



The Wisconsin Medical Project

Summer 2020

NEWSLETTER

Our Jamarek Partnership



Getting everything adjusted for the wheelchair's new owner. Xuman, a co-founders of Jamarek and one of the biggest artists in Senegal, is the third person standing from left .

OK, imagine that you're walking down the Boulevard de la République in down-town Dakar, Senegal. It's a hot, humid, bright day. Vendors are about. Hustle and bustle. You hear a Babel of languages. But, here you are, in with black people, white people, Chinese, but it's cool. Everybody seems to be getting along.

In Senegal, pretty much everybody speaks three languages: Wolof, French, English. A person catches your eye, and greets you. It could be "Na nga def," or "bon jour," or "hello." Dakar is a very multicultural place.

Your response? "Jamarek." Which means "Peace only" in Wolof.

Then you start talking.

Jamarek is also the NGO we're working with to get our latest shipment of medical supplies off to Dakar. It left on Tuesday, July 14, a container chock full of medical supplies. The long story short per Jamarek is that they send medical supplies to hospitals in Senegal, computers and IT equipment to schools, but "no politics." They also work to ensure that every dollar goes to the people whom they seek to serve.

Jamarek is more than a group that exports goods to Senegal. They also facilitate cross-cultural exchange, and encourage entrepreneurship, and with a focus on improving the lives of youth and women.



Students gather around a seedling tray to learn about the mini farm

Jamarek has a core membership of about fifteen Senegalese ex-pats, who are scattered around North America, some in Canada, the Washington D.C. area, California, and, of course, Wisconsin.

Entrepreneurship in Senegal Jamarek has two interesting projects going: greenhouses and solar panel electric generation, and in both instances, youngsters are involved, giving them skills to have a meaningful life. With the greenhouse project, there is an
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Alassane (Pape) Samb, President of Jamarek wearing baseball hat, visiting students in Barneveld with Dr. Micke

Jamarek Continued

emphasis on high tech food production, and entrepreneurship. The greenhouses use an astounding 90% less water than conventional greenhouses, with the water continuously being recycled. Food is grown, what you might expect: cucumbers, tomatoes, salad greens, which are eaten by families and in the schools that produce it. Extra food is also sold, by the kids, often door to door, and in their neighborhoods. What adult doesn't like buying stuff from kids?

Profits? All profits go back to the school, or to fund student projects. The latest development with these mini farms is going into poultry and fish farming.

Solar panels Senegal has many things. A hardworking, multilingual population. A considerable fishery off its Atlantic coast. A beautiful country, but no oil. However, it does have sunshine. Lots of sunshine. Jamarek sets up solar panels, along with educating youngsters how to do this, to generate power for villages which have never been on the grid. Jamarek is making the grid.

Cultural Exchange Closer to home, Jamarek is doing a cultural exchange program involving kids from Barneveld, Wisconsin and kids from Senegal. The program is called Xel Xeeli (Pronounced, "Khel Kheeli"), which translates to "transfer/exchange of knowledge." All this over the web, of course. But, think of it. The kids in Barneveld may have had minimal contact with any persons of color, but here would be a chance for a meaningful exchange. Kids in Senegal? Same deal. They could meet kids from America and contemplate their similarities.

The Wisconsin Medical Project is very fortunate to have partnered with Jamarek. It is a partnership that greatly benefits both organizations.

Message from the President

We have all made numerous adjustments to be healthy and safe during this global pandemic. Regular work at the warehouse continues with smaller numbers of volunteers working at safe distances to sort and pack donations. To keep loading crews safe we have pre-palletized the equipment and boxes. We continue to get donations from area health facilities and our partnership with Sharing Resources Worldwide. A WMP group traveled to Madison's Sister City Camaguey, Cuba in the fall and we continue our work with Friends of Ostomates Worldwide providing pallets of difficult to get ostomy supplies twice a year. Despite shut downs, we have been able to send several containers to Africa. Since WMP has no paid staff, our biggest single expense is the warehouse rent at \$1200 / month. Your donations also enable us to cover shipping costs and purchase packing supplies. Like schools and workplaces we've moved some activities on line. And this year we're creating a virtual Warehouse Party. The annual party is a major fundraiser for WMP and we do need your support. Please join us for a look at the year's activities. We appreciate your generous contributions.

Bernie Micke, M.D.

We're Celebrating!

It's unfortunate that we won't be holding our annual warehouse party this year, but would still like to celebrate what we've accomplished together – virtually!

We will be releasing a video with highlights of our work in the warehouse, in the community and across the globe so please join us!

WHERE: On our website (<https://wismedproject.org/>)
or on the Wisconsin Medical Project Facebook page.

WHEN: Friday, 9/11 at 7:00 PM

We hope to see you there!

News from the Warehouse



Loading a container in the Covid era means smaller loading crews and putting all cartons on pallets

The pandemic has forced hospitals and clinics to limit access and that in turn has meant that we have had somewhat fewer donations this spring and summer. Despite this, and having fewer volunteers in order to maintain a healthy warehouse, sorting and packing continues. In the first 6 months of 2020 we packed 1203 cartons, compared to 1564 Jan. to June of 2019. We continue to receive many supplies from Sharing Resources Worldwide here in Madison. Wheelchairs, walkers, gurneys and other larger equipment needed by rural hospitals and clinics were in all the containers. Since last year's warehouse party we have sent four full containers and contributed supplies to other organizations efforts. We are grateful to partners who have paid some transportation costs and are crucial in distribution after the shipments arrive in port.

- October - Partial container with Med Hope Salone to Sierra Leone
- October- Full container to Touba, Senegal
- December - Full container to Mauritania with ONG Action
- January - Full container to St. Louis, Senegal
- July- Half container to Sierra Leone
- July- Full container to Senegal with Jamarek

Work with our Wisconsin Neighbors

Well, baseball is back. Kind of. Normally, baseball brings to mind peanuts, popcorn, beer, and free agents, but this year it's cardboard cutouts behind home base and weird, piped-in sounds. Hey, we're having an epidemic.

"Free agents"? The Wisconsin Medical Project has one. Ruth Ann Peacock. She's a retired nurse and sorts medical equipment at the warehouse.

However, on her free time, she's the Wisconsin Medical Project "free agent."

Back before she retired, she did a lot of home nursing, and has build up a network of patients, from all parts of town, who are in need of medical supplies. There's the guy whose cat likes to eat his oxygen tubing. Unfortunately, Medicare doesn't care if your cat has such strange appetites, so if you run out of oxygen tubing, too bad.

The same with people who need scooters. Medicare will sometimes pay for scooters, but mostly not. If Ruth Ann can find one, she'll supply it to someone who cannot get around. With supplies from WPM she is able to replace tubing, furnish gloves, adult diapers and other equipment to people who need them.

So, not only does the Wisconsin Medical Project supply Cuba and African countries with medical supplies and equipment, people right here in Dane County are being served as well.



Ruth Ann ready to sort. Many donations come in large bags with gloves, syringes, tubing, operating kits and other supplies all mixed together

Your Donations Make a Difference

Donate through our website

<https://wismedproject.org/donate/>

Our use the enclosed envelope to mail your contribution to

***The Wisconsin Medical Project
1217 Seminole Highway, Madison WI 53711***

WMP is a 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax-deductible.