



# Wisconsin Medical Project

Hello Friends!

We at the Wisconsin Medical Project (WMP) want to *thank all of you*, our generous friends, for your ongoing help and support.

We have a lot of news to share since our last newsletter. Read on for...

- **A letter from WMP President**, Dr. Bernard Micke, on our latest full-container **shipments** and an update on our **warehouse**.
- Photos from a local friend who took **supplies from WMP to Chad**.
- Photos from our **shipment to Ghana**.
- A note from our local partner, **Madison Street Medicine**.
- How you can **support WMP with an end-of-year gift**.

## President's Letter

This has been an eventful year for WMP, particularly the last 6 months. Early in 2023, we sent a container to Ghana. A portion of this container went to the School of Medicine and Dentistry in Kumasi, from which WMP board member Dr. Ama Koranteng graduated. Dr. Koranteng and her fellow alumni pooled money to purchase a number of teaching aide mannequins, used for medical procedure practice, for current students of the school. Dr. Koranteng and I recalled that in our medical school days, when we had no mannequins, we just poked each other! Practice has improved. WMP added to the container a batch of additional supplies and equipment for the medical school and for other clinics in Ghana.

Since mid-year, we have also sent containers to the Gambia, Cuba, and Senegal. The shipment to the Gambia was facilitated through contacts of Wisconsin State Representative Samba Baldeh. In September, we loaded a container for our friends in Madison's Sister City of Camaguey, Cuba – the first container we've been able to send to Cuba in two years. The news of current conditions in Cuba is dire in terms of the economy, food supply, inflation, and the effects of all of this on their once strong medical system. We know the supplies sent there are needed more than ever. Lastly, we recently sent another container to a colleague of "Pape" Samb in Saint-Louis, Senegal, a beautiful city on the northwest coast of the country. Our doctor contact there specializes in pediatric rehabilitation and specifically requested we include as many pediatric and adult wheelchairs as possible. We are hoping to send one more container yet this year, to contacts of Yacouba Traore in Ivory Coast.

With regards to WMP's local operations, we have reported previously that Centro Hispano, our landlord of 10+ years is moving in spring 2024 to a new facility (just behind its current one) on Hughes Place. We have known for a while that this would mean WMP would need to find a new warehouse home. Board member Scott Diaczun has worked tirelessly over the last eight months to find WMP a new space. After touring many dark buildings, odd spaces, and warehouses with leaking roofs, we have finally found a good location on Pennsylvania Avenue (near the airport). The new warehouse will be a shared space with Cargo Bikes, in a clean, secure, and safe building where our volunteers can work in comfort (come join them!).

Not surprisingly, the rent will be higher than the very low rent WMP has enjoyed the last decade. WMP needs your help more than ever to support this increased overhead expense so that we can continue our important work collecting, sorting, and shipping used medical equipment and donated supplies to our established friends and partners overseas in Cuba, West Africa, and in southern Wisconsin. Information on making a year-end gift to WMP is at the end of this newsletter.

## Supplies Donated to Chad in North-Central Africa

In October 2023, WMP connected with Jean-Rene Watchou, Director of International Outreach at Christ Presbyterian Church on East Gorham Street in Madison. Jean-Rene was traveling to Chad and was seeking supplies to take to their medical partners there, including a number of aspirators that had been requested. WMP provided a batch of supplies, and Jean-Rene sent these photos from the delivery.



## Photos from Container to Ghana



*Left to right: Dr. Koranteng and Dr. Micke at the container loading; The WMP crew at the container loading; Dr. Koranteng and her peers in Ghana with some of the medical supplies in the background.*

## A Letter from Madison Street Medicine

For a number of years, WMP has had a local partnership with Madison Street Medicine (formerly Madison Area Care for the Homeless (MACH) OneHealth). Here is a letter from one of their outreach nurses, Joanna Anderson, RN:

“Madison Street Medicine (MSM) is on a mission to develop programming and services to fill gaps in access to healthcare and housing in the Madison area. We envision a community where individuals experiencing housing insecurity have equitable housing and healthcare. MSM started in 2015 and has grown substantially since then. It started with a 100% volunteer base but has grown to include about 85 volunteers and 15 paid staff members. Our services are a combination of pop-up medical clinics at various shelters each week, a monthly foot care clinic at The Beacon, street outreach multiple times a week and co-managing the Dairy Drive tiny shelter encampment. We now have one full-time and one part-time RN on staff, as well as multiple case managers that do joint staff outreach to address both medical and housing needs.

We have very much appreciated the partnership with the Wisconsin Medical Project! It has been immensely helpful in getting supplies for our clients when it is not feasible through the traditional healthcare system. We also receive occasional medical supply donations that we can't use so it's great to have another organization that can put these items to good use.”

## End-of-Year Gifts

All of the work detailed in this newsletter – and much more – is made possible through your generosity, and the need for the equipment and supplies we provide is greater than ever.

*Will you consider continuing your support of WMP with an end-of-year gift?*

Donations can be made online at [www.wismedproject.org/donate](http://www.wismedproject.org/donate) (scanning this QR code will bring you there).

Or, they can be mailed to:  
Wisconsin Medical Project  
26 N. Prospect Avenue  
Madison, WI 53726

With appreciation,

*Dr. Bernie Micke and the Wisconsin Medical Project Board*



*p.s. **Would you like to volunteer for Wisconsin Medical Project?** WMP is seeking volunteers to help get the word out about equipment and supply donations, pick up supply donations, and sort donations in our warehouse. If you're interested in any of these opportunities, please contact us at [wismedproject.org/contact](http://wismedproject.org/contact) to learn more about getting involved.*