

In Touch

June 27, 2014–July 10, 2014 ■ Volume 13, Issue 12

Table of Contents

Welcome New Physicians 2
 Regional Update 2
 Help Us Preserve a Vital Part of
 Mercy's Legacy 2
 Sister Roch Transforms Health Care,
 Earns Lifetime Achievement Award ... 3
 Mercy Hospital Berryville President
 Leads by Example 3
 R-E-S-P-E-C-T! Who Has Yours? 3
 Get Help Fast with Summer and Holiday
 Care at the Co-worker Clinic 3



Mercy Mosaic 3

Mercy Now Offering Convenient Care
 in Eureka Springs 4
 Statewide Awareness Week Draws
 Attention to Upsurge in Diabetes
 Cases 4
 News Brief and Calendar 4
 Co-worker Services, Offers and
 Announcements 4

NONPROFIT ORG
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 PERMIT NO. 1443
 SPRINGFIELD, MO

MERCY SPRINGFIELD COMMUNITIES
 SPRINGFIELD MO 65804

Mercy Uniting With Rotarians to Change Lives in Tlaquepaque



Eddie Spain, third from right, and fellow Rotarians David and Julie Bixler, fourth and fifth from left, hosted their Tlaquepaque visitors, including Enrique Garcia Vidrio (left), Dr. Lorenzo Alvarez and his wife, Suzanna.

Clean drinking water shouldn't be a luxury. But in the poorest neighborhoods of Tlaquepaque, Mexico, we wouldn't think of drinking the wells' brownish-green water. The residents there haven't had a choice. Until now.

And until now, life-saving medical equipment and surgical instruments would've also been considered a luxury for Dr. Lorenzo Alvarez. That's changing too, thanks to the efforts of Springfield's Metro Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce and Mercy.

"As we toured the barrios where Dr. Lorenzo provides outbound care, I asked him what his medical needs were," said co-worker Eddie Spain. In 2012, Eddie and other Rotarians visited Tlaquepaque to bring and help install water filters. They also met Dr. Lorenzo, who runs a neighborhood clinic and works at a public hospital.

"Dr. Lorenzo said they didn't have a defibrillator," he explained. Defibrillators restore a heart's normal rhythm; without one, Eddie knew his patients could die. Realizing the severity of their medical needs, Eddie said, "As soon as I got home, I made some calls to

ROI and other departments to see if we could help."

Eddie was thrilled to discover we had four decommissioned defibrillators, which were cleared to give to Dr. Lorenzo. We'd also decommissioned other items he needed: an EKG machine, cardiac monitor and an endoscopy set. "As our standard of care has changed, so too has our equipment with upgrades," Eddie said. "We were no longer using these things, but they'll be put to good use for saving lives in Tlaquepaque!"

In 2003, Tlaquepaque became one of Springfield's Sister Cities, and subsequently, Springfield's Metro Rotary began working with Rotarians there to address the community's filthy water. "It was making people sick," Eddie said. Today, hundreds of filtration systems have been installed in neighborhood wells - each one serving up to 30 families who now have clean drinking water.

The simple yet ingenious idea behind Sister City programs is that true cross-cultural understanding and mutual support has grown out of individual friendships and relationships. That's what makes

any service program sustainable. "It wouldn't do any good to determine the needs if we didn't have someone there we can rely on," Eddie added.

In the case of our medical donations, Dr. Lorenzo and fellow Rotarian Enrique Garcia Vidrio keep track of each item to assure they're being used to help patients in the clinic or hospital. "We've also built solid connections with the Mexican Red Cross to get items through customs, across the border and delivered to Tlaquepaque."

After Eddie's initial inquiry about Mercy's decommissioned items, he learned there was much more sitting in our warehouses and across our facilities. We started collecting these extras, in hopes of meeting many of Dr. Lorenzo's other medical equipment needs. In May, Dr. Lorenzo and his wife, who is his surgical assistant, brought a group from Tlaquepaque to Springfield. At Eddie's request, he had made a list of his clinic's needs, never dreaming that what we had would fulfill them all.

"When we went to the warehouse and he and his wife saw how much was there, they

both broke down in tears. He told me, 'I have prayed my whole life that we would have furniture in our clinic. Now we will have furniture for the first time.'"

It's also the first time students from an orphanage will do their school work at desks rather than on their laps while sitting on the ground. The desks and chairs we'd been storing at one of our warehouses have long been replaced; to us, they were extras. But for Joseline, a member of the group who runs the orphanage and school, the desks were another prayer answered. "I had no idea why I was supposed to be here," she told the group. "Now, I know why."

We also had two exam tables and other furniture for Dr. Lorenzo's clinic, as well as beds and mattresses, IV poles, surgical instruments, stethoscopes, a pediatric scale, collapsible walker, dressing supplies and modern ventilators. After their week-long stay, they returned home, eternally grateful and anxious to begin using our donations.

"We started with what we have here, and we worked to provide what is needed there," Eddie concluded. "It's just the right thing to do."