

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT TRANSFER SERVICE (METS)

In 2003, Doctor (Dentist) Bob Ashley, a member of the Savannah South Rotary Club envisioned a service program for district 6920. This had the purpose of obtaining usable medical equipment throughout district 6920 which would be collected in a warehouse in Savannah and then sent by containerized freight out from the port of Savannah to needy third world countries...

The program was accepted by the district leadership. The district would access \$15 annually from each district member for this program.. This became the finances needed to obtain the necessary facilities and other legal and startup materials as well as operation and shipping charges.

The Macon Rotary Club and the Downtown Macon Rotary worked together to install this program in central Georgia. Mr. David Thompson of the Macon Downtown Rotary Club, donated space in his office warehouse (Piedmont Construction Company) providing temporary space to store equipment obtained until it's volume warranted a transfer to the Savannah warehouse. Dr. John O'Shaughnessey of the Rotary Club of Macon has served as the volunteer to pick up donated items in Bibb County and move them to the Piedmont Construction Company warehouse in North Macon. Pickup trips occur every 2 or 3 weeks to the Piedmont facility and a truck owned by METS and manned by Savannah Rotarian Mr. Allen Ussary and other Savannah Rotary friends drive to Macon to get them about every 4 to 6 weeks.

A Rotary volunteer, Ms. Patti Victor controls the Savannah warehouse and arranges shipping etc. She obtains volunteers from district 6920 club member who man "work" weekends to select, inventory and pack material to be sent on. Non-usable items are discarded. A system has been devised to direct the material to a Rotary Club in the designated country who take responsibility for the materials and moves it from the port to the selected medical facility... Having it controlled by local Rotarians avoids corruption and theft possibilities.

In the last the last 3 years METS has sent 331,000 pounds of materials (23 containers) to needy medical facilities in Africa, Central and South America and the Philippines. This has amounted to equipment valued at \$9,000,000. The recipients have expressed extreme gratitude...

Under the leadership of recent District 6920 Chairman Dick Hyer, the newly elected chairman of the METS committee, the program hopes to expand to areas around Jacksonville, and Charleston to obtain more material for shipment.

This program is one of the most effective international activities in Rotary. We are indeed an organization truly interested in helping others throughout Planet Earth.

W. John O'Shaughnessey, Jr. M.D.

460 Pine Vista
Macon, Ga. 31204
Ph (478) 477-2597
Jan 13, 2009

Mr. David Thompson,
C/o Piedmont Construction Group LLC
107 Gateway Drive
Macon, Ga. 31210

Dear David,

Mr. Bony Baskin is a member of the Macon Rotary Club. He is getting up a history of our club and he asked me to write a synopsis of the METS program for his history. I am sending you a copy of the letter.

This gives me a long overdue opportunity to thank you and your employees for your help in this program. Dealing with the employees in your company has been a delight for me. They are helpful, and a delight to see on occasions when I bring material in and out. Not many companies I contact are such pleasant people.

Thanks again

