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Boston University
BUMC oral surgeons volunteer to heal needy children

There they set up clinics and, working 10 to 12 hours per day in steamy operating rooms with equipment that is usually outdated, surgically treat children with facial deformities. They and their colleagues pay their own way and provide their services for free, their goal being to give the gift of normalcy to children in societies that often consider them outcasts.

As both Booth and Herman say, the benefits are priceless. "No matter how many different trips of this type you make," Booth reflects, "you never come back the same person you were when you left."

"With treatment," Herman says, "these kids can lead a normal life."

The program that Booth and Herman are involved in, called the Missions Abroad Program, is one of several task forces comprising Healing the Children. The organization also provides free medical treatment to underprivileged children in this country, and makes arrangements for children overseas who are in need of specialized care to receive treatment in America.

Booth, chief of the BUMC Hospital Department of Oral Surgery and chairperson of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the Boston University Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry, first learned of Healing the Children through Herman, whom he hired to be an assistant professor in his department last year. Herman is the director of the northeast chapter of the Missions Abroad Program, and has been a member of the organization for 11 years. The two surgeons recently returned from El Salvador, their second Healing the Children trip together.

Mission Abroad teams conduct cleft lip and palate

Boston University sponsors breast cancer benefit walk

BUMC is the flagship sponsor of Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, a five-mile walk that begins and ends at the Hatch Shell on Boston's Esplanade on Sunday, Sept. 26. Each dollar raised at this event, endorsed by the American Cancer Society (ACS), will directly benefit local efforts to fight breast cancer through research, early detection, rehabilitative support, and advocacy.

Since 1986, the ACS Massachusetts Division has sponsored the noncompetitive event called Making Strides: The Terry Fox Run to raise funds for cancer control while raising awareness that cancer can be beaten. Last fall, the ACS's Board of Directors and the Making Strides leadership unanimously recommended that the future focus of Making Strides be directed toward breast cancer—a disease that has been declared an epidemic in Massachusetts. BUMC, a well-known center for women's health and cancer research and prevention, felt it appropriate to sponsor this worthy event.

The Hospital is urging all members of the community to participate in this important event. For more information on how to take part, contact the Office of Community Relations at 638-8914.

FUND-RAISING YARD SALE: Eileen O'Brien, the Elders Living at Home Program (ELAHP) administrator, convinces William Duffy, a former ELAHP client who now has his own home, to purchase a lamp at the yard sale held on the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission parking lot in Braintree last month.

STATE LOTTERY EMPLOYEES RAISE MONEY FOR ELAHP

Employees at the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission usually focus their energy on working to give money away, but this year they are doing some fund raising on the side.

Thanks to the personal interest of one lottery employee, the lottery staff has rallied behind an effort to raise $3,000 for the Elders Living at Home Program (ELAHP), a multi-agency, non-profit organization based at the Hospital. So far, they've raised $1,791, and they are determined to come up with the difference.

The effort stemmed from the interest taken in the organization by lottery employee Eileen Meade, a senior program analyst, last winter. She had taken note of a number of charities that piqued her interest in a list published by the Boston Globe in November. ELAHP, which provides homeless or potentially homeless elders with access to safe, affordable housing, was one of the charities that caught Meade's attention. After Christmas, she visited an ELAHP office, and consequently donated some household articles to the organization.

"I was so impressed with the people there," Meade says, "that I told people at work about the program. Everybody was really excited about the..."
Goldman School sponsors national model for dental screenings at Special Olympics

In an effort to bring attention to the high prevalence of dental problems among people with disabilities, Boston University's Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry joined the Massachusetts Special Olympics and the Massachusetts Dental Association to host the first-ever dental screenings for participants, during the 35th annual Special Olympic Games on Saturday, June 26, and Sunday, June 27. The free screenings, held concurrently with the games at the Harvard University athletic facilities, were a tremendous success, with over 700 Special Olympians receiving free oral evaluations. Several athletes screened had not received medical or dental care in over 10 years. This precedent-setting event was being evaluated as a national model for future Special Olympics nationwide.

BUMC physician involved in breakthrough trial of breast tumors

In what may be one of the most significant breakthroughs in the treatment of breast cancer, a study that Hospital surgical oncologist Noa Kannaw, M.D., co-authored provides new hope for women diagnosed with small tumors.

The study, published in the June 2 issue of The New England Journal of Medicine, provides new guidelines for the management of tiny breast tumors, known as ductal carcinoma in situ. A clinical trial of 88 women found that a combination of lumpectomy and breast radiation was more effective in preventing breast cancer recurrence than lumpectomy alone. After five years, 94.6 percent of the women who had received both treatments were still alive, with no recurrence of the disease, of those who had received lumpectomy alone, only 73.9 percent were still alive. Moreover, when cancer did recur in the women who had received surgery alone, it was more likely to be invasive than in the women who had received both treatments, says Kannaw, who is also an associate professor of surgery at the Boston University School of Medicine and co-director of the Hospital's Breast Health Center.

The study was organized by Steven Perlman, D.D.S., M.S.C.D., an assistant clinical professor of pediatric dentistry at the Goldman School, and an advocate for people with disabilities, and representatives of the Massachusetts Special Olympics.

Open Wide: For冈aga, M.D., a resident in pediatric dentistry at the Goldman School, was one of the many dentists who volunteered to perform oral evaluations on over 700 athletes during the 35th annual Special Olympic Games.

Working together, walking together

Sweeping out at the eighth annual From All Walks of Life pledge walk on Sunday, May 6, were almost 100 members of Boston University Medical Center, easily identified by the BUMC balloons they carried throughout the 6.2-mile route. Together, BUMC employees braved the chill and rain and walked to raise over $6,500 in pledges to fund AIDS service organizations throughout Eastern Massachusetts. Hospital employees David Parry of emergency medical services, was among those who received the most pledges for the second consecutive year, raising $1,103. In total, From All Walks of Life raised over $1 million this year, a record-breaking amount.

Bumch observes Cancer Awareness Day

The Atrium Lobby was alive with activity during Cancer Awareness Day at Boston University Medical Center/The University Hospital. Held on Wednesday, June 16, the event culminated a month-long effort by hospital staff to educate and inform people about cancer. Among those efforts were free screenings for skin cancer and prostate cancer that were attended by scores of South End residents, Medical Center employees, and their families.

Hospital Auxiliary changes name, community members urged to join

Through a new hotel discount plan, the Hospital auxiliary is now making it possible for its members to stay at a place that also provides a vehicle for their patients and their families to visit. This year, when the BUMC Auxiliary selected a new name, the organization also adopted a new mission: to bring hope to those diagnosed as having tiny breast tumors.

Under the direction of recently elected president Sonye Nersessian (wife of Hospital urologist Richard Bahyan, M.D.), the auxiliary, an organization of people dedicated to the advancement of Boston University Medical Center/The University Hospital, is now known as Friends of the Hospital. The name change reflects the new direction of the group and a redirection of its members to improving conditions in the hospital for staff, employees, patients, and all others affiliated with it, according to Nersessian.

"The new direction is inclusive, not exclusive," Nersessian says, "with the intention of expanding membership to all women, men, members of the community, staff, employees, former patients and, generally, anyone who has an interest in doing good." In connection with this new direction, the Friends will be polling different groups within the Hospital for suggestions on long-term fund-raising projects, as well as ideas for short-term projects. The Friends of the Hospital are seeking new members. Dues are $25 per year. All interested in joining the Friends are urged to contact Nersessian at 877-766 for further information.

Bumc awarded grant to recruit primary care physicians

Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) was among 18 medical schools recently awarded grants from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to participate in the Generalist Physician Initiative, a program designed to counter a national shortage of primary care physicians by developing ways to encourage medical students to enter generalist careers in the medical profession.

Working with Boston City Hospital, its other affiliated hospitals, community health centers, and community leaders, BUSM hopes to provide incentives for 50 percent of its graduates to choose careers in family medicine, pediatrics, or general internal medicine by the year 2000. Some of the proposed steps include developing a program to pay the medical education costs of future generalist physicians, who often make less money than medical specialists, developing general internist physician admissions criteria for BUSM, and including more generalists on its admissions committee. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is the nation's largest philanthropy dedicated to improving the health and health care of Americans.
COMING UP

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
Thursday, July 29, and Wednesday, Aug. 25

Last year, Boston University Medical Center pledged $25,000 annually to help restore Blackstone, Franklin and Worcester Squares and demonstrated this commitment by playing host to a series of free summer concerts in Franklin Square. This year, the tradition continues with a series of concerts in Worcester Square. The series begin in June, and continues on Thursday, July 29, from 7 to 9 p.m., featuring the classical sounds of the Commonwealth Chamber Players. The rain date is Thursday, Aug. 5. The last concert in the series will feature the Jazz Band on Wednesday, Aug. 25, from 7 to 9 p.m., with a rain date of Wednesday, Sept. 1.

For more information about any of these events, contact Joannie Jaxtimer, BMUCH's director of marketing, communications and public relations, at 638-8914.

WHEEL APPEAL
Sunday, Sept. 12

Join the third annual Wheel Appeal wheelchair-a-thon, taking place at the New England Rehabilitation Hospital in Woburn, and help educate the public about the importance of safety and injury prevention. This non-competitive fund raiser is for people of all ages who use wheelchairs, roller skates or roller blades, bicycles, skateboards or walk or run while pushing a stroller, and is co-sponsored by the New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center, located at BMUCH. There are three courses to choose from: a 43-mile course, a 45-kilometer course and a 4.5-kilometer course. Participants and volunteers are needed to ensure the event’s success.

GREAT STRIDES FOR BREAST CANCER
Sunday, Sept. 26

Walk to benefit local efforts to fight breast cancer through research, early detection, rehabilitative support, and advocacy. See page 1 for details.

JANE DOE WALK FOR WOMEN’S SAFETY
Sunday, Oct. 24

Help end domestic violence by joining this 6.2-mile walk, which begins and ends at the Hatch Shell in Boston. For further information, contact the Jane Doe Safety Fund, 210 Commercial St., Boston, MA 02109. The phone number is 1-800-526-3363 (JANE DOE).

ELAHP benefit
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cause. When people were aware of who ELAHP helps, many said, "That could be me in 30 years, or that could be my grandparents." Eventually, the word spread and other lottery employees donated more home goods to ELAHP. Lottery employees have worked with other charities in the past, and, as a group, decided that the mission of ELAHP is one that needs support from everybody. They decided to "adopt" ELAHP, and pledged to raise $3,000 for the organization this year.

"We were thrilled to hear what the lottery commission wanted to do for us," says Eileen O'Brien, the administrator of ELAHP. "We would love to encourage age similar groups to adopt us. The furniture, money and support are always needed."

Together, lottery employees conceived the idea of having a yard sale to raise a bulk of the targeted amount. Employees themselves stocked the sale with all varieties of goods, withholding some of the best items to be donated directly to ELAHP. Held on Saturday, June 5, the sale raised $1,791, all of which is being donated to ELAHP. Other fund-raising projects are being planned for the year in order to reach the goal.

"This whole project brought everybody together," says Meade. "The yard sale drew a huge crowd and everyone involved had a great time. We hope to do this every year for ELAHP."

ELAHP benefit
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During their trek overseas with Healing the Children, Inc., oral surgeons Donald Booth, D.M.D., left, and Lawrence Herman, D.M.D., screen and treat hundreds of children with facial deformities, like the boy pictured, whose treatment was evaluated at Villaricencio, Colombia, last November.

is a social stigma. Children in Third World countries with such afflictions are often shunned. Most people don't know there is a cure for these conditions, and the children are widely considered to be cursed by the devil, he says. When surgery is carried out, the appreciation of the families is profound.

"Some are overwhelmed," says Booth. "After surgery, parents go into the recovery room to be with their kids and are very grateful."

It is this gratitude, and the need it reflects, that propels both Booth and Herman forward on their mission on behalf of Healing the Children. This mission now includes urging their fellow medical professionals to consider volunteering their time to the program. While the benefit to the children is clear, they maintain it would be equally real for the volunteers.

"There is a tremendous sense of brotherhood—a love that develops amongst the members of the team, both for kids, and for each other," Herman says. "You can contribute to every fund-raising campaign that comes around," Booth says, "but working hands-on, when you can actually see patient after patient that you have helped, knowing that if you weren't there, nothing would be done, it makes you realize that you really made a contribution. I think that's what you get out of it—the feeling that you know that you made a difference."

ELAHP benefit
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Blood Bank needs summer supply

The Hospital's Blood Bank has a heightened need for blood and blood products during the summer. Due to this increase in demand, Stacie Yerd, the donor services coordinator for the Blood Bank, is urging anyone interested in giving blood to schedule a time to donate blood or platelets. The Blood Bank is located on the fourth floor of the Health Services Building. Donor hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Most eligible donors can give as frequently as every eight weeks.

For more information, contact Yerd at 638-7833 or 638-7855.

Volunteers
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surgery, burn scar revisions and other types of plastic surgery, as well as orthopaedic, hand, and ophthalmology surgery. By the time teams of oral maxillofacial and plastic surgeons arrive at a particular site, Booth says, parents of facially deformed children are lined up in front of the designated hospital by the score, as are just as many youth who are able to bring themselves.

When the teams deplane, their work begins: "The need for help is staring them in the face."

"In America, you would never see a child with an open cleft lip or palate," Booth explains. "But in poor countries, there are kids 13 and 14 years old with these conditions." Clefts of the lip and palate occur when, in the embryo, facial fields fail to unite in the palate or upper lip region. Clefts can involve the upper lip or the palate, or both. If untreated, these conditions cause disfigurement, speaking and swallowing difficulties.

Moreover, says Herman, while “the condition is not life threatening, it certainly..."