



# The Wisconsin Medical Project

Winter 2020

## NEWSLETTER

### *Meet Our Local Partner*

While the name Future Foam may not ring a bell with many people in the greater Madison area, the company manufactures many products behind the scenes for mattresses, furniture, and carpet underlayment. In addition to bringing comfort to everyday life, the company also values being part of the community and giving back when possible. Future Foam has partnered with Wisconsin Medical Project since 2013, providing manpower to pick-up and load-out medical equipment and supplies. Throughout the past 7 years working together, over 35 containers have been loaded, posting 450-plus volunteer hours. Above and beyond the physical labors at the WMP warehouse, Future Foam volunteers benefited from learning about other cultures. Many amazing exchanges have taken place in interactions with the international medical professionals and groups who graciously sponsor containers. It has truly been a two way street for all involved.



*Loading Crew left to right Jon Heinrich with the Future Foam team, Taylor Paddock, Scott Diaczun, Derrick Smith, and in front Sergio Reyes*



*Equipment & cartons arriving at Sinfra Hospital from our previous shipment to the Ivory Coast*

### *Facilitating better public health in the age of Covid 19: This time at Toumodi, Côte d'Ivoire*

It's been a rough year, and for many reasons, but Covid-19 is the one that sticks out in everybody's mind. It has changed our lives in ways that we may not even realize at this point. But in developing countries, Covid-19 is only part of their public health challenges.

The Wisconsin Medical Project's latest shipment, one that went out to on November 5th, went to the Hospital General Toumodi in Toumodi, Côte



*Patients with new canes at a ceremony to receive the previous shipment to Ivory Coast*

## ***Côte d'Ivoire cont'd.***

d'Ivoire. The container had the usual: large medical equipment, beds, and medical supplies.

The main hospital, Hospital General Toumodi, received the large pieces of

equipment, and the rural clinics received the medical supplies.

And to show that this shipment is part of a true partnership, locals paid the shipment customs fees, somewhere between \$4,000 and \$6,000.

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## ***Message from the President***

We are pleased to report that our virtual warehouse party was a success. If you missed the event in September, you can see the program at the WMP website. It was a collaborative effort as we learned new ways to connect with people during the pandemic. Despite rising cases of Covid 19 in Wisconsin the work at the warehouse continues and all of our volunteers are healthy. We limit the number of people working at one time, everyone wears masks, and keeps an appropriate distance, and we clean work surfaces carefully. Donations and equipment continue to come in and we are pleased that we have been able to send another container out in early November. We appreciate your past support and hope we can count on your continued help.

*Bernie Micke, M.D.*

### **How we use your gifts**

- Our primary expense is warehouse rent at \$1200 per month
- Shipping costs per container can be \$5,000-\$6,000 - occasionally shared by sponsoring groups
- Liability insurance
- Equipment often needs voltage converters to work in other countries - we purchase these, extra specialty light bulbs, and batteries as needed
- Website is maintained by volunteers
- Newsletter expenses and postage are donated by board members
- We have no paid staff

- *Please consider the Wisconsin Medical Project in your year-end charitable contributions*
- *Checks maybe mailed in the enclosed envelope or you can donate at the WMP website*

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

- Visit the website for our past newsletters and more information about WMP and our partner organizations.

WMP is a 501(c)(3) organization and the tax number is 72-1577591