. "All I can say is that I wanted to take him home with me. It's heartbreaking

to treat these kids, but to be able to help them is also a feeling you can only understand if you go on a mission." When the boy returned the next day, he wasn't afraid, and he was ready to continue with his much-needed treatment.

*When Physicians for Peace dentists travel overseas, the cost of one dental exam and treatment for a child is only \$50.00. Find out more about our programs, and how you can help, at [www.physiciansforpeace.org](http://www.physiciansforpeace.org).*

*Nicola's story demonstrates the dire medical need faced by Physicians for Peace around the world, and the selflessness and dedication of our volunteers. This mission was the 2nd by Physicians for Peace in the An Gaing region of Vietnam. As Nicola and the team discovered, the severe dental problems facing their young patients are often a result of children being kept on a bottle well into their 9th or 10th year; bottles filled with juice or sugarcane water. The resulting "baby bottle syndrome" rapidly decays their teeth within months. Physicians for Peace has only begun their work to keep the children of Vietnam happy, healthy and smiling.*

Young patients in Vietnam receive dental care from Physicians for Peace volunteers.

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Physicians for Peace

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# MISSIONS & CAMPAIGNS

## Walking Again in Eritrea

On a March mission to the Horn of Africa nation of Eritrea, Physicians for Peace medical volunteers continued our well-established medical education and clinical care programs there. The March mission team, led by Dr. Keith Goss, conducted foot and ankle surgeries on many young patients, as well as reconstructive surgeries for adults and young patients for foot deformities caused by genetic abnormalities, disease or accidental trauma. The mission is part of the continuing efforts of Physicians for Peace to train Eritrean surgeons in advanced surgical techniques and develop indigenous medical capacity in Eritrea and Sub-Saharan Africa.

This mission complements our overall Partnership for Eritrea initiative with The George Washington University Medical Center and the Government of Eritrea. Launched in 2005 to manage Eritrea's post-graduate medical education in pediatrics and surgery, the program will graduate its first pediatricians later this year and first surgeons in 2010. This summer, OB/GYN will be added. To read more about the project, go to: [www.partnershipforeritrea.org](http://www.partnershipforeritrea.org)



Dr. Keith Goss treats a young patient in Eritrea.

## Healing in Honduras

In January, Garry S. Brody, M.D. flew to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, at the request of Dr. Louis Gonzalez, Chief of Plastic Surgery at Médico Hospital Nacional de Honduras. Dr. Brody's mission? Conduct plastic and reconstructive surgery on patients injured by burns and other traumas, as well as provide medical education and training to hospital staff. Dr. Brody was joined by 4th year Eastern Virginia Medical School student Duffy Casey, as part of a Physicians for Peace program to send EVMS students on medical missions. Dr. Brody, working with the team of Honduran plastic surgeons, performed 17 major reconstructive surgeries for wounds suffered from causes as varied as facial cancers,

broken jaws from gun-shot wounds, severed tendons from machete wounds, an arm lost in a coffee processing machine, severe burns, and other types of trauma.

"It's amazing to see how Dr. Brody is always willing to do more, to see one more patient, to try and help one more person, regardless of how late it is, how little he's slept, or if his plane is leaving shortly," said Duffy. "This is the attitude I've found at the heart of Physicians for Peace."

Read Duffy's entire mission journal on our blog.

*Find out more about all of our healing programs on our blog, at <http://blog.physiciansforpeace.org>*

## A Visit to the Barrios

EVMS medical student Nabeel Qureshi visited Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic in April to conduct research for the Physicians for Peace Resource Mother's Program. To address issues of domestic abuse in the region, Nabeel gathered information in English and in Spanish regarding domestic abuse, and put together a two hour workshop on domestic abuse training. He also worked to train the Resource Mothers to diagnose and treat depression, post-partum depression and domestic violence.

"Traveling to the Dominican Republic was a great experience," said Nabeel. "My eyes were opened to the conditions of people who truly are in need."

Read Nabeel's full story on our blog.



Photo © 2009 by Nabeel Qureshi / Physicians for Peace

The Physicians for Peace Resource Mothers program assists young women and their babies.



# RECENT NEWS

## Illinois High School Students Help Patients to See



Student group EyeSee donated over 2000 used eyeglasses to Physicians for Peace.

2000 pairs of glasses donated to Physicians for Peace will be sent to the Philippines, where patients will be screened for vision problems, and will receive much-needed prescription glasses, often for the first time in their lives.

To learn more about EyeSee, visit their website at: [www.eyeseemission.org](http://www.eyeseemission.org)

A group of dedicated students from Northwest Chicago high schools recently approached Physicians for Peace and offered to collect and donate eyeglasses to our Seeing Clearly program. The students formed an organization, EyeSee, and in the first months of 2009 they amassed a huge collection of donated glasses, to be given to a number of organizations. The

## 2009 GLOBAL HEALTH FORUM

Physicians for Peace held their 2009 Global Health Forum on May 15, on the campus of Norfolk State University. The day-long forum, focused on issues of healthcare in Haiti and the developing world, was highlighted by an evening address by Dr. Paul Farmer, co-founder of Partners in Health, one of the first medical relief organizations to address the needs of Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

Details of the event and speakers, as well as video footage of the presentations are available on our website at [http://www.physiciansforpeace.org/ghf\\_postevent/ghf\\_videohome.html](http://www.physiciansforpeace.org/ghf_postevent/ghf_videohome.html).

An audience of over 700 attended the 2009 Global Health Forum.

## 2009 Volunteer "Medical Diplomat" of the Year Awards

*Send in your nominations!*

Each year, Physicians for Peace takes great pride in recognizing the tremendous dedication and exemplary contributions of its volunteers through its Volunteer "Medical Diplomat" of the Year Award. An overview of the program and a copy of the nomination form are located on the Physicians for Peace website under "Volunteers" at: [www.physiciansforpeace.org/docs/2009nominationform.pdf](http://www.physiciansforpeace.org/docs/2009nominationform.pdf). Nominations for the 2009 award need to be received no later than August 15.

To read about the 2008 Volunteer "Medical Diplomat" of the Year Award winners, please visit the "Volunteer" section of the Physicians for Peace website at: [www.physiciansforpeace.org](http://www.physiciansforpeace.org)

## NBC's "The Apprentice" Winner Joins Physicians for Peace in the Dominican Republic

Stefanie Schaeffer, winner of Season 6 of reality show "The Apprentice," traveled in April with Physicians for Peace to the Dominican Republic, where she toured burn wards to visit patients receiving care through our Burn Care Program, and the barrios of Santo Domingo to see the young mothers and babies helped through our Resource Mothers Program. Ms. Schaeffer said that the most rewarding part of the trip was meeting the local doctors and health professionals that work with Physicians for Peace – their spirit to overcome and provide care to those who need it most where it matters most was truly inspiring. We look forward to working more with Ms. Schaeffer to bring the work of our volunteers to the attention of the public.

## 2009 "CELEBRATE THE NATIONS" *Save The Date!*

This year, Physicians for Peace celebrates 20 years of teaching, empowering and healing in developing nations around the world. Please join us at the 2009 Celebrate the Nations 20th Anniversary Party!

Saturday, October 3, 2009 – Virginia Beach Convention Center

To receive an invitation, make sure you are on our mailing list. Visit [www.physiciansforpeace.org](http://www.physiciansforpeace.org) to register.

## A Bracelet to Celebrate Peace

Brighton, a nationally-distributed accessories line, took action towards the dream of peace earlier this year by creating a limited edition Dream Peace bracelet. A portion of the sales from each bracelet was donated to a group of charities, including Physicians for Peace. The bracelet campaign, supported by a nation-wide marketing campaign, was a huge success, and Brighton generously donated \$52,000 to support our work around the world. We thank them for their commitment to help the world's neediest!

## New Staff, New Titles

CEO and President Ron Sconyers has announced the appointment of Shannon DS Kane as the Senior Director, Development and Communications. Shannon, who has a long record of fundraising and nonprofit management, will lead fundraising, marketing and PR strategies for Physicians for Peace. He also announced the promotion of Mary Kwasniewski to Senior Director, Global Health Programs. Mary, a 4-year veteran at Physicians for Peace, will manage all field operations and gifts-in-kind activities. Both of these announcements are part of Physicians for Peace's long term strategic plan to improve the organization's effectiveness.



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## firstgiving.com – A Great New Way to Help!

Our missions need your support. You don't have to be a doctor or travel overseas to be a part of our healing work. You can help by raising funds, and you don't have to travel any further than your computer.



- With a few clicks, you set up a personal fundraising page.
- Add information about why you support Physicians for Peace.
- Email your family, friends and co-workers.

It's that easy to support Physicians for Peace.

Learn more at: [www.physiciansforpeace.org/firstgiving.html](http://www.physiciansforpeace.org/firstgiving.html)

## Send 100 – Train 1000 – Heal 1,000,000

This year marks the 20th Anniversary for Physicians for Peace and our goal is to offer hope and healing to even more lives. Our goal is to send 100 doctors, to train 1,000 of their peers, who will then be enabled to heal up to 1,000,000 lives.

To do this, we need your help to raise \$1,000,000.

One dollar for each patient we can reach.

One dollar for each patient we can heal.