



The Bulletin of the Project HOPE Alumni Association

President's Message

Fall 2008

ALUMNI CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PROJECT HOPE



By Valerie Cook, President
Project Hope Alumni Association

The 50th anniversary celebration of the Project HOPE Alumni Association was a grand event. Hopies from the first voyage in 1958, to the present humanitarian missions with the Navy, gathered at the Marriott Key Bridge Hotel in Arlington, VA for 2 days of festivities.

A bus trip to Millwood, VA was a huge success with gorgeous autumn leaves and warm weather for walking around the grounds. We met in the conference room and were briefed by several members of the Development and Communications Dept. Melanie Mullinax, online writer, probably got the most questions from alumni after she taught us how to surf the Project HOPE website and then offered suggestions for future alumni blogs. Jack Blanks, Director of Strategic Alliances, had a display of Children's Art that was done in Shanghai and is now available for purchase. Our last speaker was Burt Kaplan, Director of Facilities & Maintenance. He gave us a slide presentation of the history of HOPE Center that was enjoyed by all. Then it was off to Carter Hall for a BBQ lunch and an opportunity to see more of the area before returning to the hotel!

At the general alumni meeting, Stuart Myers presented a Global Health Department update and Rand Walton discussed future humanitarian missions with HOPE volunteers and the US Navy. The Navy is utilizing both white hospital ships, USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy plus several gray hulls for the humanitarian missions. This allows for more missions because the gray hulls can go into smaller areas than the big white ships.

A short questionnaire that was prepared by a Special Task Force to evaluate the future of our association was presented to the alumni. The missions and the demographics of our present volunteers have changed so it is essential that we know the best direction for this organization. The questionnaire can be found in this edition of the **BULLETIN** and we are asking all alumni to respond by mail or email. The board anticipates meeting next spring to discuss the data obtained from the questionnaire.

Martin Lees, MD and the four regional directors were commended for the outstanding job they did on editing the

alumni directory this past year. The list was reduced from over 2800 members to about 800 members who want to be actively involved or receive limited communication from the alumni association. This saves manpower, supplies, and postage!!

The election results were announced before the meeting was adjourned. New officers will assume office July 1, 2010.

VP/President elect: Esther Kooiman (CA)
Secy/Treasurer: Michele Okamoto (HI)
Members at Large: Dr. Martin Lees (OR)
Diane Speranza (FL)

The Banquet was definitely the culmination of the reunion. It was attended by over 180 alumni, family, friends and guests. It was truly a time to celebrate the vision and pioneering spirit of Dr. WB Walsh and look to the future of Project HOPE. Letters of congratulations were read from Mary Eisenhower, CEO of PTPI, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, and San Francisco Mayor, Gavin Newsom.

Tony Burchard welcomed the alumni/guests, Sister Thelma Mitchell gave the Invocation and Dr. John Howe, CEO was the keynote speaker. Helen Walsh and sons, Bill, John and Tom were among several other special guests. After Dr Howe's presentation, he accepted two donations of money and two books dedicated to Project HOPE. Then Ed Rawson, a civilian who directed the conversion of the SS Consolation to the SS HOPE, addressed the group very unexpectedly and received a standing ovation. IT WAS A SPECIAL NIGHT!

The reunion proved to be a wonderful time to visit and reminisce. From the comments of attendees, the reunion exceeded expectations and I want to thank all of the board members who helped to make it such a memorable event. For those of you who were unable to attend, we hope that friends will share stories and pictures with you.

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Reunion Pictures

If you would like pictures from the 50th anniversary alumni reunion events please contact Carol Fredriksen at 16 Depot Rd. Falmouth, Maine 04105 or email her at Fredriks@maine.rr.com. 5x7 reprints will be \$5.00 for the first and \$3.00 for each additional reprint. There is no cost if you would just like an electronic file of the pictures sent to your email. Thank you.

The Future of the Alumni Association

By Val Cook

A Special Task Force was formed a few months ago to discuss the future of the Project HOPE Alumni Association. Do we need an organization? Are you willing to be proactive and contribute to the organization? What are the post mission needs of recent volunteers? The committee concluded that it was essential that all alumni be given the opportunity to decide the future of the organization.

A short questionnaire was developed and is included in this edition of the BULLETIN. Please take a few minutes to complete and return before Jan 1, 2009. You may respond by regular mail or email to the address at the bottom of the questionnaire. Thank You.

2008 Project HOPE Alumni Association Questionnaire

Purpose/Mission Statement:

To support and keep members informed of Project HOPE's progress, to interpret HOPE's goals, and communicate program goals to others, and to promote a spirit of loyalty and unity among former volunteers, staff, counterparts, and friends.

Participation

1. Do we need an alumni association? Yes _____ No _____
If yes, please list the reasons why you believe an Alumni association is needed
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. Are you interested in active volunteer status with the association? Yes _____ No _____
If yes, do you routinely scan HOPE's website to view volunteer openings? Yes _____ No _____
3. Would you participate in an **annual regional** gathering or event? Yes _____ No _____
4. Would you participate at a **national** event if held every 5 years? Yes _____ No _____

Communication

5. Should the Association continue to send an Alumni Newsletter? Yes _____ No _____
If yes, how often? Biannual _____ Annual _____
6. Would you use a Project HOPE website to stay connected with other alumni and keep up-to-date on missions and programs? Yes _____ No _____

Comments

We welcome your comments regarding this questionnaire and about the Alumni Association in general. Please make your comments here.

Please return the Questionnaire before January 1, 2009 by mail or email to: Esther Kooiman, PO Box 725, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956 or kooiman@svn.net (Please type HOPE in the subject line for email responses). THANK YOU.

Your Contact Information:

Name _____ Phone # _____
Mailing Address _____
Email Address _____
Project HOPE Mission/affiliation _____ Dates _____

The Project HOPE Alumni Association

By Carol Fredriksen, Past Alumni President

The Project HOPE Alumni Association was founded in October 1978, at the time of a general meeting of alumni held at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC. Mike Kraft of HOPE'S Development Department was the moving force, along with Dr. Walsh. Dr. Red Diskan was elected the first President. Since that time the following have served the Association:

Judy Berner, Herb Bloom, Paul Cherney, Wally Chipman, Carol Fredriksen, Eldon Ellis, Joanne Jene, Jean Kohn, Sam Kron, Al Long, Alice Mild, Harold Royaltey, Nancy Savage, and currently, Val Cook.

The purpose of the Alumni Association has been refined over the years and currently reads: "The purpose of the Alumni Association shall be to allow its members to be regularly informed of the progress of Project HOPE and to continuously support the organization through the knowledge, skills, financial resources and loyalty to alumni; to communicate and interpret HOPE's goals, achievements, and current program efforts to others; to promote a spirit of unity and loyalty among former program volunteers, staff, counterparts and friends."

In line with the purpose of financial resources, members present at the initial 1978 meeting confirmed their interest in supporting the library at the HOPE Center. In these initial years, significant funds were raised to support the library and the archives. The archives were named in honor of Ethel Black. Over the years other donations were made to The HOPE Center including the Footer terrace, Leslie Kron cabin, Philadelphia bridge, Al Long trees, Priscilla Strong Ellis conference room, Sam Kron bench, Tom Kirby bench, and Al Childs bench and tree. These donations are recognized with plaques at the HOPE Center.

In 1992, alumni worked on the William B. Walsh, M.D. Endowment Fund in support of a chair in international health. It was felt this chair would create a lasting legacy to Dr. Walsh's vision. An alumni representative is always involved with the selection of the individuals who occupy the chair. As a result of her involvement with the Alumni Association, Lee Olive Harrison, an alumnus of the Peru and Ecuador voyages, established a nursing fellowship program. An alumni representative is involved with how this money is used.

Organizing groups nationally was thought to be of value to keep people involved as well as provide speakers for organizations. As a result, the organization appointed regional directors. Currently the following serve: Irene Machado (Central Region), Edie McKenna (Mid-Atlantic Region), Ed Newbert (Northeast Region), Eunice Childs (Rocky Mountain/West Region).

Initially, dues were charged to offset the costs of the Association to the Foundation. The Director of

Development did away with the dues in 1993, and indicated other methods of fundraising would take care of these expenses.

An alumni publication was felt essential, separate from the HOPE News. For many years the BULLETIN was published three times per year. In recent years the Foundation has struggled to publish to this BULLETIN on a timely basis. Harris Publishing Company has produced two books listing information on HOPE Alumni, the last one being in 1993.

National Reunions:

- 1978-Washington, DC
- 1979-Millwood, VA
- 1980-San Francisco, CA
- 1981-Chicago, IL
- 1982-Philadelphia, PA
- 1983-Washington, DC
- 1988-San Francisco, CA
- 1993-Albuquerque, NM
- 1996-Seattle, WA
- 1998-Washington, DC
- 2002-Chicago, IL
- 2005-San Francisco, CA
- 2008-Arlington, VA.



HOPE Auction Report

By Ester Pierce Kooiman

Once again we had a great time during the one-day Silent Auction. We had the largest number of donated items, over 220 pieces large and small. Here is a list of some of the unique pieces and what they sold for:

- Lucite blocks with pieces of the Berlin Wall, \$5 each
- Silverware from the **USS Consolation** (before it became the **SS HOPE**), \$50
- Navy dishes and serving pieces, also from the **USS Consolation**, \$150
- Framed yellow and black poster of **SS HOPE**, \$150
- Certificates from a hotel in Washington, DC, \$100, a restaurant at the Watergate, \$70, and use of a condominium in San Francisco, \$250 (the highest amount paid for any item this year)
- Piece of the SS HOPE, railing with brass plate, \$150
- Art pieces from Ceylon, Guinea, Tunisia, Jamaica, Guatemala, Ecuador, Egypt, Indonesia, Peru, Brazil and America.
- Personal art from Judy Howell and Sue Kibbe Van Der Wal, both Hopies.

The total amount of income from this auction was \$4,005, which included sales of Blue Bags with the HOPE logo. This is the most money made from a reunion auction.

Thank you to each of the 26 donors for sending their items to us for sale. We even had a very special last-minute donation of two items from Guinea given to me by my hotel maid. She saw what we were working on and wanted to give something to thank us for helping her countrymen in Guinea.

World of Love

Chinese Children's Painting Exhibitions

By Jack Blanks

Project HOPE and three children's hospitals in Shanghai, Beijing and Taipei have organized a children's art competition to promote a "World of Love" and to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Shanghai Children's Medical Center, the 25th anniversary of Project HOPE in China and HOPE's 50th Anniversary worldwide.

The "World of Love" children's art competition and exhibits are a testament to children's resilience and hope. Painting on themes of Hope, Harmony, Life and Love, children from local schools and the three hospitals produced over 4,500 pictures. The initiative gives patients a creative outlet to work through the medical challenges they face everyday and school kids a chance to show their support and love for children who are hospitalized and coping with major illnesses.

All artwork was sent to the Shanghai Children's Medical Center for official judging and the winners were announced at an award ceremony on International Children's Day (June 1, 2008) hosted by Dr. John P. Howe, III, M.D., President and CEO of Project HOPE and Professor Liu Jinfen, M.D., Director, Shanghai Children's Medical Center.



"Sisters Playing in the Springtime"
Zhun Cheyen, Age 7



"Summertime"
Ma Yuli, Age 7

Project HOPE has brought 950 pieces of the art to the United States for multiple exhibits, events and eventual sale to generate funds for our children's health projects in China.

Our first exhibit will be in San Francisco at the **Pacific Heritage Museum** from November 18, 2008 to February 14, 2009 with nearly 100 pieces of art on display. We will kick off this exhibit with a reception on November 19th, 2008 from 6:00-8:00 PM. If you would like an invitation or can assist as a volunteer at the reception please contact Jack Blanks at jblanks@projecthope.org or Siobhan Alfonos at salfonso@projecthope.org.

In addition to the sale of the art at exhibits, we have ordered related merchandise that we would like to sell to raise funds. We have beautiful silk scarves in six different designs and cards that come 10 to a box. Each card features a different work of children's art. Scarves are \$25 and cards sell for \$10 per box. An

art book displaying 130 works of art is also available for \$40.00. Scarf and card samples will be displayed on our Web site at www.projecthope.org/childrensart/. To place an order please contact Jack or Siobhan at the above email addresses.

Volunteers Participate in 2008 HOPE Navy Missions Across the Globe

By Marisol Euceda

Project HOPE volunteers began a very busy volunteer year in March as they headed out on the first 2008 joint mission with the United States Navy. Participating in Partnership Africa Station, Project HOPE volunteers worked in the West African countries of Ghana and Liberia offering health care and health education to the local communities.

Working in a local clinic in Tema, Ghana and then at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital in Monrovia, Liberia 40 Project HOPE volunteers provided pharmacy seminars, midwifery and basic emergency health care training to local providers in both countries. In Ghana, volunteers also worked along side the staff of the Manhean Clinic in Tema.

In Liberia, Project HOPE volunteers also participated in rounds with medical students and worked along side the few medical staff at JFK hospital. Project HOPE also sent a physical therapist to the war torn nation to help with the physical rehabilitation of patients, many of whom are victims of war, as well as to teach techniques and work along side the only two physical therapists available at the hospital.

Once the premier hospital of West Africa, JFK is now a victim of a civil war and years of neglect that have left it in serious need of rehabilitation. Due to surges in electricity, much of the equipment had been damaged and remained in disrepair so Project HOPE also sent two biomedical equipment technicians to Liberia who were able to repair 36 different pieces of much needed medical equipment.

Project HOPE donated over \$4 million worth of medicines and medical supplies to Ghana and Liberia. In all the mission to West Africa allowed 1,517 patients to be treated, and 667 students to attend training courses.

In May, Project HOPE volunteers headed to the west coast of Latin America aboard the USS Boxer as part of Continuing Promise 2008. The team of 18 volunteers joined their Navy counterparts in Guatemala and provided basic health care, health education and humanitarian assistance to families of the local communities.

The crew aboard the USS Boxer portion of Continuing Promise 2008 treated over 14,000 patients, performed 151 surgeries and had over 13,000 students attend training courses. Project HOPE also donated over \$500, 000 in medical supplies and medicines to the mission.

In June, over 400 military medical personnel, college students, non-governmental organizations and Project HOPE volunteers boarded the USNS Mercy hospital ship headed to Southeast Asia. The mission took volunteers to Vietnam, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and the Federated States of Micronesia. This was the mission to Southeast Asia with the U.S. Navy and resulted in more than 90,000 patients treated including 1,300 surgeries.

The last mission of 2008 got underway in August aboard the USS Kearsarge along the east coast of Latin America. Nearly 50 Project HOPE volunteers will participate in this mission to provide humanitarian assistance to the region. Project HOPE volunteers have so far participated in the Nicaragua and Dominican Republic portions of the mission. A few Project HOPE volunteers also had the opportunity to participate in an impromptu mission to Haiti where they helped deliver supplies and health care to victims of the four hurricanes that hit the nation. Volunteers will also participate in the Guyana portion of the mission before heading home.

To learn more about Project HOPE's partnership and work with the U.S. Navy humanitarian mission please visit www.projecthope.org/wherewehelp/hopnavyprograms.asp and to hear about our volunteers visit our blog at www.projecthopeintheblogspot.com.



Project HOPE Donation Mail

By Val Cook

Many alumni have voiced concerns that they receive so much donor request mail from Project HOPE that it is no longer opened and alumni association mail is missed. I contacted Dorothy Combs at HOPE Center in Millwood and was assured that each donor can request exactly how much mail that is received from HOPE. Contact her office by phone (800) 544-4673 or by email at hope@projecthope.org. A form is also included for your convenience on the back page.

You can limit requests to:

- HOPE NEWS only
- 1-12 monthly solicitations per year
- Do not solicit
- No planned giving

In Memorium

Carl E. Gingles
Theodore M. Myers

House of Representatives Introduces Resolution to Recognize Project HOPE

By Marisol Euceda

In September, Congressman Jim Cooper (D-TN) introduced **Resolution H.RES. 1484** "Recognizing Project HOPE for 50 years of exceptional service in improving and saving the lives of millions of children and adults in developing nations through humanitarian assistance and health education." Please help to obtain support signatures by asking members of Congress for passage of the resolution so it may be entered into the Congressional Record.

There is no partisan related issue regarding this resolution – just recognition of good will and humanitarian assistance by Project HOPE over the past 50 years. Please take a short moment to contact your congressmen via phone, e-mail, or through the mail. Your representative's contact information is available at www.house.gov. or you can also visit the Project HOPE website at www.projecthope.org.



Contact the Alumni Board of Directors with Your Suggestions

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Dear HOPEgiver,

We value your relationship with us and want you to be in control of when and how often you hear from us. Please complete this form and return it at any time in the enclosed envelope. If it is easier you may call us at 800-544-4673 or email us at hope@projecthope.org.

Thank you!

Donor Relations Team

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

By giving my email address. I authorize Project HOPE to communicate with me via email.

- Yes, please send me all communications.
- Yes, please mail me once a quarter plus the HOPE newsletter.
- Yes, please only contact me through email. (Please provide email information above).
- Yes, please send me information about Circle of HOPE monthly giving program.
- Please don't rent or exchange my name with other charities or organizations.
- Please don't call me with urgent requests.

It may take between 4-6 weeks for your requests to take effect. Please return this portion of the newsletter to:
Project HOPE, 255 Carter Hall Lane, Millwood, VA 22646



Project HOPE
255 Carter Hall Lane
Millwood, VA 22646