

VOLUNTEERS FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

RESTOR

INTERNATIONAL

IN THIS UPDATE:

2016 MISSION TO
BAHIR DAR, ETHIOPIA

UPCOMING EVENTS

2018 MISSIONS

HOW TO
GET INVOLVED



RESTOR
David Nelson
Occupational Therapist



VOLUNTEERS FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

2017 Update

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Sponsor Thank You	page 1
RESPOND - 2016 Mission	page 2
EDUCATE - Sustainability & Education	page 3
SERVE - Tribute to Team Members	page 4
SERVE - Donor Profile & Volunteer Profiles	page 5
TRANSFORM - Patient Transformations	page 6
EVENTS	page 7
UPCOMING MISSION	page 8
GET INVOLVED	page 9

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive

- Jean Bird - President
- John McCormack - Past President
- Tim Cowan - Vice President
- Terri Serwa - Treasurer
- Brian Elliott - Secretary
- Kim East - Surgical Care Coordinator
- Heather King - Executive Assistant

Directors

- Christy LeGeyt
- Cliff Moore
- Deb Nolan
- Lora Proskiw
- Gord Savage
- Sharron Simpson
- Adrienne Skinner
- Lisa Vandenbrink

APRIL 2017 UPDATE

Thank You!

WE WOULD LIKE TO
THANK OUR PARTNERS
WHO HELPED MAKE
2016 A HUGE
SUCCESS!



RESTOR International depends on private donors, and fundraising events as well as Rotary Clubs to fund our missions. RESTOR is a “Rotary encouraged organization” and the 2016 Bahir Dar, Ethiopian mission has been made possible in part by a grant from Rotary International and our private donors. Rotary International matched funds from Rotary Clubs in Western Canada, locally and the Rotary District 5060.

- Rotary Club of Kelowna – The Sponsoring Club
- Rotary Club of Okanagan Mission
- Rotary Club of Grand Forks
- Rotary Club of Campbell River
- Rotary Club of Courtenay
- Rotary Club of Port McNeill
- Rotary Club of Port Hardy
- Rotary Club of Cumberland Centennial
- Rotary Club of Chemainus
- Rotary Club of Comox
- Rotary Club of Edmonton South
- Rotary Club of Strathcona Sunrise, Vancouver Island

RESTOR International is building funding partnerships with various groups that support our vision. Our major partners include:



For more information on partnership opportunities, please contact us at admin@restorinternational.ca or visit our website at www.restorinternational.ca.



2016 MISSION TO BAHIR DAR, ETHIOPIA

Respond

In April 2016, a RESTOR International team endured the 36 hour journey to Bahir Dar Ethiopia to begin a fourteen day medical mission to restore lives of children and young adults. The team included 14 medical personnel from all over western Canada and 8 non-medical Rotary volunteers who worked in partnership with clinical staff at the Gamby Hospital. The mission had an



overwhelming response with 119 patients triaged by the team including many who walked long distances to take advantage of the rare opportunity to be treated. We were able to perform free reconstructive surgeries on 53 children and young adults, clocking up over 115 surgical hours. Almost all of the patients were treated for repair of previous burn injuries sustained in accidents involving open cooking fires. Ethiopia has very little, if any, primary burn care and as a result often suffer life altering disfigurements and deformities that would not occur here in Canada.

YOU'VE HELPED

RESTOR INTERNATIONAL

do amazing things. Our mandate is to provide free reconstructive surgeries to children and adults and education to health care professionals around the world. We're delighted to provide this update to our donors, Rotary partners and other friends who believe in our work to bring free surgeries and knowledge to less fortunate countries. Together we are restoring lives!



SUSTAINABILITY & EDUCATION


RESTOR International's mandate extends beyond providing clinical services. We look to educate and teach medical techniques that our partner communities can utilize over time. By building up the skills and knowledge of our international colleagues during our missions, we ensure our work carries on after we're gone. We were able to do this not just at the Gamby Hospital but also in the wider medical community in Bahir Dar. Our medical team not only mentored Gamby Hospital's surgeons and nurses but also offered extensive clinical training, reaching over 109 multi-disciplinary colleagues. Topics in the curriculum ranged from pain management (a new concept in Ethiopia) to anaesthesia, pediatric issues and surgical assessment.

GAMBY BURN CENTRE PROJECT

As part of our strategy to ensure our missions create sustainability, RESTOR International is collaborating with the Gamby Hospital and Dr. Einar Eriksen, a Norwegian plastic surgeon who has lived and worked in Ethiopia for more than 30 years. RESTOR International has purchased specialized burn equipment to be left at the Gamby Hospital and we are providing funding for skin grafting and wound care for 15 patients in 2017. The equipment will be used by Dr. Erikson and is critical to our goal of building up a proficient burn program in Bahir Dar. He is now training local medical professionals at the Gamby Hospital so that they can treat acute burns and eventually perform their own skin grafting. The equipment purchase supports this advanced training, ensuring our mandate of sustainability is fulfilled at the local level. A referral program has also been set up with the Felege Hiwot Public Hospital in Bahir Dar. Dr Erikson will continue to mentor the Gamby Hospital staff until they are able to provide the surgical and nursing care required in Bahir Dar.

CURE HOSPITAL REFERRAL PROGRAM

Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Ericksen we have also established an agreement with the Cure Hospital in Addis Ababa (an American funded and operated hospital) which allows Dr. Eriksen to provide 10 free reconstructive surgeries for children with severe disfigurements this year. These surgeries are too complicated to be operated at the Gamby Hospital in Bahir Dar. RESTOR International will cover the cost of food and transportation to Addis for the children and their guardians during their stay and a nominal honorarium. We have already completed 5 of the 10 surgeries.



Dr. Stan Valnicek & Kim East

Serve
VOLUNTEERS. DONORS.
TRIBUTE TO TEAM MEMBERS

MEDICAL TEAM PROFILE

RESTOR's volunteer Medical Consultant Dr. Stan Valnicek (pictured above) is a Kelowna Plastic Surgeon with a passion for paying it forward. Born in the Czech Republic, Stan moved at the age of five to Ghana with his family. His father was an obstetrician and spent five years in Africa doing UN sponsored medical missions. This inspired Stan's involvement of giving back. Stan has volunteered with RESTOR since its beginnings as Rotaplast Canada. He's been on ten missions as the lead reconstructive surgeon. He guides the medical team, determining who is eligible for surgery, overseeing the follow up care, collaborating with the

physicians and nurses on the ground and mentoring surgeons in the OR. Stan received his MD from the University of Saskatchewan. In 1992, he spent six months at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, followed by a year-long fellowship at Utah University Medical Center doing additional pediatric plastic surgery training as well as upper extremity and microsurgery. He moved to Kelowna in 1998. Stan recently completed five years as Section Head of Plastic Surgery for BC. He has been on missions to Mexico, the Philippines and to Ethiopia four times.

ROTARIANS FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

RESTOR International relies on the support of its donors to mount each medical mission. One especially close partnership we enjoy is with Rotary - individual Rotarians, clubs and the Rotary International Foundation each of whom provide important financial support and advocacy for our work. RESTOR International's last two missions to Ethiopia were funded partially through the Global Grants program, secured through District and local clubs in partnership with Rotary International. Many individual Rotarians are also donors, volunteers on missions, and act as ambassadors for our charity. We also liaise closely with Rotarians and Rotaracts in the countries where we work.

VOLUNTEER PROFILES

There are many people behind the scenes that support our missions before we even arrive on the ground.

OR CAPS

Thanks to RESTOR International's long-time supporter Patti Leigh, we had light-weight OR hats to take with us to Ethiopia.

"I think the work that these doctors, nurses and support volunteers have tirelessly done over the years is amazing. It has given children a chance for a normal life". ~ Patti Leigh



SURGICAL GOWNS

For the first time RESTOR International was able to provide Surgical Gowns for the patients to wear into surgery. They are made even more meaningful as they are all being hand-sewn by a group of Okanagan ladies. The volunteers pictured above: Mona Swikert, Katie Revere, and Kerry Gordon, along with Tianna Emond, Sonya Russell, Jen Sutton, and Donna Vukelic, made thirty, cheerful, and professional looking surgical gowns.

"This is so special because we've never had gowns in the past", says Mission Director, Jeannie Bird. Patients often arrive in the tattered clothes that they've walked (sometimes for days) in. Now we will be able to give each patient a gown and some dignity prior to their surgery.

Bill Redmond, a Kelowna businessman and Rotarian is a long-time donor to RESTOR International, beginning when we were known as Rotaplast Canada.

"As a Rotarian, I feel strongly about our Rotary mandate to create a better world. RESTOR International shows that the power of a small group can change lives significantly," says Bill Redmond.

Bill has been a Rotarian and community leader for over 30 years. He has led the fundraising team of Rotary's annual Pro Am charity golf tournament for the past ten years, raising cumulatively over \$1,250,000 to date.

Bill was the founder and CEO of HRI Supply Ltd. a wholesale food distribution firm which merged with Sysco Corp (SYU on NYSE) in 2001. He retired as CEO of Sysco Kelowna in 2004 and has been involved in various local businesses. He is presently Chairman of Dockside Marine Centre.

DONOR PROFILE



Transform

PATIENT TRANSFORMATIONS

Gahew

One patient who came to us through the GAMBY BURN CENTER PROJECT is Gahew Zemen. As is common in the rural areas of Ethiopia, people do not have access to medical treatment and often visit the local Shaman or healer. Gahew was treated by the healer who initially applied a tourniquet to his ankle after a minor injury. Unfortunately, this created a very serious problem as the tourniquet was left on too long and he was unable to walk.



This required a lengthy surgery on his lower leg, exposing and cleaning the bone and eventual skin grafting. Dr Eriksen was able to supervise the surgery and will follow the Gamby doctors as they care for the wound and eventually do skin grafts.



Abeye

Three year old Abeye fell into a home cooking fire. This is very common where a main source of cooking fuel is open fire. Because Abeye's family lives in the hills around Bahir Dar they were unable to seek medical care for him right away. His right hand was extremely contracted from the burn scar. After surgery at the RESTOR International mission, this bright little boy now has a functioning hand.



Etagegnehu





shine & DINE

In September 2016, our RESTOR International charitable benefit Shine & Dine at the Laurel Packinghouse was a great success. “Shining the Light on Humanity” raised over \$50,000 in support of the GAMBY BURN CENTER PROJECT. RESTOR International supporters joined us for fabulous local organic fare from Waterfront Wines, danced to the sounds of Ran Berry, and participated in the live auction with world-class entertainer and auctioneer, Danny Hooper. Special guest speaker Lane Merrifield, founder of Club Penguin, presented the keynote message, “The Penguin Coin Effect – Integrating Philanthropy into Corporate Culture.” The Board of Directors of RESTOR International sincerely thank and appreciate the efforts of Lisa Hammond, event planner extraordinaire; who, along with her volunteers, organized a wonderful event. Thanks to all of our donors, sponsors and volunteers for making Shine & Dine a tremendous success. A special THANK YOU to Veranda Beach for all their support.

EYAYU GENET PAINTING DONATED TO KGH

While in Bahir Dar in 2016, a painting was donated to RESTOR International by one of our Ethiopian friends, EYAYU GENET, a young artist teaching fine art at the Bahir Dar University. A father of two young children, he was very touched with the work of RESTOR International and wanted to help. He donated this painting called the “Mother of Colours” depicting Ethiopian culture and rural life. Fifty of our Shine & Dine donors contributed a total of \$5,000 and the painting was donated to Kelowna General Hospital in honour of the volunteer work that our local doctors and nurses do.



Pictured left to right: Andrew Hughes, Jean Bird, Dr. Stan Valnicek

Andrew Hughes, Heath Service Administrator for KGH; Jean Bird, Board Member Of RESTOR International and Mission Director of the last two missions to Bahir Dar, and Dr. Stan Valnicek, the Medical Consultant and Lead Plastic Surgeon of RESTOR International were honoured to present the painting to KGH.



Upcoming Mission

As we transition our work in Ethiopia, our plan is to make one final trip to Bahir Dar to visit our patients and clinical partners in 2018. We are also exploring the feasibility of mounting a full mission to Nepal in 2018 where the need appears to be great in a variety of disciplines. Our involvement could be long term from a sustainability standpoint and there appears to be a good infrastructure to support a visiting health care team including supportive Rotarians on the ground.

There are many opportunities in Nepal that would require a variety of disciplines such as the ability to work in remote health care camps. At these camps, local residents can be screened for chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, or TB and treated accordingly. Patients with more complicated surgical and medical needs, such as reconstructive plastic surgeries, would be transported to larger centers. There would also be a focus on education programs in the area of maternal and infant morbidity and mortality during childbirth, as well as adolescent life education programs such as reproductive health, mental health, and depression.

RESTOR International's Rotarian board members from Vancouver Island, Tim Cowan and Deb Nolan, along with our Surgical Care Coordinator Kim East are currently assessing the practicalities of a long term commitment in Nepal. A site visit is planned for mid-2017 with a full mission visit possible in 2018.





Get Involved

Volunteer

Interested in getting involved with RESTOR International?

Each mission requires a team of dedicated medical and non-medical personal to work together. The size of our teams varies depending on the type of services we provide based on the needs identified in each community where we serve. We also welcome inquiries from individuals interested in joining our Board of Directors.

Visit the volunteer section of the RESTOR International website for more information. at www.restorinternational.ca or email our administrator at admin@restorinternational.ca

Donate

RESTOR International is supported 100% by donations and sponsorships. Your donation helps pay the cost of using the hospital facilities in the countries we work, anaesthetics, antibiotics and other drugs, transporting medical professionals, equipment and supplies, and setting up teaching and public health clinics to help sustain the work after our team has shared their knowledge and expertise.

Our volunteers donate their time and pay their own way for travel, accommodations, and meals.

Sponsorship

RESTOR International's work depends on the generosity of our mission sponsors. The cost of sponsoring a full RESTOR International mission ranges from \$80,000 to \$120,000, depending upon the site. Sponsorship opportunities are available for Rotary Clubs and Districts as well as other service oriented organizations, private foundations and individual donors. Groups may sponsor as little as 1/3 of a mission or as much as the entire mission. RESTOR International is, likewise, always in need of smaller amounts of support and we welcome any size donation from a group or individual.



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INTERNATIONAL

*We would love
to hear from you.*

P.O. Box 25066
Mission Park P.O.
Kelowna, BC V1W 3Y7

admin@restorinternational.ca
www.restorinternational.ca