Never Forget the Mission

30 Years on the Trail to Better Health
ASPIRATIONS REQUIRE VISION

FUNDING THE FUTURE

NEEDS IN THE HEART OF APPALACHIA

RAM IN NEPAL

UNIVERSITY RAM CHAPTER

RAM’S MOST TRAVELED VOL

HEALTHY INITIATIVES PROGRAM

THOUGHTS FROM A VOL

MEET THE TEAM

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FROM VOL TO CEO

My journey with Remote Area Medical started eight years ago at a clinic held at Lincoln Memorial University. Starting out as a volunteer, along with my sister Dr. Janice Bach, I was hooked on RAM that very first clinic. Seeing the impact that Remote Area Medical and their host of volunteers had on the patients that weekend, my future was set. I was going to do all that was possible to earn the “Khakis” and become a Core Volunteer.

The next eight years saw me, my wife Debbie, and youngest daughter Peyton volunteering at RAM clinics from East Tennessee to California with heartwarming memories of clinics in places like New Orleans and the vast plains of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. My passion for Stan’s mission “to prevent pain and alleviate suffering by providing free, quality healthcare to those in need” grew stronger with every expedition.

Let me introduce myself. I am Jeff Eastman, long time RAM volunteer and recent Chief Business Officer for Remote Area Medical. Stan Brock and the RAM Board of Directors have given me the honor and privilege to continue my work with RAM as Chief Executive Officer under the great leadership of Stan. Stan’s role as Founder and President of Remote Area Medical does not change. Rather, my role will be to assist him in leading RAM.

Having volunteered the last eight years with my wife, sister, children, and grandchildren at multiple RAM clinics throughout the United States, I look forward to using these experiences combined with my MBA skills to assist Stan as he sets the vision for RAM’s future.
A $15 donation provides a thorough eye exam and a pair of prescription glasses at no cost to the patient.
Aspirations Require Vision

Brittnay, a 23 year old mother of an 18 month old boy, has dreams for her future, which is why she came to the RAM clinic held at DeKalb County High School on March 28th and 29th, 2015. She was one out of 361 people who came to receive vision, dental and other medical services provided by Remote Area Medical.

“I want to get a different job and go to school and do something different. I want to be a nurse.”

She works hard, but there is not enough money for all of her family’s needs. Her sight has gotten progressively worse since her last pair of glasses in high school, and it was becoming very difficult to read. How could she study and work towards becoming a nurse when she needed glasses so badly?

“We don’t get out very often,” Brittnay explained. “This is the first weekend in like two months since grandpa passed away that my mother could take the baby. So all we have is today and tomorrow.”

Brittnay felt lucky to get a number and have a pair of glasses in just three hours. Not everyone who attends a RAM clinic has a mother to watch their children. Most patients come with their entire family the day before and camp out to receive the health services that they desperately need. Even two incomes with low pay doesn’t go far enough to handle essentials such as food and lodging, let alone medical needs that arise.

RAM makes a difference in people’s lives. Preventing pain and alleviating suffering enables patients to be free to reach for their dreams and improve their quality of life.

Article by Donna Walker, RAM Development Officer
“Today is the first day of the rest of your life.”
Today is... the first day of the rest of your life!

NOT THE YET!

RAMUSA.ORG
A young boy tries on his new glasses at RAM expedition #749 held in Knoxville, Tennessee on February 7 and 8.
Stan Brock, Founder of Remote Area Medical® (RAM®), and Dr. Luther Castillo Harry, Founder of the First Garifuna Hospital, which provides free care to the indigenous tribal groups of northeastern Honduras, were the featured speakers. The obvious topic was the importance of volunteer providers delivering free healthcare to impoverished populations. The audience was comprised of Delegates of UN member states, mission staff, various Non-Governmental Organizations and representatives of UN agencies. Brock said, “All RAM® staff and volunteers should feel honored that our organization was selected to represent our nation’s underserved in such a prestigious venue.”

Article by Karen Wilson, RAM Executive Advisor to the President
We are thrilled that RAM Virginia is now official! I was honored when Stan asked me to help lead Virginia’s new affiliate. I knew it would be an exciting challenge and opportunity for Virginia.

I’m Victoria Weiss, a Charlottesville, Virginia based optometrist and President of RAM Virginia. What a great year it has been so far! We established a new clinic site in Lee County, Virginia, the poorest county in the state. Lee County lost their hospital last year and is in dire need of basic medical care. I have been so impressed with the organization and willingness of the community to come together to help their neighbors. When you ask someone to chair a committee or help in getting billboards ordered or food for patients, someone always raises their hand and says, “I’ll do it.” Our 2015 Lee County clinic is September 12 &13 and will bring relief to many residents who lost access to a hospital.

Plans to Meet Needs

Looking to the summer we have the 16th annual expedition at the Wise County Fairgrounds in July which is coming together nicely. We have 400 volunteers so far, not including dental professionals. Also rapidly approaching is the 11th Grundy clinic, which we will hold on October 3 and 4.

Victoria Weiss, OD, long time vision care volunteer, is the president of RAM’s newest affiliate, RAM Virginia. This affiliation will allow Remote Area Medical to serve more people by expanding our reach deeper into Appalachia.
In November we are expanding to another part of Virginia: Warsaw. This is a rural area in the Northeastern part of Virginia at the start of the Northern Neck. It does not have easy access to D.C., Richmond, or Norfolk for health care. It will be at the Richmond County Elementary School.

On the horizon for 2016 we have our fourth Expedition at Southern Virginia University in Buena Vista, coordinated by RAM Virginia board member Barbara Van Kuiken, March 5 and 6, 2016.

Additionally, Smyth County has been holding monthly planning meetings for our first clinic there on April 30 and May 1, 2016 at the airport in Marion. The local community is extremely excited about this and the volunteer team leaders have been working hard to start the project. Here’s to helping the Appalachian region one state at a time.

I’m looking forward to the future with Remote Area Medical. By expanding and establishing RAM Virginia, we will provide more help to more people. We will utilize our own mobile units to hold more clinics in the region, and over the next several years we will continue to strategically grow in order to provide free, quality health care to those in need.

Article by Victoria Weiss, OD, RAM Virginia President

Dr Weiss spoke about Virginia’s health care needs at Piedmont Virginia Community College where a theater full of concerned citizens viewed the local premiere of Remote Area Medical, the film.
- No matter where RAM goes to deliver free health care, we can utilize the internet to keep our amazing supporters up to date. Find us online!

**FB.COM/RAMUSA.ORG**

**INSTAGRAM.COM/REMOTEAREAMEDICAL**
On the morning of April 25, 2015, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck the nation of Nepal. The earthquake was directly responsible for the deaths of 8,462 people while injuring more than 20,000 others. The historic earthquake destroyed 489,000 homes and damaged another 260,000.

The moment news broke of the disaster, the RAM team got to work to assemble a relief effort. After several long days of coordinating with the World Health Organization (WHO), Nepal’s Ministry of Health and Population, and several partners onsite, the RAM disaster relief team, solely composed of volunteers, was ready to go.

On Friday, May 1st, RAM Team Leader, Paul Maresca, was on the ground and evaluating the situation. Maresca set up camp at Deerwalk Institute of Technology, our local partners who hosted RAM, and began planning the team’s efforts. The trip would not have been possible without the incredible support of everyone at Deerwalk, Inc, who helped our eager volunteers every step of the way.

Upon getting acquainted with the surrounding area and visiting with local hospitals to evaluate needs, Maresca received the team’s assignment from WHO. RAM was assigned one of the most distant effected areas: the villages of Piskar and Dhuskun in the Sindhupalchowk district of Nepal. Sindhupalchowk was the hardest-hit district in the nation, and the team was eager to get there to work.

The team launched in four wheel-drive vehicles to brave the incredibly deteriorated road conditions. Not only had the earthquake damaged major roads, but ensuing torrential rain had caused mudslides throughout the region. Of course, the volunteers did not know what to expect.
The team described the damage as “historic.”

From left: (back row) Paul Meresca, Durga Malepati, Genell Hilton, Sharon Rynard, John Stauffer, Margaret De Coux, Jill York, Vasu Malepati, Allison Tse, Andy Siskind, Paul Khunkhun, (front row) Mike Whaley, Janice Bach, Jodi Sagarin (Julie Peddicord not pictured)
The WHO assigned RAM this region due to how little they knew about the area’s status, so our team went in expecting anything and everything. After meeting with local health officials and getting oriented, they split up and started toward the pair of villages.

On the very first day, they saw 80 patients in the village of Piskar, and 150 patients in the village of Dhuskun. Aftershocks reverberated through the teams’ camps, but all members stayed safe and sound. They had to combat heavy rains throughout the mission, using every tarp and sheet available to shield patients and medical supplies from the torrential downpours. The entire team then reassembled in Piskar, where they held a larger clinic with additional support from the military. That clinic day saw a whole 250 patients, bringing much-needed care to the remote village.

Next, the team met with the health department lead in a larger town called Barhabise about other villages in need of help. The RAM team was asked to assist in the villages of Choukati & Ghorthali. However, the day was full of violent storms, which made it impossible to climb the mountain with the available vehicles. It was therefore decided that they would wait for the storm to pass, in hopes of less muddy conditions. The team set up camp along the river, adapting to the ever-changing circumstances with gusto.

The next day, light rain enabled our brave volunteers to take the dangerous journey into the mountains. Unfortunately, one of the vehicles broke down only three kilometers from the first destination! They therefore set up a clinic on the spot, and villagers traveled on foot to reach this unexpected, free medical care. Several team members pressed on in another vehicle to the second village, only to find the roads so deteriorated that it was not deemed an acceptable risk to press on.

Despite these absolutely merciless conditions, they continued providing care for the villagers that day without complaint. Heavy rains continued on, forcing the group to depart and head back to Kathmandu. Then, the very next morning, a second earthquake of 7.3 magnitude struck Nepal. It hit hardest in Kodari, only 26 miles from where the group had camped the day before.

The RAM team was fortunate enough to avoid injury during this second earthquake, and all vols were well and healthy. Upon coordinating with the WHO, it was decided by the government of Nepal that they did not have any additional needs for foreign medical teams. Therefore, our RAM troop returned home to their friends and family, and we at RAM HQ are incredibly proud of their hard work under insufferable conditions. We thank each and every team member for the sacrifices they made in order to help their fellow man in a time of such dire need.

Article by Oriane Leake, RAM Volunteer Manager & Nepal Relief Coordinator
Dr. Vasu Malepati conducting health screenings in Piskar.

Emergency camp designated for surgery and critical care.

Sharon Rynard, Julie Peddicord, and Allison Tse with a relieved local family in the Sinhupalchowk District.

Roads were not an option, so the group hiked to remote areas in need of help.
When RAM receives a donation of $100, $88 go directly to program services. *figures based on 2013 financial reports

Thanks to the dedication of volunteers and the good will of donors, Remote Area Medical has the unique ability to deliver high-quality health care at no cost to patients.

Here is a breakdown of how your contributions improve quality of life and provide hope for those who could not obtain health care without RAM and its partners.

MAIL CONTRIBUTIONS TO:
REMOTE AREA MEDICAL
2200 STOCK CREEK BLVD
ROCKFORD, TN 37853

CALL IN CONTRIBUTIONS TO:
1-865-579-1530

CONTRIBUTE VIA OUR SECURE ONLINE PROCESSOR AT:
RAMUSA.ORG/DONATE
RAM served 27,523 people in 2014, providing a value of $9,000,000+ in no-cost medical care, thanks to volunteers and donors like you.

$1,000,000 provides a new mobile unit and stocks it with material to allow greater reach and impact.

“These guys are real heroes. I have been in pain with bad teeth for years. They saw how bad I needed them pulled and pulled 27 teeth for me. There is no way I could afford to have this done and I would still be hurting if it wasn’t for them. Thank you guys so much for what you do, you will never know how much you truly helped me.”

WHEN YOU GIVE

$22
You provide vision care for 4 patients.

$99
You provide dental care for 3 patients.

$707
You sponsor an hour of a clinic.

$7,069
You sponsor an entire day of a clinic.

$15,905
You sponsor a 2-day clinic event.
“I started volunteering my professional services at RAM clinics around 15 years ago after reading an article in an aviation magazine about their work,” stated Buffalo Dentist Dr. Kevin D ‘Angelo. He shared his stories of RAM service with other dentists, staff, and students, and then they wanted to volunteer.

“I also served as the Mission Director for the Flying Dentist Association. Many of the members who never came to a meeting volunteered for a RAM clinic,” exclaimed Dr. D ‘Angelo.

In 2005 the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine brought 3 students to work RAM Clinics through the enthusiastic promotion of Drs. Gambacorta and D’Angelo. Now Dr. Joseph Gambacorta, a general dentist and dental instructor at the Dental School, brings students to six clinics each year.

Dr. Gambacorta explained, “I could bring more, we have 75-90 students that compete for those twenty spots for each clinic.” Even if students drop out, “we had no problem filling it back up to 20 spots because we have a waiting list for every trip.”

Dr. D’Angelo said, “Students were able to use student loan monies to travel to the health clinics and volunteer because it was considered a work study program like study abroad. Over the past three years we have brought those 20 students for clinics and in total, since we began volunteering, have probably impacted 400 students.”

“The student experience is two-fold. It’s a bit of an eye opener to really see what’s going on socioeconomically in the United States,” stated Dr. Gambacorta.

RAM has refined a process that makes it easy for students and higher education to participate in such outreach programs. Students go to the ramusa.org website, sign up and register online for the clinics and RAM takes care of the logistics like lodging, etc.

The Greeneville, Tennessee RAM clinic had 40 dental stations set up, which was an amazing opportunity for the college students. The dental instructors were excited and viewed it as an academic health center because it also incorporated providing vision care and glasses, as well as treating people with some other health issues.

“You know, we’re Doctors,” exclaimed Dr. Gambacorta, “You go to medical school, dental school, whatever professional school you go to because you want to help people and the patients get really excited. You get a big hug, a big thank you, and handshake. These people don’t have a lot of alternatives so you’re really changing lives and there is something to be said for that. All the emotion that the patients exude does a great thing for you, too.”

“I get a lot more out of it than I feel I give every time.”

RAM gives opportunities to Doctors and Dentists to reconnect in a special way to why they became a doctor in the first place. Additionally, the experiences students have while receiving their education will have benefits for their futures and give them more opportunities to impact others’ lives.

Article by Donna Walker, RAM Development Officer
University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine students performing a filling under the guidance of Dr. Gambacorta. Students must be in their 3rd, or 4th year or residents to qualify.

DENTISTS

Dr. D'Angelo (R) and Dr. Gambacorta (L) enjoying a short, well-deserved break during RAM expedition #742 in Greeneville, Tn where 364 dental patients received a total of 1,926 procedures thanks to volunteer dentists and students.
University Chapter Takes Charge

“I just feel like I’ve been very lucky in where I am in life, and I have the time and resources to give to other people. That’s why I volunteer.” - Andrew Fleming

2015 marks the official beginning of RAM’s first college chapter as Hannah Hill and Andrew Fleming of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville took the lead and began helping RAM HQ with clinic prep, educational content creation, and so much more.

As an undergraduate at the University of Tennessee studying Microbiology, my schedule was overflowing with lab work, projects, and tests. I was convinced that each minute I spent studying would constitute the identity I would present to competitive, post-graduate schools.

However, in March of 2014 I attended an informational presentation by Remote Area Medical (RAM), a local non-profit organization about which I had never heard a thing. As the RAM Volunteer Director shared the mission and values of Remote Area Medical, I grew increasingly distraught over the pervasive lack of healthcare millions of people cannot escape.

During the course of the meeting, my priority list was largely challenged as I realized how little I knew about the people living in the same world I did. The Volunteer Director showed a video that told the story of Stan Brock, a wild-life television show host who turned into the founder of Remote Area Medical.
Stan Brock’s seemingly non sequitur career change left me awestruck. However, when his compassion, empathy, and desire to fix what is not right are considered, Brock’s creation of Remote Area Medical makes perfect sense. His story convinced me that, regardless of my priorities, I was capable of dedicating time to Remote Area Medical. I had never considered my role as a student to include volunteering for 24 hours on multiple weekends at Remote Area Medical clinics. Yet after my first clinic in Wise County, Virginia, I knew I could not let my role as a student preclude my ability to support RAM and the millions of people who need healthcare.

Andrew Fleming and I co-founded the Remote Area Medical, University of Tennessee Chapter in our last year as students at the University of Tennessee. Today, those who join this Chapter are informed of clinics, given priority volunteer registration, and required to volunteer at Remote Area Medical Headquarters. I hope that RAM UTK will eventually function as a constant volunteer supply for Remote Area Medical Headquarters.

“Through RAM, my role as a student has morphed into my role as a young adult who finds fulfillment in being part of a solution.”

I have learned that each person, whether seeking care or providing care, is a pillar in the pursuit of an accommodating society that includes and respects all citizens. I have been privileged to witness the most benevolent aspects of humanity for hours on end at clinics. Remote Area Medical’s mission to “alleviate suffering” stands fulfilled as it brings joy to both the volunteers and the patients alike.

Article by Hannah Hill
Elizabeth in Smithville, Tennessee running RAM’s x-ray unit during expedition #752 held at DeKalb County High School on March 28-29, 2015.
For Elizabeth Larwood, volunteering is not just an extracurricular, it’s a way of life. For more than 35 years, Elizabeth has volunteered for various organizations including American Red Cross, Operation Blessings and, even, Antiques Roadshow. In her professional life, she has worked as a dental assistant and office manager for 45 years and says dentistry is her true love. It’s that love that has literally driven Elizabeth’s service with RAM.

Working with RAM for 10 years, Elizabeth holds the unofficial title at RAM as the most traveled volunteer. From East to West, she devotedly packs up her car to volunteer at more than 10 clinics a year throughout the country. Elizabeth is not exactly sure how far she has traveled for one clinic, but says her journeys with RAM include trips to Nevada as well as South Dakota and Texas. Residing in Alabama, Elizabeth is a staple in clinics around the South as well.

Her penchant for traveling doesn’t just apply to her work with RAM. She has traveled to every state in the continental United States and says she has even lived in most, including the U.S. possessions. With such extensive traveling, it is no surprise that Elizabeth has had a well-rounded professional life.

Over the years, Elizabeth has worn many occupational hats including military service, truck driving, and insurance sales, to name a few. At RAM clinics, she continues to juggle many positions.

During clinics, Elizabeth’s responsibilities as a core volunteer range from setting-up equipment, directing new volunteers, and operating x-ray machines. Elizabeth says she does, “whatever needs to be done,” to ensure dentistry clinics run smoothly. When asked about her devotion to RAM clinics, Elizabeth says her connection runs deep.

“I’ve worked with a lot of organizations, but at RAM we’re like a family. The people that volunteer truly want to help. Their hearts are in the right place.”

If you are volunteering at a RAM dental clinic, or any volunteer organization for that matter, you might meet Elizabeth, no matter where in the country you may be.

Article by Tessa Snyder, RAM Development Volunteer
Healthy Initiatives Program (H.I.P.)

“It is our hope that with the right information, tools, and local resources, the people we serve will be empowered to make choices that will lead to healthier lives.”
RAM® is pleased to announce the Healthy Initiatives Program as a new component of our clinic activities! We understand the challenges of living well in an environment filled with unhealthy food options, confusing misinformation, and a lack of valuable tools.

We also know that we are seeing an increased number of patients at our clinics with preventable diseases like diabetes, heart disease, and obesity. As part of our commitment to providing free, quality health care services, we are increasing our focus on preventive health services. We are working with community agencies and organizations in areas where we operate our clinics to invite them to share important education, information, and tools to empower patients to make healthy life choices.

We are joined in these efforts by our partners at Food City, NuVal, UT Extension, UT Medical Center Healthy Living Kitchen, and Missy Kane/Covenant Health. With the help of these partners and other local community agencies, we have been able to provide educational services ranging from nutrition and food safety, healthy eating on a budget, and proper use of refrigerator and meat thermometers, to diabetes and heart/stroke screenings. Patients also have the opportunity to watch a collection of informative videos as they wait for services at a clinic.
Additionally, individuals are informed of local resource agencies and how to contact them with questions after a RAM clinic has concluded. Plus, they leave with a variety of free materials, including healthy recipes, shopping tips, and food safety guides, as well as meat thermometers, refrigerator thermometers, and/or vegetable peelers.

Since our pilot project at the Knoxville RAM clinic, we have provided educational and screening services to over 800 patients in East Tennessee! We are currently working to include HIP at all of our Tennessee clinic locations and will expand the program into the Appalachian region in the coming months, with a long term goal of including HIP services at each of our clinics nationwide!

If you are interested in learning more or would like to help with these efforts, please visit the HIP page on our website: ramusa.org/healthy-initiatives-program/ OR email us at HIP@ramusa.org!

Article by Amanda Weber, RAM Business Management Associate
In Bristol, Tennessee at RAM expedition #759, volunteers representing the Medical Library Association/Quillen College of Medicine Library and UT Extension shared healthy lifestyle information with patients.

In Knoxville, Tennessee at RAM expedition #742, HIP partners supplied patients with nutritional information, health tips, and free takeaways. Photo credit: Amanda Weber
In the United States, 25.5% of adults and 17.5% of children live with untreated tooth decay, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In 2013, 11% of American adults reported bypassing needed dental care because of the cost. The reported percentage would be higher if polls reached the most remote areas of the U.S.

**Oral Health Linked to Total Health**

In 2007, a 12 year old boy named Deamonte Driver died as a result of a brain infection caused by an untreated abscessed tooth. In 2012, a 24 year old father named Kyle Willis contracted a tooth infection requiring antibiotics that he could not afford. The infection took his life.

This intimate relationship between periodontal (gum) disease and major health problems like diabetes and heart disease has been highlighted in health research and noted by the Centers for Disease Control. Dentists and medical doctors know about the relationship but only reach their own patients, those who can afford the visit, with the potentially life-saving information. Because of the lack of awareness, American emergency rooms regularly turn away hurting people seeking pain relief as a result of preventable dental conditions.

Nutrition plays such an important role in oral health that eating a healthy diet could be considered preventive care. Studies show an eye-opening association between dietary sugar intake and tooth decay. In countries where sugar constitutes less than 10% of energy intake, cavities are a low-level concern. In countries with high consumption levels, like the U.S., dental erosion is commonplace, and RAM clinic statistics reflect these findings.

Last year RAM volunteers treated 9,282 dental patients, extracting a total of 16,860 damaged teeth. Some patients needed entire rows of teeth removed, while others only needed help with the teeth they were not able to pull themselves.

“When you’re in pain, you do what you have to do,” said a clinic patient after explaining that he had to use pliers to remove an agonizing tooth because he could not afford to pay a professional.

The country’s oral health problems will not be cured overnight, but by educating Americans on the links between diet, oral health, and overall health, we can work to reverse the problem. With an increase of awareness will come a decrease of untreated dental problems. In the meantime, RAM will continue filling the holes in both our country’s health care system and our patients’ teeth.

Article by Eric Hutchinson, RAM Development Executive Associate
Rachel Ennis, RDH, BS, MDH, clinical instructor at the University of Tennessee, Memphis College of Dentistry, volunteering her expertise at expedition #742 in Greeneville, Tennessee.

Thanks to dental professionals like Rachel, RAM can be part of the solution as we treat America’s most isolated and underserved citizens year-round.
“You will always have the poor among you.” (John 12:8) This passage comes alive when people in need of free medical care hear that Remote Area Medical (RAM) is coming to their community to set up a clinic. Patients start gathering hours, sometimes days, before the door opens.

I could just write a check and support a favorite charity, but by giving my time as a volunteer at a RAM clinic, I can experience a bit of the lives of the people we help. Each patient has a story and I can be the person who listens.

At our annual RAM clinic in Wise, Virginia, a RAM volunteer was talking to a couple waiting in line to see the dentist. The husband told the volunteer that the year before, he had a tooth that was hurting him so badly he couldn’t sleep, eat, or concentrate while he was at work. They could not afford to go to a dentist to have it extracted.

He said over the next week or two he would twist the tooth with a pair of pliers. When it started getting loose, he continued to work on it each day until he finally pulled it out. He went on to say that his wife has developed a toothache, and it was affecting her just as it had him. They still could not afford a trip to a dentist, but he was unable to bring
himself to pull her tooth with a pair of pliers. They heard about the RAM clinic and had come to get her tooth extracted as it should be done.

In Cleveland, Tennessee a young woman came in needing glasses. After her eye test, the volunteer technician commented on her extremely poor vision. When her new glasses were fitted to her face, she looked around and immediately started sobbing uncontrollably. The concerned volunteer asked, “Why are you crying?” She said, “I recently had a baby and now I will be able to see her clearly for the first time.” Can you put yourself in this mother’s position? She could finally see her baby girl’s rosy cheeks, red lips, and the color in her eyes.

Remote Area Medical gives me the opportunity to make a real difference. As a RAM volunteer, I can bring joy to a person that I have never met before, may never see again, in a place I’ve never been. Yes, we will always have the poor among us. But as loving, caring, giving people, what are we going to do about it? See you at a RAM clinic!

Article by Ronnie Martin, RAM Core Volunteer
Meet the Operations Team

The RAM Operations team is a small group of dedicated individuals who clock in to work at headquarters on week days and clock out to volunteer at clinics on the weekends.

Chris Hall
Chief Operations Officer

Ron Brewer
Clinic Manager

Oriane Leake
Volunteer Manager

Hope Tipton
Volunteer Coordinator

Joe Thomas
Equipment Manager

Bill Slover
Equipment Assistant

Vicki Gregg
Procurement Manager

Tommy Pennington
Transportation Manager
As we contemplate our 30th year of existence as a charitable organization, I reflect on that fateful day back in the early 1950’s when, as a teenage vaquero on the Brazil border of British Guiana, where all the cowboys were Indians, I had an encounter with a wild horse name Kang that would change my life forever.

Kang was a Wapishana Indian name which meant “the devil.” Kang, they said, had already killed two other cowboys, but in the Vaquero creed, to back down from a challenge was the ultimate disgrace. So in the scorching heat of a sandy corral we lassoed Kang and tethered him to a hitching post. A blanket was thrown across his eyes, we strapped on the saddle, and I climbed on board with bare feet in the homemade stirrups.

The Vaqueros cut him loose, the blindfold came off, and Kang launched across the corral in a determined effort to get rid of his rider. We had a head on collision with the fence, and I lay on the ground badly injured. When I came to, I heard one of the cowboys say, “Well the nearest doctor is 26 days from here....”

I managed to survive without seeing a doctor. But that encounter with a wild horse named Kang many years ago is why RAM exists today, to bring doctors just a little bit closer.

Stan Brock
Delivering free, quality health care to those in need.

www.ramusua.org