

Health



Contributed photo

Doctors and nurses who recently traveled to Guatemala work on a patient.



Contributed photo

The corridors are filled with residents waiting to see doctors who traveled to Guatemala as part of the Faith in Practice mission.

Wisconsin team part of 'Faith in Practice' trip to Guatemala

Wisconsin team completes mission work first week of June

The Wisconsin Faith in Practice team, a group of physicians and nurses, traveled to Guatemala during the first week of June.

Faith in Practice, according to its website, www.faithinpractice.org, describes its mission as "distinctively Christian in its perspective, striving to fulfill the Great Commandment given in both the Old and New Testaments ... to love God and love our Neighbors. This two-fold commandment challenges us to live out our faith in tangible ways.

"The mission of Faith In Practice is to improve the physical, spiritual, and economic conditions of the poor in Guatemala through short-term surgical, medical and

dental mission trips and health-related educational programs.

"Our mission is based on an ecumenical understanding that as people of God we are called to demonstrate the love and compassion that is an outward sign of God's presence among us. Faith In Practice's life-changing medical mission is to minister to the poor, while providing a spiritually enriching experience for our volunteers."

Scheduled to be the first surgical group to work at the Hospital, Hilario Galinda, in San Felipe in the Northwestern section of Guatemala near the major city of Retalhuleu, the Wisconsin contingent flew into Guatemala City May 31, gathered their carry-ons, trunks of medical supplies, water bottles, their senses and hopped on the "chicken bus" that took them on a more than four hour ride over often bumpy and narrow roads to their hotel, The Karmel, in San Felipe.

There were 26 members originating

coast-to-coast from the U.S. and three physicians from Guatemala on the team.

The Wisconsin contingent was made up of Dr. Lloyd Bakken OB-GYN surgeon; Dave Sell, nurse anesthetist; Jennifer Bond-Thompson RN; Annette Soborowicz RN; Janet Maier, surgical tech; and Dr. Anthony Pogodzinski.

All easily adapted to the team, worked, ate, suffered, and rejoiced with all as they examined more than 50 patients and then perform 46 operations for indigent Guatemalans – all from remote villages for the most part. The patients were primarily Mayan, with these efforts aimed at improving their lives and their abilities to function better in their communities.

"It was extraordinarily rewarding to participate with this mission," Dr. Pogodzinski said, "as we all received much more in return than we expended in our efforts. This experience easily expanded our realization of how benefited we truly

are and how easy it is to give of time and talents to assist peoples who are much less fortunate.

"They are beautiful people with whom to work and extremely appreciative of the efforts of teams such as ours to assist them."

The group had a brief opportunity to visit the Pacific Coast and see black sand on the beach which, of course, is due to prior volcanic activity and not contamination.

"All in all it was a precious week of our lives which will be a bright spot to remember," Pogodzinski said. "We appreciate and thank all who were able to assist and support this effort from here and we hope to be able to continue such ventures in the future."

For more information about the effort and how to become involved in future mission trips, call Dr. Pogodzinski at 715-356-2642.

New weekend hours at urgent care

The urgent care department at Marshfield Clinic Minocqua Center has expanded weekend hours.

They are now open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays

and holidays; and open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The hours **will** remain in effect after the Labor Day holiday.

Marshfield Clinic moved three departments to HYMC

The Marshfield Clinic Minocqua Center's General Surgery, Peripheral Vascular Lab and Interventional Radiology departments are now seeing patients in Clinic space on the Howard Young Medical Center campus. A lease agreement was signed in April.

Space is at a premium at Marshfield Clinic Minocqua Center, as new services, including podiatry and rheumatology are added and other specialties expand, said Julie Thompson, Northern Division administrator. "It makes sense for us to use space the hospital has available, especially for specialties that have a significant connection to the hospital. It's convenient

for patients and helps us be cost effective and efficient in providing health care."

"The clinic is exploring expanding services in the leased space at HYMC for more clinical operations that are hospital-based," said Rick Clark, administrator, Marshfield Clinic Minocqua Center. "Some other specialty services may be more efficient and convenient for patients at the hospital. We will collaborate whenever possible to best maximize resources we have."

For more information about the departments' new locations, call Marshfield Clinic at 358-1221; or HYMC at 356-8000.

Help yourself through grief

A Time to Mourn is a free, monthly support group open to any adult who has suffered a loss.

Led by experienced facilitators from Ministry Home Care, each month's meeting focuses on a different topic designed to give people an understanding of grief and some tools to help them manage the feelings and tasks of the grieving process.

Meetings are held at the Lakeland Senior Center, 412 Balsam St.,

Woodruff (southeast corner of Balsam and 2nd streets) the second Thursday of every month, 1-2:30 p.m.

The July 10 session will focus on the topic, "Helping Yourself through Grief."

Upcoming topics are:

- Aug. 14, – The value of memories;
- Sept. 11 – Understanding grief; and
- Oct. 9 – Dealing with feelings.

For more information, call Connie DeBels at 715-356-8805.

Marshfield Clinic Minocqua Center's Fourth of July hours

Marshfield Clinic Minocqua Center's urgent care department and pharmacy will be open 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday, July 4.

It will also be open every weekend, Saturdays and Sundays, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Laboratory and radiology (X-ray) services will also be available on those days.

"We are routinely open on the weekends and during most holidays because urgent health care needs

don't always happen during convenient times," Kelly Rydeski, manager, urgent care, Marshfield Clinic, said.

"The urgent care and pharmacy hours have now been extended on weekends year-round to 8 a.m.-3 p.m. to accommodate the expanded needs of our community throughout the year."

For more information, call Marshfield Clinic Minocqua Center at 715-358-1105 or 1-800-347-0673.