



Wisconsin Medical Project

December 2024

Hello Friends of Wisconsin Medical Project,

The mission of Wisconsin Medical Project is to provide humanitarian aid to hospitals and clinics in areas of great need. This focus is the foundation of all we do—sourcing no-longer-needed supplies and equipment locally that would otherwise be discarded to landfills; nurturing partnerships with international and local aid agencies that ensure our collected materials reach those in need; and running an efficient warehouse operation with our amazing all-volunteer team that sort, refurbish, pack, and load supplies.

We simply could not do this work without your support, and we are so grateful for each and every one of you.

This past year has been an exceptionally full one at Wisconsin Medical Project. We moved to a new facility—a major undertaking—and still took in countless donations, sent 5 ½ containers overseas, and distributed many loads of supplies locally.

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

- **A letter from WMP President, Dr. Bernard Micke**
- A recap and photos from a container we loaded in November that is bound for Cuba
- **WMP's year of impact**
- Revival of WMP's popular Warehouse Party?
- How you can continue your **support of WMP with an end-of-year gift**

President's Letter

As I said in our summer newsletter, 2024 has been a year of transition for the Wisconsin Medical Project, and it has continued to be so.

One of the best developments has been the initiative taken by volunteers to accomplish the work of WMP. Russ Koval, Don Zastrow, Scott Diaczun, Yacouba Traore, and many others have stepped up and become very active in all aspects of our work. Russ, in particular, has taken charge of the warehouse—picking up donations, organizing inventory, leading volunteer crews, and planning for shipments.

In June, we sent a container to Senegal through our local partner Jamarek that distributes equipment and supplies to medical facilities in rural areas of the country. This week, we sent a container of goods to Cuba. And, we are on track to send containers to Ivory Coast and Mauritania before the end of the year through the connections of Yacouba Traore, WMP's newest board member. We have also continued to partner locally with River Food Pantry, WayForward, The Beacon, and Madison Street Medicine.

This year, WMP also developed a new relationship with The Good News Project in Wausau, Wisconsin with whom we have exchanged loads of supplies that each of our organizations can use. We hope to develop similar trade partnerships with other Wisconsin organizations to facilitate the best possible use of the supplies we collect, and the most beneficial inventory of items we can provide to our international and local recipients.

Container Heading to Cuba

On November 14, a WMP volunteer crew loaded a full shipping container bound for Madison's Sister City, Camaguey, Cuba. Though the need for medical supplies and equipment in Cuba is greater than ever, getting the necessary permissions to ship there has become increasingly challenging in recent years. It's especially heartening when WMP is cleared to send a shipment to Camaguey, as it is with this partnership that WMP's work began over 20 years ago. This latest shipment included four gurneys, two pallets of prosthetics, 18 wheelchairs, three barrels of crutches, three cautery machines, one cast saw, walkers, commodes; various devices such as oxygen concentrators, nebulizers, monitors, and CPAP machines; and more.



Photos from the recent Cuba-bound container loading.

WMP's Impact in 2024: Local and International

Our local and international partners connect WMP's collected supplies with the individuals who need them. Through these partnerships, WMP realized the following impact in 2024:

- **Local Impact:**
 - WMP provided 10 pallets of adult incontinence supplies to **River Food Pantry** in the first half of 2024; in the second half, WMP gave over 1,000 pounds of supplies to **WayForward** (they weigh all of their incoming donations!)
 - WMP provided rollator walkers with baskets to **The Beacon** multiple times in 2024; we take them over whenever they are requested.
 - WMP gives gloves, wound care, and other medical supplies to **Madison Street Medicine** on a regular basis.
 - WMP delivered donated hearing aids and batteries to the **UW Speech and Hearing Clinic's HearAid Recycling Program (HARP)**.
 - WMP has developed a relationship with **The Good News Project** in Wausau, and exchanged equipment three times in 2024. We take them items that aren't usable by overseas partners (electric lifts, for example), and they provide us with walkers and other mobility devices.
 - WMP is contacted through our website on a *daily basis* by individuals in the community seeking to donate medical supplies and equipment that would otherwise end up in a landfill.
- **International Impact:**
 - Full containers were sent to partners in **Senegal** (June), **Nigeria** (July), and **Cuba** (November).
 - Two additional containers are scheduled to be sent yet this year to **Ivory Coast** (November) and **Mauritania** (December).
 - WMP provided half of a container of PPE to Mustapha Kambi's organization which aids medical partners in **the Gambia**. This load included digital thermometers, KN95 masks, gloves, disinfectant cleaners, and alcohol pads. Additionally, three pallets of donated medical equipment were provided for the Gambia as well.
 - WMP provided **MedHope Salone**, which aids recipients in Sierra Leone, with nine pallets of medical supplies, wheelchairs, and hospital bed mattresses, as well as a pallet of adult incontinence supplies.



2019 WMP Warehouse Party with live music from Tony Castaneda Latin Jazz Band

Warehouse Party in 2025?

In pre-pandemic years, WMP hosted an annual Warehouse Party, a popular event that brought together our organization's many friends and raised funds for our work. The WMP Board would love to bring this event back in late spring or summer 2025, and we need some volunteers to help make it happen!

If you're enthusiastic about reviving the Warehouse Party, have a knack for party planning, and have time to help with the coordination, please email us at thewisconsinmedicalproject@gmail.com.

End-of-Year Gifts

We couldn't do this work without your generous support.

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 continue your support of WMP with an end-of-year gift?

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,

Dr. Bernie Micke and the Wisconsin Medical Project Board

