



Wisconsin Medical Project

Hello Friends!

Wisconsin Medical Project (WMP) has a lot of news to share since our last newsletter. Read on for...

- **A letter from WMP President, Dr. Bernard Micke**
- Photos and details from **the move to our new warehouse facility**
- **A letter from Yacouba Traore about our most recent shipment to Ivory Coast**
- **A call for equipment and supply donations**
- How you can **support WMP with a monetary gift**

President's Letter

So far, 2024 has been a year of transition for WMP. On January 26th, a crew (pictured below) led by Scott Diaczun, Russ Koval, Jon Heinrich, Don Zastrow, Jack Kenny, and many others loaded the remainder of our inventory and belongings into two semi loads destined for our new warehouse at 2418 Pennsylvania Ave. Since then, we have been learning how to live in a smaller space, have reorganized our inventory, and have updated our sorting process. Again, many people have contributed their ideas, time, and efforts to make this happen.

We continue to accumulate donations from our usual sources and are very grateful to those donors who have been willing to hold onto donations during this transition period of "getting going again" (meaning getting containers out the door!).

At this point, we currently have enough equipment and supplies to fill about two containers, and are in the process of developing plans for our next shipments:

- We are working with Pape Samb from Jamarek in Senegal to send a container to Dakar.
- We have initiated the process to obtain a government authorization from Cuba to send another much-needed container to our friends in Camaguey, where economic conditions continue to be dire.
- We have been contacted by a group representing a medical facility in Nigeria. This group was referred to us by State Representative Samba Baldeh of the Madison-Kanifing Sister City in the Gambia.

We have some organizational and Board news to share as well. WMP has a new treasurer, Andrew Krikelas, who works for the US Labor Department; and a new secretary, Karen Young, retired from the UW School of Veterinary Medicine. Board Members Dr. Ann Behrmann and Dr. Scott Mead recently put together a poster presentation on WMP for a recent UW Medical School Global Health Symposium. Other friends of WMP have also taken on new responsibilities and leadership roles for the organization, which is greatly appreciated. We encourage and invite others who are interested in more active involvement with WMP to reach out. We'd love to have you more involved!

More on our New Home

In January 2024, WMP moved to a new warehouse on Madison's north side on Pennsylvania Avenue. While the new space is nice, clean, and secure, it is smaller than our former warehouse which has necessitated some adjustments in our organization systems. The move, which was a major undertaking of transferring our entire inventory, large shelving units, and other furniture, would not have been possible without major support from our board members, many volunteers, and Scott Diaczun and his team (and semi trucks!) from Future Foam.

Here's Scott's recounting of moving day:

On January 26th Future Foam helped Wisconsin Medical Project move into their new warehouse space. It took eight months to find the new warehouse, and the move finally happened with a bunch of help from lots of people. Al (from Future Foam) was able to arrange for a liftgate trailer from Alliance, and Zach (also from Future Foam) worked our schedule to free up a driver to shuttle the semi between locations. We were able to move the majority of the inventory in two runs. Our Future Foam team was also helpful in physically loading the truck, as well as assisting with the packing of items into the truck such that things did not shift in transit and risk damage. We were happy to be able to support WMP in this undertaking!



Photos 1 & 2: Loading up and last laughs at our warehouse at Centro Hispano; Photos 3 & 4: WMP's new warehouse on Pennsylvania Avenue

Appreciation for WMP's Recent Shipment to Ivory Coast

Our good friend and longtime partner in Ivory Coast, Yacouba Traore, M.Ed., recently relayed this letter of appreciation and photos from WMP's late 2023 shipment to Sassandra.

Sassandra: A Heartfelt Thank You to Wisconsin Medical Project

Sassandra is a town in southern Ivory Coast. Sassandra lies on the Gulf of Guinea at the mouth of the Sassandra River. The town was founded by the Portuguese as Santo André and was later run by the British, then by the French as a seaport for timber. The town declined in the 1960s.

In the heart of our community, where every helping hand makes a significant impact, the recent donation of medical equipment by Wisconsin Medical Project to Sassandra has been a beacon of hope. As we navigate through the challenges of ensuring adequate healthcare for all in Ivory Coast, WMP's contribution has not only equipped the medical facilities in the district of Sassandra with essential tools but also uplifted the spirits of both healthcare providers and patients alike.

"We are deeply grateful for the generosity of Wisconsin Medical Project," says Dr. Kouame George, a leading physician at Hospital General de Sassandra. "Their support has not only improved our operational capabilities but also shown a remarkable commitment to the well-being of our community."

The impact of this donation extends beyond the walls of the hospitals and clinics. It resonates with the countless individuals and families who rely on our healthcare system for support during some of their most vulnerable moments. "It's a relief to know that our local medical centers are better equipped, thanks to Wisconsin Medical Project," shares Monique Ble, a patient who recently received a new wheelchair. This donation is more than just a contribution; it's a testament to the spirit of giving and the shared vision of a healthier future for all.



Photos from the unloading of the container in Sassandra.

WMP Can Always Take Medical Equipment and Supply Donations

Did you know that WMP takes medical equipment and supply donations on an ongoing basis? And that many of our donations come from individuals in our community? We are always working to get the word out that WMP is a great place to donate items such as wheelchairs, walkers, canes, braces, and crutches, as well as unused medical supplies like incontinence pads and bandages.

If you have medical equipment or supplies to donate, or can help us spread the word about taking donations amongst your network, on your neighborhood listserv, or similar, please contact us by visiting wismedproject.org/donate-medical-supplies. Thank you!

Make a Gift in Support of WMP

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 a donation?

Donations can be made online at 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 for your continued support of our work and mission,

Dr. Bernie Micke, WMP President, and the Wisconsin Medical Project Board

