



NOMMS NEWS

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Warehouse Hours

Our warehouse in Elmwood Industrial Park is staffed from 9 AM until 1 PM every Wednesday and Saturday, except for holidays. We accept medical supplies from anyone. Medicines must be in a sealed container. We offer medical equipment, such as crutches or walkers to anyone.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE



Buckle your seat belts. This guy will take you on a trip around the world! Ken Landriault does logistics, is a translator, eye glass clinician, dresses as a clown when necessary, plays the guitar, and performs magic tricks for NOMMS. In fact, he was

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President's Message



NOMMS came into being because our five founders each volunteered to give his time, talents and support for our shared vision. By our first mission trip in 2002, we had 37 volunteers all who gave his/her time, talent and

support. Over the 22 years we have been in existence we have grown far beyond our expectations, we have made 44 mission trips with between 30 to 70 volunteers on a mission. Each participant is a volunteer who gives his/her time, talent and support for the trip.

Our fund-raising activities, a Gala and Golf Tournament, are totally staffed by volunteers who give their time, talent and support. For the fund-raising events we have 30 to 75 volunteers who give their time, talent and support.

In our warehouse we have approximately 50 continuous volunteers on a regular basis as well as approximately 100 who come occasionally who give of their time, talent and support. The volunteers come to the warehouse twice weekly. The warehouse is not air conditioned so in the summer months it becomes brutally hot. The volunteers do not let the heat turn

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Volunteer Profile

discovered by Fred Mikill when their paths crossed in a hotel elevator - Ken and his friends dressed in their clown outfits!

Ken grew up in Quebec. He said all the Landry's in south Louisiana came from his ancestors in Canada! Ken speaks French, English and Spanish. Years ago he also spoke German when he worked for three years in Austria with a mission. He was an undercover bible smuggler into Communist countries! His introduction to Latin America was in his early 20s when he worked in the jails in Puerto Rico. The jails he worked were for minors. He taught them theater, which helped as a diversion from their rough street lives.

From Puerto Rico Ken traveled to Peru, setting up a school to teach kids school and life skills. He then traveled to Ecuador, also working with kids. To entertain the children he taught himself magic skills. His group dressed as clowns to engage the kids in school. A Friday afternoon stage production became the reward for classroom attendance during the week. As a blue-eyed clown, Ken got a great deal of attention in Ecuador. He was enlisted to perform for corporations and the political elites. These became contacts that serve him well today.

During his many opportunities to entertain children in hospitals, Ken was struck by the poverty and the lack of basic equipment in hospitals like gurneys, wheel chairs and hospital beds. At this point in time, Ken's U.S. base was New Orleans. The connection - the printer of the bibles he smuggled into Communist countries was from New Orleans. That family was active in serving many needs in Latin America. Hurricane Mitch hit Honduras, and Ken and his fellow clowns decided to go to Honduras to join the relief efforts. Meanwhile a friend living in Miami offered to join the group. He arrived in N.O. with a trailer full of medical equipment and supplies which he obtained from a retiring physician. Following a great deal of negotiations with the airline, that trailer of equipment was transported to Honduras. There Ken

met the first lady of Honduras WHO IS FROM LOUISIANA! She met her husband, now the president, while attending LSU. She became central to bringing the equipment and supplies into the country. She also assumed the logistics of Ken's group to entertain the many shelters resulting from the hurricane. Today most of our containerized shipments continue to go to Honduras and to the Dominican Republic.



The next chapter occurs when Ken and his fellow clowns are gathering for a fund-raiser at the Westin Hotel in New Orleans. The group boards an elevator, dressed in their clown regalia, and just before the door closes, Fred Mikill hops aboard. "What are you clowns doing?" Ken tells Fred about their missions to Honduras and other locations. At that point NOMMS was at the beginning of its formation. Ken and Fred had an immediate connection - wanting to get aid to Latin America. Ken continued to work with his group, but from time to time helped NOMMS. One day Tom Kennedy called Ken. A mission to Nicaragua had to be cancelled at the last minute due to the country's instability. Tom hoped Ken could suggest another destination. Ken helped the NOMMS mission redirect to the Dominican Republic, a venue we now go to frequently.

Volunteer Profile

Now Ken is a central NOMMS volunteer. He organizes our many container shipments to Central and South American hospitals, including the Dominican Republic. Ken also serves as a translator and serves in our eye clinics. During our last mission to the D.R. our eye clinic helped over 2,000 patients and Ken was at the front as our triage coordinator. Ken's also been spotted doing his magic act during an end-of-mission party. Last December a Santa Clause played Christmas music for volunteers at our warehouse - who has a sneaking resemblance to Ken. We are so fortunate to have such a talented and hard working volunteer.

Mission Possible Gala

For all the things we do, our annual budget is easily north of \$350,000. That covers our missions and the many shipments of supplies and equipment to the hospitals we support in Latin America. It also allows us to serve our local community as well. We have two fund-raising events each year: our fall Gala and spring Fred Mikill Memorial golf tournament. The *Mission Possible* Gala is, by far, our major fund-raiser.

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President's Message

them away. Our warehouse accepts donations that are sorted and repackaged and prepared for future medical trips, some are sent to our partners in the South America, Central America and the Caribbean and others are distributed locally and regionally to other charitable organizations. We also donate wheelchairs, walkers and medical equipment to local individuals who do not have the resources to obtain them otherwise.

I say that our warehouse "breaths". It fills up with supplies (breaths in) and then redistributes them all at no cost beyond shipping fees to the recipients (breaths out). All of this work is performed by volunteers. In conclusion, five founders who were all volunteers formed an organization which has now grown to include over 500 volunteers who range in age from 8th grade high school students to our oldest volunteer who is 93 years old. She never misses a Wednesday or a Saturday at the warehouse, no matter how hot it is. NOMMS original mission was to perform surgeries in third world countries that would not have otherwise been performed. We have grown to

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WWW.NOMMS.ORG

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President's Message

include eyeglass clinics, hand prosthesis, and logistical support of our overseas partners and other local nonprofit organizations as well as local individuals who cannot afford the medical equipment they need.

All of this is accomplished through loving, giving and caring volunteers who donate their time, talent and treasure. I want to praise, applaud and thank each volunteer who helps NOMMS. Together we, with the bountiful help of the Holy Spirit, have made NOMMS bigger, better and more beautiful than anything the founders ever considered.

Mission Possible Gala

The first Gala was held at the Wax Museum in the New Orleans Vieux Carré. Soon after, NOMMS encountered Simone Bruni, an event planner, who helped move the Gala to Generations Hall, and that has proven to be an excellent venue. Located in the warehouse district, just down from the World War II Museum, it offers the space for food, auctions, a band and dancing.



Preparations for the Gala occur year-round. There are four fund-raising components. First and foremost, we have donors who's contributions place them on our Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze donor lists. We are fortunate to have very generous supporters.

A silent auction features over 150 items donated by companies and individuals which range from a Corona Beer Snoop Dogg bobblehead to artwork by the likes of George Rodrigue. During the year these items are collected, cataloged, photographed, and uploaded to our Auction website. This takes the efforts of dozens of volunteers and many hours of work. Many auction items are gift certificates for foods, restaurants, spa treatments, and vacation rentals.

The Live Auction includes very high end gifts and vacation spots, such as a dinner prepared in your home by Chef Alex Patout. How about a gorgeous 6 bedroom, 5 1/2 bath mountain home, with 4 family areas in the Colorado Rockies? Another uniquely Louisiana adventure is a alligator hunt in Braithwaite, LA.

Each Gala will take on a theme. Last year's Gala was *Denim & Diamonds*, and this year it was *Disco, Dance, Donate*. The themes provide a fun venue for the annual celebration. Guests are treated to food prepared by a variety of vendors including Gambino's, Swiss Bakery, Galatoire's, Desi Vegas and more. Adult libations are also provided. Finally a band provides music for dance enthusiasts.

This year's Gala was a huge success, helping underwrite our ***Mission Possible!***

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