Letter From The President

Dear Family and Friends,

As the world continues to combat the challenges and uncertainties associated with COVID-19 I hope that you are safe and well. The DOCARE Annual Report allows us to share with you our successes of the past year as well as our plans for the future. Like many organizations, we had to adjust our normal operations to accommodate for the impact of COVID-19, but we are excited to show the great things we have achieved with the ongoing support of our donors, members, volunteers, local international partners, and Board.

Since DOCARE was founded in 1961, the organization has strived to improve the continuity of care for short term outreach trips, with the addition of partner clinics beginning in 2011. We are continuing to cultivate these partnerships to ensure sustainability in our work, in collaboration with local partners. As a DOCARE member since osteopathic medical school, I have participated on multiple short-term outreach trips and have seen firsthand the impact we can have to improve the population health of our partner communities. Some of the impacts DOCARE has had in these regions is highlighted each year during the Bureau of International Osteopathic Medicine’s Annual Abstract Competition. Winners will present virtually this year.

In the past year, we had 8 short-term outreach trips to Kenya, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic and continued to support our partner clinics. As COVID-19 began to spread we made the difficult decision to place all trips and rotations on hold for the immediate future to ensure volunteer safety and proper allocation of local resources. I am very grateful to our trip directors, volunteers, host communities, and partners for their incredible work and flexibility during this time. As we have watched COVID-19 devastate areas throughout the world we are continuing to support our partner communities in their handling of this pandemic. Our donors are vital to this effort and your donations will be used to continue to support these sustainable efforts.

As an organization we have always been committed to education of our members as well as those working in our global communities. This year we began to offer a Certificate in Global Health, which allows our members to combine their global health experiences with online learning modules and conferences in a meaningful fashion. We are excited to offer this opportunity as a way for our members to build on their experience and also to be recognized for this work.

In these times of uncertainty, I am more grateful than ever for our incredible donors and members. Thank you for allowing us to continue to grow as an organization and to maintain our commitment to under-resourced communities worldwide. While the coming year may bring more challenges, we look forward to continuing our work and overcoming these together.

With Deepest gratitude,

Allison Abraham, DO, FACP
President
DOCARE International
Since 1961, our mission has been to provide medical care to isolated and underserved populations around the world. For over 50 years we have cared for communities across four continents, bringing health services to people who might otherwise not have access to medical care.

Our all-volunteer outreach emphasizes the osteopathic philosophy and we engage osteopathic physicians and medical students in all of our activities.
Clinics

Reflecting on my new role as an international healthcare provider and our impact on those we served, I found it interesting how the vast majority of patients we cared for were women, mirroring similar trends in healthcare usage in the United States.

– Cory Birkstrand, OMS IV

DOCARE supports partner organizations in San Andrés Iztapa and Tecpán, Guatemala to ensure year-round health services to the local population. These clinics, operated by our partners la Asociación para la Salud y el Desarrollo (ASSADE) and Fundación Educa Pueblo Viejo, employ health care staff and offer low-to-no cost medical services and supplies to their communities.

We also have established partnerships with clinics in Kenya and Nicaragua that allow us to provide more rotational opportunities for DOCARE members. We continue to work to expand our partnerships to be able to offer our members more opportunity for global health experiences. Learn more about our rotation program here.
Short-Term Trips

DO CARE collaborates with Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine and individual trip leaders to promote short term trips that afford our members the opportunity for global health experiences. These trips serve local populations in areas where medical resources are scarce. For many students, these trips are their first introduction to global health.

**DURING THE PAST YEAR:**

- **8** trips
- **208** volunteers participated
- **6,501** patients treated
- **$377,120** is the value of our volunteers’ in-kind contribution to providing health services to local populations.
- **6** students benefited from the DO CARE Student & Resident Travel Grant program this year.

“I came back from this trip filled with new medical knowledge...I also learned some lessons in patience, flexibility, and creativity. I feel more confident than ever in my decision to pursue global health.”

– Kaitlynn Small, OMS III
Making an Impact

SUPPORTING OUR PARTNER PHYSICIANS

During the past year DOCARE supported Dr. Fernanda Marroquin, one of the physicians at the ASSADE clinic, to attend a 6-month ultrasound training course. This training equipped Dr. Fernanda with the skills to better diagnose and treat patients. Ensuring our partner clinics have access to continuing medical education is important to us – and benefits the communities they serve.

RECOGNIZING YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL HEALTH

This year DOCARE established a Global Health Certificate Program. We designed this program with our members in mind, to recognize the contributions you make to global health, whether with DOCARE or elsewhere.

Learn more about the program here.

“I joined DOCARE 4 years ago for the opportunity to provide care in places where healthcare is limited.”

– Dr. Carolina Espindola Camacho
The thing that struck me the most about my time in clinic was the simple victories that medicine affords not only the providers, but also the patients. Every day that we saw patients was the opportunity to make a difference in someone’s life.

– Samantha Baxter, OMS II
The Effect COVID-19

If you are able please consider a donation to help us continue our work in underserved communities across the world and to support our partners during during this unprecedented time.

DOCARE is a global organization and the pandemic has put our rotation opportunities and short-term trips on hold, impacting our revenue and threatening our ability to continue supporting our partners in Guatemala.

This has a direct effect on the communities we’ve become so close to over the past 50+ years, as they struggle to feed their families and access critical healthcare.

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At the end of the day, we human beings are all built the same; all require the same fundamental basic needs of life, and healthcare is one of them. No matter where you go in the world, people need proper healthcare.

– Mohammad Hashir, OMS-III
Help DOCARE International continue to make the world our clinic.

To donate or to renew your membership please visit: www.docareintl.org/contribute/

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