

BRIDGE NEWS

Building bridges worldwide with compassion, joy, smiles, and heart, one person at a time

Autumn 2012

What do you want to begin?

One of the most amazing things about being involved with HMO is that every day, every new volunteer experience, every new community, and every new patient we care for represents a new beginning. Patients regain healthy teeth and the pleasure of smiling, as well as new-found confidence. Volunteers discover their caring sides, and experience the true happiness that comes from giving.

Together, they enable each other to grow and better understand themselves and each other. It's this idea of what you can begin that can take the world by storm. The "mission" in Health Mission Outreach is to spark these new beginnings and to connect volunteers with patients in ways that enable them to see themselves and each other in new ways. I am amazed each time I attend a clinic because I see this positive change firsthand, and it has the potential to affect a person's entire life! So the next time you think of HMO, remember that you are the spark! **YOU** are the new beginning, and we extend our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to you always!

Valerie Campbell,
Board Chair



Rotary Club of York

The Health Mission Outreach is pleased to announce a new relationship with the Rotary Club of York. As an organization that believes in "sharing and making dreams real in local and global communities", they were a natural fit for a partnership. Ms. Wendy Mong is the President of the Rotary Club of York (2012-2013) and gave us some background on its involvement with HMO.

When and how did the Rotary Club of York decide to support Health Mission Outreach?

In January 2012, Dr. Lun Hangfu was invited to be a guest speaker at one of our meetings. The club was impressed with the mandate and the work done by HMO, so when the Gala Committee needed to identify a recipient of this year's Fundraising Gala in September, we looked for an organization that takes part in sustainable service projects related to the Rotary's areas of focus: HMO fit perfectly!



What does it mean to you to support a charity like HMO?

Rotary's commitment to service above self has been channeled through both community and international service projects, which form the foundation of our club activities. The guiding principle of community service covers the projects and activities the club undertakes to improve life in its community. Internationally, this includes actions taken to expand Rotary's humanitarian reach around the globe and to promote world understanding and peace. By supporting HMO, Rotarians can support international service by sponsoring a project in another country, or to support projects in their own communities by personally volunteering at project sites, such as HMO's mobile clinics.

How do you envision this partnership growing in the future?

HMO is one of the organizations that has been proposed by the Service Project Chair, Mr. Grayson Lew, to be incorporated in our application to the District Grant in 2013. Hopefully will get further funding to help the growth of HMO and the collaboration of both organizations.



Mission to Paraguay, July 2012

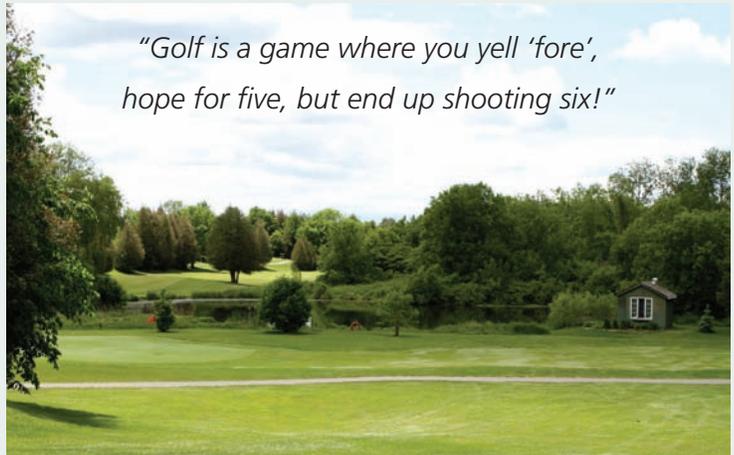
HMO is pleased to report on our very successful Paraguay mission that was held from the 5th to the 13th of July. HMO has recently returned from el Ciudad del Estes and shares the details of its journey in the Corazón de América:

- Overall, the mission was wonderful! We saw about 500 patients and provided about \$150,000 to \$200,000 worth of free dental service.
- "One gentleman told us that he tried to save for four years to have his teeth treated but today he is happy that he got it for free!" (*Lun's Journal, July 8th, 2012*)
- The country of Paraguay was beautiful and rich in culture, and even though the working area was very small and difficult to move around in (the conditions were not ideal) we made it work! All the doctors and volunteers have expressed interest to return in 2013.

We would like to thank the doctors, volunteers and Paraguay volunteers, the patients and friends that made this mission a success. We would also like to thank the Paraguay Ambassador, his staff and the Embassy in Ottawa for all the assistance to make this mission possible.



HEALTH MISSION OUTREACH 2012 *Charity Classic*



*"Golf is a game where you yell 'fore',
hope for five, but end up shooting six!"*

HMO recently participated in its 3rd annual golfing event. It was held on Tuesday, June 5th at the Sleepy Hollow Country Club, a beautiful golf course in Stouffville, Ontario. There were 102 golfers that helped us to raise money and support for a great cause. It was a fantastic success and we were able to raise over \$15,000 to support future projects for building healthy smiles.



The Rotary Golf Tournament

Four of our members also represented HMO and participated in the 11th annual Rotary Golf Tournament held on June 27th. The event was held at the Mandarin Golf and Country Club in Markham, Ontario.



Brampton Clinic in June

On Saturday, June 16th, HMO once again gathered together all our amazing volunteers, equipment, and gusto to hold a medical and dental clinic in Brampton, Ontario.

The clinic took place at the New Life Community Church (9281 Goreway Drive, Brampton). We had more than 30 dental stations available along with an acupuncturist and chiropractors. Thanks to our hardworking volunteers, we were able to serve over 180 patients.

Great job, everyone!



International Missions

HMO looks forward to the development and expansion of our work all around the world. Here are some updates for the international projects that have been in the works so far:

El Salvador

We have recently organized one of our most amazing mission opportunities yet! HMO has been invited by the Mayor of San Salvador, El Salvador's capital city, to conduct a week-long dental and medical clinic. We will be there for 8 - 10 days around the end of October. *¡Qué bueno!*

Nicaragua

HMO has been interested in hosting a mission in Nicaragua, and good news is on the way! We are in the last stages of approval and anticipate moving forward in the near future.

China

The possibility of a mission to China is still in negotiation with the Chinese Health Ministry to obtain approval. HMO is eagerly awaiting the next steps of this process and will provide updates when possible.

Upcoming HMO Events

Mark your calendars! Here are the upcoming HMO missions that will be happening on Canadian soil.

Calgary, Alberta

HMO will be returning to Calgary on September 15th, 2012. We will be holding our clinic at the Wing Kei Senior Care Centre (1212 Centre Street NE, Calgary) from 9am to 5pm.

Toronto, Ontario

For Torontonians in need, HMO's next free medical and dental clinic will be held on Saturday, November 10th at the Church on the Queensway (1533 The Queensway, Toronto) from 9am to 5pm.

If you're looking for a way to start a new journey with HMO, you're in luck! We are looking for volunteers to assist us at each clinic.

Contact Lun Hangfu at LHANGFU@yahoo.ca for details.



For more information on HMO and upcoming activities...

Giving makes you Smile!

Research shows that giving is one of the surest ways to happiness. Being a part of something bigger than yourself also leads to better health!

Here is my gift!

Name _____

Address _____

_____ City _____

Province _____ Postal code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

My gift of: \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250

Other _____

Credit Card: VISA MasterCard Amex

Number _____

Security code _____ Exp _____

Name on card _____

Please call me to discuss my giving.

Phone _____

Best time to call _____

Thank you!



Publisher's Note

As the new publisher for the Health Mission Outreach Bridge News, I am delighted to present the latest news and stories from our volunteers, partners, and friends. The great work that is done by HMO is an inspiration to me, and I look forward to continually sharing the many wonderful stories with you.

All the best,

Emily



Emily Harris is a graduate student at the University of Ottawa. She has been volunteering with HMO in various capacities since 2010.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Pasquale Duronio has been a dentist in Ontario and Pennsylvania for the past 35 years. He always wanted an avenue to give back to those most in need, and when he saw Health Mission Outreach's ad in Oral Health Magazine, he

knew it was the right opportunity.

Dr. Duronio joined the HMO team in 2010 on its mission to Paraguay. After two and a half days of transportation by plane, bus and boat, he arrived at his final destination of Port Diana where he provided extensive care to those at the village. Dr. Duronio and the other volunteers saw hundreds of patients pass through their boat from the early hours of the morning until sunset.

"We didn't always have time for lunch," he says. "I normally just grabbed a coffee and went back to work."

From Paraguay to Toronto, a lot of people around the world suffer from severe dental problems without access to proper care and is usually the case until organizations like HMO step in. So why did Dr. Duronio decide to come onboard?

"I think HMO is a pretty unique organization," he says. "They really don't have much in administrative costs. Everyone is a volunteer so pretty well all of the money they raise goes to programs. That was one of the things that attracted me to the organization. Unfortunately, I've looked at some charities that have costs really out of line. So it was interesting to see that they were running things with 100% of funds going towards programming."

Gregory Declara is a Journalism student at Ryerson University, and a volunteer HMO journalist

Other News

The Floss Ball

Please note that the annual HMO Floss Ball has been postponed until further notice.