

*“Bringing hope and
changing the
lives of the people
we serve overseas
and in Hawai‘i.”*



Aloha Medical Mission



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The Aloha Medical Mission

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." --Margaret Mead (1901-1978), cultural anthropologist

The Aloha Medical Mission (AMM), a secular, nonprofit 501(c)(3) volunteer organization based in Honolulu, Hawai'i, provides free health care to underserved people in the Pacific, Asia, and Hawai'i.

The Aloha Medical Mission was founded in 1983, when a team of physicians and nurses traveled to a small Philippine town and performed free cleft lip surgery on children whose families were too poor to afford the operation. As the years passed, we took teams to other countries. The number of missions increased and the types of surgery expanded.

In the early 1990s, we began programs to bring free medical care to the homeless, uninsured, and indigent in the State of Hawai'i. We expanded to provide free dental services in 2002.

In 2008, the Aloha Medical Mission was chosen by the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council (PAAC) to receive the Paul S. Bachman Award. Since 1957, this award has been presented to noted individuals and organizations that focus on improving the livelihood and health of impoverished communities throughout Asia and the Pacific. AMM was recognized for its many years of humanitarian service. Since 2005, three volunteers have received national award recognition for their humanitarian activities conducted through the Aloha Medical Mission.

The medical missions sent abroad and the local projects conducted on O'ahu are now the primary activities of the Aloha Medical Mission, and we are committed to strengthening and expanding these services. To accomplish this, we need your help in our efforts to secure a sustainable source of funding.

AMM's Current Programs

A 7-year-old child with a cleft lip undergoes a 45-minute corrective operation. In an instant, her reclusive life of isolation has been transformed into one of normalcy. A young farmer has his disabling hernia repaired and, within three weeks, is fully functional and better able to support his family.

Medical and Surgical Missions Abroad

In the past 28 years, the AMM has treated over a quarter of a million patients and performed more than 17,000 operations overseas. More than 140 medical missions have gone to 16 countries (including the Philippines, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Vanuatu, Laos, Burma, Nepal, Papua New Guinea,

the Solomon Islands, and Micronesia). Over one week, a typical surgical mission will treat more than 300 patients. Medically-oriented missions might treat 2,000-3,000 or more patients. Our doctors, nurses, and lay volunteers pay their own travel expenses and work with the local physicians and nurses, providing care to patients as well as education to the staff. Supplies of gloves, sutures, instruments, medical equipment, and drugs are donated for the local hospitals' later use.

Every donated dollar is leveraged many times over by the multiplying factor of volunteerism. A typical mission will perform 110 major, 200 minor, and 200 dental operations at a cost of \$200 per surgery (with an average total mission cost of \$60,000 including travel expenses). The comparable cost of a single procedure would be \$1,000 to \$5,000 in-country or \$3,000 to \$10,000 in the USA. Each mission thus delivers about \$1.5 million of in-kind care. By US standards, the Aloha Medical Mission has given more than \$100 million of medical services to deserving patients in foreign countries. More importantly than statistics, however, many individual lives have been forever altered by the repair of a cleft lip, a hernia, the pulling of an infected tooth, or the treatment of pneumonia.

In 2009, we sent seven medical/surgical missions to the Philippines, Laos, and Burma. In each of the years 2010 and 2011, AMM conducted missions to the Philippines (3), Bangladesh, Burma, and Nepal.

Our other projects include:

1. Collaboration with the Ellen Meadows Prosthetic Hand Foundation (EMPHF) began in 2010 with a single mission to Nepal and was extended to Bacolod in the Philippines. We provided a lightweight, durable, simply operated, and easily attached artificial hand to hand amputees free of charge. AMM has now committed to distributing this revolutionary prosthetic device on all of its future overseas missions. See www.LN-4.org for more information on this exciting project.
2. A medical clinic in Bangladesh (**Aloha Social Services Bangladesh**), started 10 years ago, has developed into a multiservice facility providing medical care, early education for children too poor to attend school, vocational and literacy training for parents, advocacy for women's rights, and micro-loans to needy families. The clinics see about 4,000 patients a year. We are in discussions with the Shriners Hospital in Honolulu to help care for children seen in these clinics with orthopedic problems.
3. In collaboration with the Shiraki Memorial Foundation, we have sent five cargo containers of medical supplies to hospitals in Cebu City and Bacolod. Working with REPAC (Reach Out Pacific), we have sent respirators and medical supplies donated by local hospitals to hospitals in Micronesia. In 2010, we sent an X-ray unit, five anesthesia machines, five ventilators, five dental chairs, and school books and clothes to hospitals in the Negros Occidental region of the Philippines. In 2011, two anesthesia machines were delivered to the island of Bohol in the Philippines in cooperation with the Philippine military.
4. A joint project in 2007 with the Polynesian Voyaging Society led to medical clinics held on Yap, Pohnpei (Ponape), Satowan, and Chuuk. This resulted in original research that benefited all the local communities.

5. Disaster-relief missions were sent to towns damaged by the tsunami in Indonesia, the hurricane in Burma, and mudslides in Leyte. Our volunteers worked with the US Navy on the hospital ship Mercy during its 2006 visit to Indonesia and the Philippines. Most recently, \$9,000 in medical supplies were sent to Manila and American Samoa to aid in relief efforts following flooding and tsunami damage.
6. Since 1993, fellowships in ophthalmology provided by a Honolulu-based ophthalmologist have helped to train 26 Filipino physicians, all of whom have returned to the Philippines to practice in their local communities.

The Medical Mission at Home in Hawai'i

There are 108,000 medically uninsured people in Hawai'i (8 percent of the population) and 250,000 people insured by government-funded MedQuest (20 percent of the population). Both of these groups suffer from restricted access to private health care.

Private physicians rarely see or treat the uninsured and greatly limit the treatment of those insured only by MedQuest. The great majority of these patients enter into the health-care system through the emergency rooms of local hospitals with an acute medical problem, a problem that, in many cases, could have been avoided or ameliorated had the patient had access to proper primary care treatment. Homelessness, not unexpectedly, further complicates a person's health. There are an estimated 16,000 homeless living in Hawai'i. Only 7,000 are served by community health clinic programs.

In the early 1990s, AMM began addressing the health-care problems of the homeless in Hawai'i by working with the Waikiki Health Center and sending caravans of doctors and nurses to beach camps. In 1990, we briefly staffed a medical clinic in Maile-Nānākuli working with Catholic Charities. In 1995, we progressed to staffing a free medical and dental clinic to treat the homeless at The Institute for Human Services (IHS). We were supported by financial contributions from individuals, businesses, and the Queen Emma, McInerney, Cooke, Atherton, and Alexander & Baldwin foundations.

In 2002, we established the only **free medical clinic** in Hawai'i. Each month, our clinic saw more than 100 indigent medical patients. The paid medical staff included a part-time clinic director, a part-time staff nurse, and a full-time clinic manager. Volunteers contributed the majority of the clinic services. These included 13 nurses, three physician assistants, 12 lay staff, and 34 physicians. Two of our volunteer board members provided the majority of the administrative oversight. Costs were covered primarily by state and private grants.

We developed training partnerships with the University of Hawai'i (UH) School of Nursing, the Hawai'i Pacific University School of Social Work and Nursing, Tripler Army Medical Center, Farrington High School Health Academy, and the UH Department of Public Health Studies. Students in these programs benefited by receiving on-the-job experience in caring for the indigent.

Since the founding of our free medical clinic, many easily accessible community health clinics have developed, making our role in giving free care less practical. We thus phased out our primary care clinic in January 2010, referring our patients to the Kalihi-Pālama Health Center (KPHC).

Kōkua Me Ka Laulima: Help With Many Hands – surgery for the poor

The high cost of hospital-based or free-standing outpatient surgical facilities prevents an uninsured patient from having even semi-urgent procedures. AMM has brought together two community health clinics (Kalihi-Pālama and Kōkua Kalihi Valley), private surgeons, anesthesiologists, and two local hospitals (The Queen's Medical Center and Castle Medical Center), all of whom will donate their services to provide free outpatient surgical care to uninsured patients with incomes below the federal poverty level. Our first two patients were operated upon in September 2010, and in January 2011. We anticipate that there will be 20 patients a year qualifying for this program. As we demonstrate the value of this project to the community, we hope that we will be able to expand the services offered and increase the participation of the local hospitals and physicians.

The Dental Mission in Hawai'i

In May 2010, a man donated \$100 to our dental clinic. He related that two years ago, he was jobless, a student, lacking in insurance, and suffering from a tooth abscess. Unable to pay for treatment by a private dentist, he was treated without charge at the AMM Dental Clinic. Now employed and renting an apartment, he felt compelled to give back so that others could be helped.

It is estimated that, incredibly, 430,000 people, a full third of Hawai'i's population, lack adequate dental care because they cannot afford dental insurance.

In 2002, we created the only **free dental clinic** in Hawai'i at the Pālama Settlement, once home to the Strong-Carter Dental Clinic. The clinic provides free emergency and semi-urgent dental services to patients who would otherwise have no access to dental care. In March, 2011, we added a new 3rd dental chair with a grant from the Clarence T.C. Ching Foundation. In December 2011, we added a fourth. Since hiring a full-time dentist and opening five full days a week, our case load has increased to over 200 patients a month.

The clinic is overseen by a volunteer dental director (a dentist on our Board of Directors). The paid staff includes one full-time dentist, a clinic director, a full-time receptionist, a full-time dental assistant, and two part-time dental assistants. They work with 19 active volunteer dentists and one volunteer dental hygienist. Half of our dental clinic expenses are covered by state and private grants. The in-kind value of services amounted to over \$1 million in 2010. With the addition of a full time dentist in September 2011, we are anticipating doubling the number of patients treated.

We have developed partnerships with the UH Dental Hygiene Program, the Kapi'olani Community College of Nursing and Dental Assisting programs, and the Lutheran Medical Center Pediatric Dental Residency Program. Our clinic provides an important training facility for these students and residents who will go on to serve our community's dental needs when they complete their professional education.

In August 2011, we implemented "Welcome Smile," a program that provides cosmetic and therapeutic dentistry to women either abused or previously incarcerated. The treatment improves their appearance and thus increases their self-esteem and their chance of getting a job. Patients are currently referred to us by the Domestic Violence Action Center and the Reawakening for Women Program. As of May 2012, eight patients have been treated.

"Why do I, as a nonmedical person, continue to volunteer and to desire being part of the organization? The simple act of reaching out to people who have never heard of us, have little connection to us, and are not expecting anything from us, is an act of human kindness which binds all people all over the world. I am an advocate and worker for world peace. Aloha Medical Mission creates bonds among the people of the world. The most powerful actions we do as human beings are those that reach out to help others when they need our compassion and help." --Diane Anderson, teacher and volunteer, September 2011

The Organization

The nonprofit Aloha Medical Mission is governed by a diverse 18-member volunteer Board of Directors. The members include accountants, attorneys, nurses, physicians, financial advisors, and community philanthropists. We have people with skills in business, medicine, and community organizing.

There are standing committees of Administration, Hawai'i Programs, Overseas Missions, and Fund Development. An Executive committee is comprised of the standing committee chairs, the president, treasurer, secretary, and vice president of the board. There are currently five paid staff: an executive director, a program director, an operations manager, and two administrative assistants.

The **Administration chair** oversees the financial, facilities, and administrative office functions.

The **Hawai'i Programs chair** oversees the activities of the local programs, particularly the dental clinic at the Pālama Settlement in downtown Honolulu.

The **Overseas Missions chair** directs the foreign mission program. Mission leaders are either active board members or former board members who coordinate the teams of physicians, nurses, and lay volunteers selected from Hawai'i, the US mainland, and the destination country.

The **Fund Development chair** is responsible for fundraising efforts.

Our **Executive Director** (ED) manages the day-to-day activities of the AMM, coordinates the activities of the board members to raise funds, and develops collaborative activities with other community nonprofits delivering services to the poor. The ED is assisted in grant oversight and generation by the Program Director.

Sources of Funding

The 2011 AMM budget was approximately \$900,000. One-third of our expenses were covered by directed grants. The balance was made up from individual and private business donations through fundraising efforts.

Operating Expenses

- Employee salaries, benefits and payroll taxes total approximately \$350,000. This covers the four full-time administration staff and the dental staff.
- Dental supplies and equipment cost more than \$50,000 per year.

- Directed grants have covered approximately 80% of clinic expenditures in past years with an estimated shortfall of \$70,000 covered by ongoing fundraising efforts. This shortfall is expected to increase as the availability of grant funds diminishes.
- Foreign mission expenses are approximately \$80,000 per year, of which directed/specified donations typically cover about 25%. We rely heavily on local hospitals and national equipment vendors for donations. All volunteers pay their own travel and housing costs.

Income

- Our operating funds come from private, corporate, and foundation donations. Directed donations and grants from foundations and the state and federal government help fund the dental clinic in Hawai'i, the Bangladesh clinics, the Laos and Burma missions, and the Indonesian tsunami-relief effort.
- We currently receive financial support from the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the Strong Foundation, the Hawai'i Community Foundation, the Hawai'i Medical Service Association (HMSA), the Sunrise Rotary Club, the Hawai'i Dental Service (HDS), the Hawai'i Dental Association Dental Samaritan Program, Million Dollar Round Table, Kaiser Foundation, federal and state grants, and private donations.
- AMM's board, staff, and volunteers held at least one primary fundraising event each year. We have sponsored piano concerts, auctions, and dinners. AMM's net profit from recent events had been approximately \$160,000 per year. Many months of planning are required to put on these events. This diverts much energy and time away from our core activities, and it became evident that to sustain and expand our current programs, we needed a new strategy. We have thus redirected our fundraising strategies to more efficient and targeted activities with smaller events intended to introduce the many activities of AMM on a personal level. Fundraising activities brought in approximately \$280,000 in 2011.

Details of AMM's annual expenses and funding sources are set forth in our financial statements.

The Goals of Aloha Medical Mission

In June 2010, we created a new strategic plan. It was revised and update in June 2011. Our goals for our organization are to:

Maintain and develop new local projects

Hawai'i's progressive labor laws have mandated employer-funded health insurance, yet 8 percent of the population remains uninsured. Some are homeless. Many are immigrants. Many of the uninsured are working people with low incomes that prevent them from qualifying for state-funded insurance programs. One-third of the population lacks dental insurance. These groups bear the indignity of inadequate access to proper medical and dental care, and it is for these people that we will continue to develop assistance programs. Specifically, these programs are:

- 1) Expansion of **our free dental clinic**. We hired a full-time dentist and dental assistant in September 2011 and will increase the number of dental volunteers. The addition of our full-time dentist has increased our capacity from 120 patient visits a month to over 200. We anticipate increasing this to 300.

- 2) Expansion of *Kōkua Me Ka Laulima – surgery for the poor*. We hope to increase the number of patients treated, to expand the types of surgeries done, and to expand the program to more community health centers on O‘ahu.
- 3) Development of programs to create functional relationships with other charities and foundations whose mission is to help the underserved in Hawai‘i.

Maintain and improve our overseas missions

Our medical/surgical missions abroad have been very productive. We have brought medical services to many of the poor who have been neglected by their country's health systems and would not otherwise have received treatment. Missions contribute to the personal and professional growth of our own nursing, physician, and lay volunteers, as well as our foreign colleagues. Because of the weak economy, it has become much more difficult to find qualified and skilled physicians, particularly surgeons, who are willing to volunteer. Accordingly, AMM intends to develop the following programs to sustain and expand our missions to Asia and the Pacific:

- 1) Identify and implement outreach programs to find and develop the next generation of mission leaders and organizers.
- 2) Enable the administrative staff to assist in the planning of overseas missions.
- 3) Redefine how we administer these programs, by seeking out collaboration with other non-governmental organizations and expanding our volunteer base to the mainland US.
- 4) Develop programs to secure a more permanent and lasting relationship with hospitals and clinics in the countries we serve, in order to duplicate the success of the Bangladesh clinic.
- 5) Better formalize our responses to future natural disasters in the Pacific Basin so that we can respond in a more timely, efficient, and appropriate fashion, including but not limited to sending medical/surgical teams, medical supplies, food, and/or clothing.

Revise our fundraising and volunteer strategies

To achieve our goals:

- 1) Although the annual event-centered fundraiser has provided the necessary funding thus far, we must develop more reliable, sustainable, and renewable sources of funding if we are to progress and remain a viable organization. **We must find new donors, inspire them with our mission ideals, and retain their commitment by showing them measurable and sustained progress in our projects.**
- 2) We must also expand our volunteer base in the community. We need volunteers to help fundraise, to administer the office, clinic, and the logistical aspects of our missions, and to become the leaders and workhorses to the programs we currently have and intend to develop.

Aloha Medical Mission needs your support

Without monetary help from compassionate individuals, it would be impossible for us to heal the ill and enrich the lives of people in the communities we serve. The AMM has helped many people who would otherwise have been neglected. More than ever, we need your help to continue our mission.

We have hired a stable paid administrative staff. Over its 28-year history of helping those in need, Aloha Medical Mission's projects have been accomplished with minimal paid staff. We have relied heavily on volunteers. It was clear that if we were to improve and grow, our office would require a stable administrative environment. We accomplished this in 2010 by hiring a new, dynamic executive director and three assistant administrators.

We need to raise more funds to support our foreign missions. The costs of supplies, transportation, storage, and administration have increased. Assuring the continuation of three to five foreign missions a year in these difficult economic times demands innovative and aggressive efforts to support our mission volunteers and a disciplined approach to procuring needed medical supplies.

We have expanded our dental facilities. Providing free dental care to the poor will remain a core mission. The AMM is already providing a significant service to the community by operating its present clinic. We are committed to at least doubling our patient capacity.

We hope to expand and sustain our surgery program for the uninsured poor. In the near future, the recently enacted national health-care legislation will not improve the access of poor patients to necessary elective outpatient surgical care. This program addresses the needs of a small but significant group of patients that society has overlooked and neglected. We see this project as an important addition to our community activities.

We hope to continue and expand our projects to direct used medical equipment to needy hospitals and clinics abroad. Our local hospitals and clinics discard a tremendous amount of medical and surgical supplies and equipment that have become outdated or are being upgraded. Our trash is treasure to facilities abroad that are desperately in need of this materiel, which they cannot otherwise afford.

The Aloha Medical Mission remains committed in its mission to provide free health care to the people we serve overseas and here in Hawai'i. We intend to be the vehicle that enables our medical, dental, and lay volunteers to realize their goals of providing medical care and promoting health to the underserved. We intend to nurture and support the growth of our volunteers, recognizing that the process of delivering health care also benefits the volunteers emotionally, spiritually, and professionally.

We ask your financial support to accomplish these goals in a continually challenging and changing health-care environment. Thank you for your consideration.

For further information about ways that you can help, please contact

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