

University of Rochester's Global Day of Service - 22 September 2018 - Denver area, 9 AM to noon, at headquarters of Project C.U.R.E., 10377 E. Geddes Ave., Centennial, CO 80112; 303-792-0729 www.projectcure.org

Project C.U.R.E. is the world's largest supplier of donated medical supplies and equipment, serving more than 130 developing countries

for more than 30 years. In addition to the warehouse in this Denver suburb, there are now additional warehouses in the areas of Phoenix, Houston, Chicago, Nashville, and Philadelphia. Smaller Collection Centers serve other areas and ship received medical goods to the warehouses for further processing.



(There is a Collection Center in Cortland, NY, but perhaps the Rochester area deserves a Warehouse, with much medical goods available from the University of Rochester medical facilities. Project C.U.R.E. wants to receive useable medical supplies and equipment, reducing what goes to landfill as waste.)

Alumni participants were the organizer - Dr. Ed Holroyd, '66; Michael Fabin and grandson Sandy; Noelle Baldwin, '91; Michelle Miller, '91; Adina Poras, '16; and Alexandra Johnson, '18. Ed Holroyd has served in many capacities as a volunteer at Project C.U.R.E. nearly weekly for about 13 years. We all entered ourselves into the Project C.U.R.E. computer system to get our volunteer hours recorded.



For several minutes we (and another visiting group) viewed an introductory video about the mission of Project C.U.R.E. We then had a quick tour around the warehouse. We passed many racks with supplies waiting to be sorted: a 7-month backlog and great need for more volunteers.



We paused by pallets and beds ready to be loaded onto a 40-foot container destined for Nigeria. Each container is packed tightly with about \$400,000 worth of donated supplies and equipment, selected according to a prior needs-assessment trip to the receiving hospitals and clinics. Everything in the container is free to the recipients. However, someone needs to pay for the shipping costs, about \$20,000. So the 20:1 benefit/cost ratio is attractive to businesses, governments and individual donors that want to improve the health care systems in the developing countries.



We then passed Ed's usual work area - more than 6 double-sided racks of boxed supplies. The floor level receives new boxes and boxes that are ready to be sent to the shipping containers. The upper two levels store boxes of the same product codes on pallets until they are needed for shipment. Keeping this area in good order requires about a day of work each week. Sorting volunteers prepare these boxes six days each week.

The "messy" region of the warehouse for biomedical equipment was not

photographed. It is backlogged more than a year because there are not enough qualified volunteers to check out the equipment to make sure that it works and is complete before sending it out to needy countries. We also passed the area for dental equipment.



Our brief tour paused by the CURE Kits (dark green bags in the photo). Two bags are bundled together and contain almost 50 pounds of supplies that are typically very useful in clinics in the countries that we serve. They are designed to be flown as second baggage allowance on international flights. Packing lists are provided for customs clearance. (Ed took three Kits to northwestern Honduras several years ago and amazed a local doctor whose clinic had about 25 very rural substations.) There is a \$200 donation charge for these kits which have about \$2000 worth of supplies. That helps assure accountability and delivery to the intended

destinations. Our group was not shown the CURE Kits For Kids - bags of personal care items that families may not be able to afford in their countries.

There is a CURE Clinic program which nearly monthly sends teams to provide about four days of free basic medical checkups in rural (some urban) areas near hospitals and clinics that routinely receive the 40-foot containers. Medically-trained personnel of a great variety of specialties are encouraged to volunteer for these trips. Non-medical people (like Ed) are also useful. Over the past two years Ed has gone to Haiti, twice to Ghana, and to Panama. He is eager to go to east India next year. CURE Clinics serve about a thousand local people on each trip.

Our sort team leader then trained us in sorting the contents of boxes loaded with donated supplies. We dumped a box onto the sorting table (in case there might be something sharp and hidden in the boxes). We then loaded plastic bowls with items of the same basic type. A notebook was then consulted to provide a bin number into which the supplies were to be placed. A computer was a backup to the notebook, by which a bar code could be scanned or key words entered to start a search for a classification and bin number. We then got to work on two of the six available sorting tables.



Alexandra at notebook, Michael, Sandy, and Adina sorting supplies. Our sort team leader and trainer is in the red shirt. Noelle and Michelle where Ed also worked. The sort notebook is in the lower left. Adina and Michael are in rear.

During the couple of hours of sorting we processed thousands of items, each of which will be very useful to some needy person in another country. What we did will have a tremendous impact in the near future.



Noelle in rear at computer. Sandy, Michael, Adina, and Alexandra sorting. Some of the sorted bins are in the rear.



Looking the other way at the same sorting team.



During our time in the warehouse I noticed that Adina, who works at Children's Hospital, was seeing items that we use but her hospital discards. That will likely change.

Our Day of Service Team

from left: Alexandra, Adina, Noelle, Ed, Michelle, Sandy, Michael.

Ed actually worked 6.7 hours that day, both before and after the alumni team was there. So here are some photos of his normal work for Project C.U.R.E.



Delivered a half-van of these supplies from a visiting nurses association, acting as a regional courier.



Moved these two rows of boxes to the rear corner, filing them in the proper product code storage locations. That took more than an hour.



Stacked and wrapped these 3 pallets with boxes having the same product code. 1207 is adult diapers. 306 is surgical gloves. 307 is masks. Later a fork lift will hoist the pallets into upper storage locations.