



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.

Missions Ahead

There are two missions planned for 2024! May 4 to 11 we have 68 volunteers heading back to Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic. Then from October 26 to November 2 we have 37 volunteers heading to Guayaquil, Ecuador.



President's Message



This letter is long overdue. NOMMS has suffered three very significant, if not tragic, losses since our last newsletter. Through God's grace we have emerged as a stronger organization and have resumed our mission with ever greater vigor.

On February 26, 2019, Frederick J. Mikill, one of the original five founders and first

and only CEO up to that time passed away. Fred was instrumental in forming the concept of and then in leading the development and maturation of NOMMS. Truly, without his tireless work and devotion to NOMMS we would have been no more than a shadow of what we are today. We all sorely miss Fred, but we also know that he is in Heaven praying for us. Undoubtedly, he has recruited every celestial being he has encountered to pray for NOMMS, as well. His loss has caused us to operate differently, with many people assuming expanded roles. We have emerged stronger.

In March 2020 COVID overwhelmed the world. Neither New Orleans nor NOMMS escaped its ravage. NOMMS was able to go on one medical mission trip before the COVID lockdown. Unfortunately, we were unable to go on any other trips for the remainder of 2020 and none in 2021. We had to cancel all of our fundraising efforts for 2020, as well. Fortunately, we had sufficient funds in the coffers to avoid the need to go into debt, so we survived COVID unscathed.

On August 29, 2021, Hurricane Ida hit New Orleans. Our 8000 square foot warehouse was full of donated materials and was serving as the sole business location of the New Orleans Medical Mission Services. Half of the roof was completely blown off the building and the remaining half was severely damaged. There was extensive water damage to

Puerto Plata 2023 RECAP



The 2023 mission to Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic had the most volunteers of any mission to date. There were 63 participants, of which there were 20 physicians, 17 nurses, and 15 non-medical volunteers. The rest were NPs or PAs, surgical techs, CRNA's, EMTs, and others. There were 74 surgeries performed, including Pediatric Orthopedics, Orthopedic Spine, ENT surgeries, general surgeries and pelvic and GI endoscopy. We also provided 147 medical consultations, and served over 1,700 patients in the eye clinic.

While the mission activities during the week on site were impressive, preparing for the mission and getting there requires an amazing amount of effort.



43 Trunks were taken on the mission.

President's Message

the building internally. Over 50% on the inventory stored in the warehouse was completely destroyed. 100% of the office space and all of the equipment in it were destroyed. This was a crippling blow to NOMMS. Through hard work and dogged persistence, we recovered with insurance money and other donations of money and supplies. We not only restored the warehouse but we also reconfigured the business office into a much more efficient work space. Once again, catastrophe struck NOMMS, and we have emerged stronger.

Today we have a fully functional warehouse, efficient business workplace and almost 300 volunteers who either participate in medical mission trips, work in our warehouse on Wednesdays and Saturdays or work on our fundraising efforts-the yearly Golf Tournament and Gala. There are 200 additional people who donate money or services without working in any of the above efforts. There are 3,000 people with whom we keep in contact via email. None of the five founders of NOMMS would have dreamed in our wildest imaginations that we would have grown to be what we are today. It is through the hard work of all involved, God's providence, with the unceasing help of the Holy Spirit and with the support of the 3,000 people in our "NOMMS Family and Community" that we are what we are and where we are today. NOMMS has survived many trials and tribulations since our inception, AND WE HAVE EMERGED STRONGER.

Thank you for your support and prayers!

R.Daniel Jacob, M.D., President

Eye Clinic Mission

One of the services provided by NOMMS on its medical missions is the Eye Clinic. The main function of the Clinic is to bring corrected vision to patients who we serve. Doing this requires a year-round effort that starts at the NOMMS warehouse in Elmwood. NOMMS receives thousands of glasses from our donors, often from individuals and our most abundant donor, The Lions Club.

The next step is to inspect the glasses and measure them for their prescription. To accomplish that we have a pair of lensmeters which measure a lens

Puerto Plata, 2023

The effort starts nearly a year in advance. We collect supplies and equipment at the warehouse. Months before the mission the doctors and their staff must pack pallets which are shipped well before the mission. The staff will also pack trunks with those items a doctor will use, but will come back upon the mission's conclusion.



The trips there and back require a huge effort. We typically arrive very early to MSY, with our luggage and two or three trunks each to be checked. We transfer at MIA and fly on to the Dominican Republic. A bus and truck meet us to bring the crew and supplies to Puerto Plata. In all, everyone returns with the great feeling have having served a needy community!

Eye Clinic

Sphere, Cylinder, and Axis - the three primary elements of an eyeglass prescription. Often the glasses are bifocal. The lensmeters can detect that and then measure the "ADD" or the magnification of the lower lens element. This process is time consuming and is accomplished by volunteers who come to the warehouse on our Wednesday and Saturday's of operation.



Next we have to sort the glasses by their prescription. This actually ends up being somewhat complex. We have multiple diopters such as +1.00 to +1.75, +2.00 to +2.75, on up to +5.00 and greater. Then there are the minus diopters. Next are the plus and minus diopter bifocals. We also receive reading glasses which are sorted by their magnification. Finally, we do collect sunglasses and glass cases which we bring on the missions.

The sorted glasses are boxed, palletized and shipped to the mission location. Upon arrival, the glasses are unboxed and placed in bins based on their prescription.

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Eye Clinic



After the patients arrive, the next function is to examine their eyes to determine their prescription. To accomplish this we bring three auto-refractors. These are portable, battery powered instruments which measure the pupil and determine the patient's eye prescription. The auto-refractors are connected to a printer. The patient takes the printout to our distribution tables where volunteers must find glasses that most closely match the prescription. That's often a challenge, as we are trying to find the best match of glasses, and measuring their response in Spanish to our mostly English ears! On the other hand, it is usually quite easy to see when we get a match - resulting in a big smile and a thumbs up.



The Eye Clinic always draw a huge crowd. Every morning there is a long line of patients waiting to be served. Volunteers have to manage the crowd, check the patients in, and guide them to being refracted and then fitted. In the 2023 mission to Puerto Plata, D.R. we served over 1,700 patients. This year's return to Puerto Plata will also include an Eye Clinic.



Fred Mikill Memorial Golf Tournament

Our 17th Annual Fred Mikill Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, April 5, 2024 at Lakewood Golf Club sponsored by BankPlus. 80 golfers will have a great time, enjoying delicious food and some very cool prizes.



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