

INTERNATIONAL SURGICAL HEALTH INITIATIVE



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ISHI Returns to Kabala

Dates

October 25 to November 10, 2012

Locations in Sierra Leone

Kabala District Hospital
School for the Blind

Volunteers: 15

Background

Return Mission to Kabala

Accomplishments

88 major operations
6 Lectures and other teaching sessions

3 research projects- hernias, incidence of surgical disease, infection rates

3 new communities evaluated for future missions

Donation of laptop computers
Support "Women Against Poverty" Organization

School for the Blind

Donation of tape recorders, musical instruments, books

Donation of food

Art project- teaching students to make beads



Visit to School for the Blind

Emilia Wawsczyzk RN

Sierra Leone Mission 2012

"Kabala School and Home for the Blind is a place that houses 85 children who are blind and visually impaired. Currently it houses approximately 50 boys and 35 girls in two rooms. We came to know that the children sustained vision loss due to several causes: some were born this way from malnutrition on the part of the mother while still in-utero, some caught "river sickness" that caused them to acquire a parasite shortly after birth, a few progressively became blind as a result of autoimmune disease such as diabetes, and others have lost their sight due to trauma sustained during Sierra Leone's Civil War. The children are cared for by 17 staff members, who provide the children their basic needs.



As far as their education is concerned, the children really didn't ask for anything of us but for things that can help them learn. A concept that the children we all encounter on a daily basis have an abundance of and yet take for granted. The children who are younger than 3 are taught on the premises, while the other children attend a local school. It is a regular school that does not specialize or provide accommodations for children with disabilities. The school is approximately 3 miles away from the home. Most of the time the children walk to school, unless they are not feeling well. Because this happened more often than not and because these children have a strong yearning for education, they requested that we bring them tape recorders so that they can record their classes for the children that could not attend school that day.

Through the help of many especially the 3rd graders from St. Joseph's Catholic School in Mendham, NJ, Mrs. Mary Ehmann, Casey Warren, Lana Ayyash, and Stephanie Burroughs who collected donations of educational supplies: tape recorders, books on tape, batteries, musical instruments and money, we were able to provide these children with the very basic supplies that they so desperately wanted and needed. We were also able to purchase food items for them after finding out that they sometimes don't have enough to eat."



Mission to Ormoc City, Philippines

Dates:
January 10-24, 2013

Volunteers:
Surgical Team: 23
Medical Team 17

Location:
Ormoc District Hospital in
Ormoc City, Leyte

Background:
3rd Mission in Philippines
Hometown of Socorro
Rogers, ISHI Nurse
New: Medical Team

Accomplishments:
57 Major operations
94 Minor operations
Over 1,000 patients seen and
treated by Medical Team
Free medications dispensed
Donation of electrocautery
machine, medications ,
supplies and Merck Manual
to Hospital





Trio of Nurses Reunites in OR

Isn't it great to re-connect with old friends? Well that is exactly what happened on this last mission to Ormoc City when veteran ISHI nurse Socorro Rogers recruited her longtime friends and colleagues Bernie Lebofsky and Rose Brathwaite to participate in the surgical mission! The three OR nurses had been colleagues for over 20 years at University Hospital in Newark, NJ, but recently Rose had moved to another company, and Bernie had retired. The trio reunited on the Ormoc Mission to run and manage the OR. It was the first ISHI mission for both Bernie and Rose, who were invaluable assets to the team. Just like the good ol' days!

Medical Team sees over 1,000 inpatients in Ormoc City

ISHI had a first ever medical team joining the efforts to provide care to the underserved in Ormoc City. 16 doctors, nurses and other volunteers traveled to the Philippines, paying their own airfare and taking vacation time in order to participate. The team set up under a tent on the side of Ormoc District Hospital and evaluated and treated over 1,000 patients during their visit! The setup was essentially a walk-in clinic; every patient who showed up received free care and a month's supply of medications.

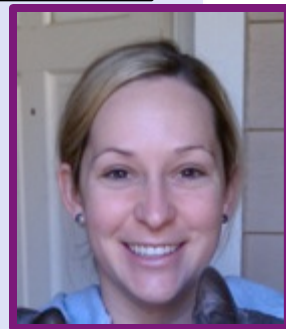


..."Basically, we will have a full week ahead of us ~ of course, with all the challenges that come with operating without all the high-tech amenities of surgical technology at our fingertips ~ but that's the best part about being a volunteer surgeon here, knowing that even though we may not have all our usual toys and gadgets, we can still use our basic surgical skills to help people and ultimately change lives. Thanks, ISHI, for giving us a chance to be a blessing and share our skills with people around the world!!"

Maria Ham, MD – Ormoc City Mission

"We have encountered so many patients that have never been able to see a doctor before. For example, I saw a woman in her 70s who complained of back pain and headaches for 3 years. Upon further history, the patient had fallen down the stairs 3 years ago and was unable to pay to be seen in the emergency room. In the US, we see a doctor and worry about paying the bill later. According to the patients, in Ormoc you only see a doctor if you can pay them up front."

Carly Jennings, RN – Ormoc City Mission



I grew up in this little city of Ormoc and having lived in the US for almost 25 years, I'm always looking for ideas to help my less fortunate Ormocanons. This mission was my chance to do just that. There's nothing more satisfying than seeing their very grateful faces. My experience was wonderful.

Gladys Narvades, CRNA – Ormoc City Mission

ISHI Events

Below : Volunteer Appreciation Picnic, June 10 2012, at Liberty State Park in Jersey City NJ- About 35 Volunteers and family attended- It was a beautiful day filled with grilling, games, reminiscing about past missions, and planning for future ones! A relaxing day by the Hudson!



Above: October 18th, 7:00 pm - ISHI Sierra Leone team had a fundraiser in Jersey City at VB3 Bar and Pizzeria- The Fundraiser was sponsored by the Visiting Homemaker Service of Hudson County- \$1,000 was raised!

Left: Over Memorial Day weekend in Jersey City, teams Sierra Leone and Philippines had a reunion party - with food, drink and a stroll down memory lane! Presentations of the 2 missions as well as a new video created by Charlie Khoury "Glimpses of Sierra Leone" were shared.



ISHI's Annual Holiday Celebration and Volunteer Recognition Event was held at the Costa Del Sol restaurant in Union New Jersey in December. A chilly Saturday night outside, but indoors the warm greetings and tasty sangria got everyone in a festive spirit! The evening started off with a presentation by ISHI President Dr. Ziad Sifri, who reviewed the accomplishments of the organization over the last 3 years. Announcement that ISHI has offered over 650 free operations in four countries was recognized as a great achievement! Next, photos and stories from the Philippines and Sierra Leone Missions were shared with the audience of ISHI supporters. Three volunteers- Dr. Advait Bongu, Malik Jalloh and Emilia Wawszczyk each spoke about their experiences on recent ISHI Missions. Recognition of ISHI's volunteers continued with distribution of the participation certificates and gift giving! A first ever ISHI resident award was presented to Dr. Advait Bongu, who participated on 2 ISHI missions this year and was recognized for his dedication and passion for humanitarian work. Prizes, dinner and dancing were enjoyed by all!



Congratulations to Dr. Advait Bongu for being the recipient of the ISHI Resident's award! A participant in two ISHI missions in 2012 (Philippines and Sierra Leone), Dr. Bongu was recognized for his humanitarian work and contributions to ISHI at the December ISHI holiday party- Great work Advait!



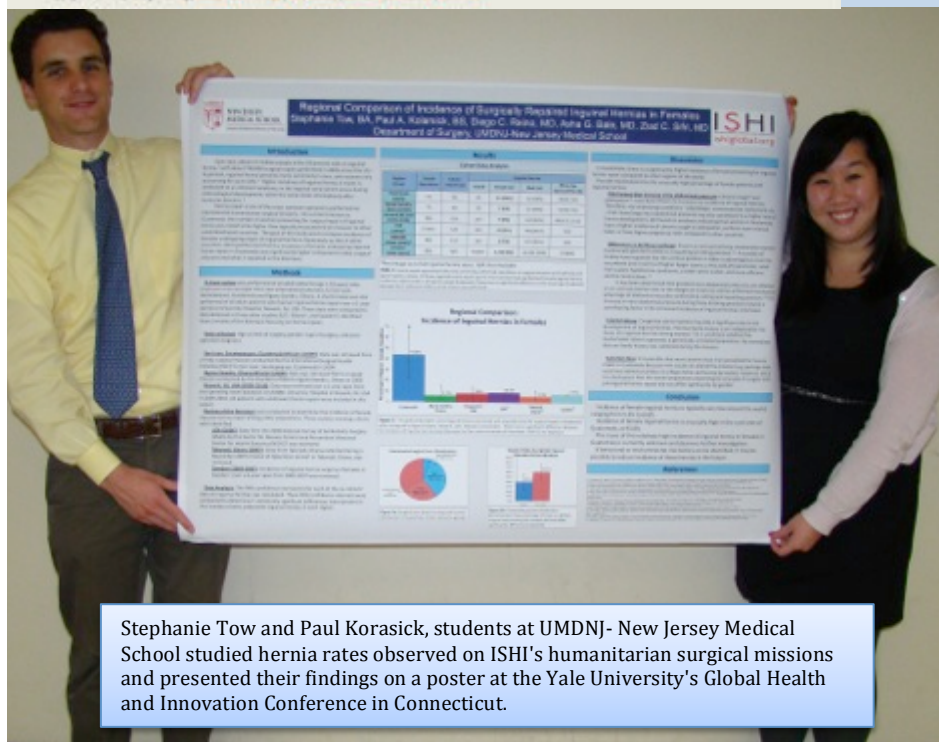
<p>NEW EVENTS</p> <p>2013 Mission planning for Sierra Leone through visit with Dr. Ben Frazier (Frazier Associates)</p> <p>2013 Guatemala Missionaries in UMDNJ's presence</p> <p>2013 Volunteer mission photo album in Sierra Leone photo competition</p> <p>End of Year Celebration: Top donors and volunteers</p>	<p>PHOTO GALLERY</p> <p>View When All is all about... photos from the mission? ... photos from the mission?</p> <p>CONTACT US FOR PHOTOS OR MORE</p>	<p>UPCOMING MISSION</p> <p>PHOTO TO PROMOTE A MISSION: CHAS (CHAS ASSOCIATES)</p> <p>Apply for a chair for the chair... (CHAS ASSOCIATES)</p>	<p>STORES</p> <p>Sierra Leone 2011</p> <p>Add 2 or more. The size of a mission.</p> <p>is a relative ending a long school... ending in progress on your mission.</p>
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ISHI on Display

ISHI Website wins 2012 WebAward for Outstanding Achievement in Web Development by the Web Marketing Association!

Congratulations to Charlie Khoury who has spent countless hours developing and managing ISHI's website over the last several years, as well as all photographers and volunteers who have had their mission photos posted on ISHI's website! Our website was entered into a competition and won the prestigious 2012 WebAward in the category of nonprofit organizations!

The WebAward Competition is the premier award recognition program for Web developers and marketers worldwide. First awarded in 2007 by the Web Marketing Association, the competition is judged by independent expert judges from around the world. They review websites in 96 industries and recognize the best site with the Top Agency Award. ISHI's site was recognized as outstanding, and one which sets the standard for website development!



Stephanie Tow and Paul Korasick, students at UMDNJ - New Jersey Medical School studied hernia rates observed on ISHI's humanitarian surgical missions and presented their findings on a poster at the Yale University's Global Health and Innovation Conference in Connecticut.



Drs. Asha Bale, Benjamin Chandler and Ziad Sifri presented a poster at the Annual American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress Chicago meeting entitled: "Surgery Resident Participation in Short Term International Surgical Missions Can Supplement Exposure Where Program Volumes are Low".



Left: Debbie Livingston, artist and volunteer to Sierra Leone presented her work at the Pierro Gallery of South Orange, NJ March 12-13 2013. Her pieces included etchings and fabric earrings she made with the students at the School for the Blind.

Excerpts from Sierra Leone Blogs...



"Everyone is so happy ISHI is here. People have come from all over to hopefully receive an operation that will allow them to return to work and better care for their families. One of my responsibilities on this trip is to gather data for the research project we have started. We are interviewing our hernia patients to learn how this problem has affected their lives. Many otherwise healthy men are unable to support their families anymore without extra help. Sierra Leonians are very hearty people though. Even men with huge hernias continue to do some amount of work so their families can eat. No work - No food! There are more patients than we can care for. Everyone feels terrible that we have to send some away. Most accept this news with grace and dignity, hoping we return in a year and they can get surgery then. Can't imagine waiting like that! But this is a way of life here."

Cathy Blaskewicz APN,



"T.I.A. is a term many have thrown around when these situations come up. This is Africa, its different, it will change you, and things are not always so clear or straight forward. It is an acronym used unilaterally for the happy, sad, uncomfortable and overwhelmingly positive experiences people have here, again I find myself getting choked up writing this by emotions I can't come close to describing. Happy to be here, looking forward to another day, and hoping sometime down the road I will be able to really digest all that I am taking in while on this short visit."

Mark Kunac, Sierra Leone



"I can't believe our time here is almost over. We have done some wonderful things here and lives have improved. The emergency cases kept many of us on our toes and I have sent up prayers and pleas for everyone we have encountered. Our first emergency case smiles brighter each morning and sits up to greet us this morning. The emergent case from yesterday, ask to get out of bed and walk. Her mother, only a few steps away, continue to thank us for our help. "I can't pay you, but thank God for you". This is priceless and makes this trip so worth it. Thinking about what would have happened had we not been here is terrifying. A young life cut short, a man unable to provide for his family and the agony of pain and despair unthinkable."

*Stephanie Burroughs, RN,
Sierra Leone*

Thank you to all of our volunteers, Sponsors
and generous donors!

Upcoming Events

May ISHI Team at the 5 Borough Bike Tour, NYC
June 9 ISHI Picnic at Liberty State Park
December Holiday Party

Missions 2013

Ormoc City, Philippines
Ghana (Planning)
Kabala, Sierra Leone

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