



Newsletter December 2012

In General

Medical Aid Abroad is a charity which collects unwanted, excess medical supplies and equipment from various sources around Auckland and New Zealand, and forwards them to clinics and organisations overseas who have need of them.

Our organisation has been in operation for well over 30 years and has seen many changes in that time. We have grown from supplies being sent in soldered biscuit tins to sending tens of boxes and even entire containers to places such as Libya, Tanzania, Fiji and the Solomon Islands.

We have moved premises several times and for various reasons, generally expanding as we have moved. Our storage rooms are 250 square metres of basement under Greenland Hospital, with shelves three tiers high. It is amazing to see how far this (still very little) charity has come.

The clinics and organisations we help to supply send through lists of equipment needed. The requested supplies, if in stock, are then packed into boxes by MAA volunteers on a Wednesday morning and sent off. We have included several of the letters sent back to us expressing thanks for the supplies provided.

We have resided in Greenlane thanks to the kind generosity of the Auckland District Health Board, and remain very grateful for their kindness.

Stories From Abroad

The following are excerpts from letters and emails sent by recipients of supplies from MAA:

Fiji

"On behalf of the Ramakrishna Mission, I convey our grateful thanks for your organization's support and assistance to our Sarada Medical Centre. The weekly number of patients has quickly increased from 46 to 153. Most of the patients are from the poor section of the community. We have started with some basic equipment and services and hope to develop the centre to provide better care to the poor and needy. May the Divine Lord bless you all for your support."

- Swami Tadananda, Ramakrishna Mission.

Nepal

"We had a visit yesterday from a young patient, Sita Pariyar, who has lived with double club feet for 25 years. But now see her photos!!



Both of her feet were facing backwards but and her family had no funds to afford the surgery. However, thanks to ALTSO for rehab funds and some from the Cornwall UK contingent, after 1 year of surgical treatment, pins and infection care, her feet are vastly improved. Now to help her walk better! We noticed she arrived wearing handmade leather shoes which

gave no ankle support, so we fitted her with moon boots that MAANZ gave us. They now make her walk so nicely! Thanks MAANZ!

Her old shoes were then given to another young girl who needed them and arrived a few hours later!!"

- Rob Buchanan, MEND

Taveuni Island

"The box you packed 26th September for the Taveuni Rotary Club Vurevure Village Dispensary was delivered yesterday. The village health worker/nurse was delighted with the contents and was extremely grateful. The village leader was also very appreciative of your contribution. The contents of this box are ideal for remote communities and a major help to the health workers.

Thanks to all who made it possible.

- Geoffrey Amos, Rotary Club of Taveuni Island

The Philippines

"It is a great honour to accept all the medical supplies and equipment you have sent to us. Indeed, our compassionate God is working equally in us though we are in different places and nationality. Through your kindness in helping Michael McGivern to send the equipment, many lives will be saved.

My family and my neighbours were so happy and blessed to have them all. Rest assured that all the things you have send will be used accordingly and I will be a good steward of them all. Our loving God is full of surprises for those faithful servants who walk in His path. I really appreciate the goodness of your heart together with Michael who continually updates us and never tires in helping the Filipino. We may not return the favour you have done in us but I believe that through prayers we can reach you. Our labour is not in vain, thank the lord."

- Mercy Grace. P Posadas, Philippines

Contributions

Should you decide you would like to support us in the work we do, we would welcome any financial contribution you may care to make to MAA. We manage to maintain very low running costs, as we have a dedicated, amazing team of volunteers who do the hard work of sorting, packing and sending equipment, we still have running costs and overheads which need to be met. We are very grateful for the generous support we receive.

You can either send us a cheque to the address below, or donate online using the following details:

Medical Aid Abroad

Bank a/c no. 06-0287-0232094-25

Please use your name as a reference so that we can forward your receipt to you.

Medical Aid Abroad NZ

PO Box 26336

Greenlane Central

Auckland 1546

MAA is a registered charity (Charities Comm No. CC20916) and as such you can claim back the tax on any donation made. A receipt will be sent out to you for this purpose.

Our Thanks

We would like to thank all of our donating suppliers; without the donations of companies such as EBOS, Propharma, PWR and a range of Medical Centres, Pharmacies etc. we would have nothing to donate. Our deepest, most sincere thanks for your generosity and the work you put into supplying material to us.

Merry Christmas!

We would like to wish all of our members, supporters and suppliers a very merry Christmas and a truly wonderful New Year!

It has been a big year for most people, and certainly for the world. We wish you a year of growth, prosperity and peace in 2013.

