

# the **New Standard**

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An employee publication of the North Shore-LIJ Health System



**New Tower  
Transforms LIJ**

**Wellness?  
Oui, Oui!**

**Hand Hygiene  
Goes Way Up**



**U**nderserved hospitals and clinics in developing countries will receive 350 hospital beds, thanks to a donation from the North Shore-LIJ Health System. The health system donated the beds to MedShare, a nonprofit organization that bridges the gap between surplus and need when it comes to medical supplies.

MedShare collects unused medical items that are still valuable but no longer in demand and redistributes them to healthcare facilities in medically underserved communities, according to David Pass, chief advancement officer of the organization. MedShare sends 40-foot shipping containers full of inspected medical supplies to such regions as sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean, Central America and South and Southeast Asia.

The containers are about the size of a tractor-trailer. Fifty beds and mattresses fit on one shipping container, so North Shore-LIJ provided MedShare with seven shipping containers full of beds, Mr. Pass said.

Three containers — 150 beds — went to Ghana to help upgrade a hospital and replace

## Medical Surplus Bridges the Gap

By Dana Klosner

old beds or provide beds where there were none. The containers were sponsored by the Coca-Cola Africa Foundation.

One more container of 50 beds will go to either Peru or Ecuador. The balance will be shipped in containers that contain boxes of other supplies.

“There are a lot of recipients that don’t need 50

beds but might need 10,” Mr. Pass said. “We are sending life-saving supplies along with them. The recipients are really excited about these beds.”

Since its 1998 inception, MedShare has sent 700 ocean containers to 88 developing countries and territories, Mr. Pass said. “We accept donations of surplus medical products

that would otherwise go into a landfill,” he said. “These are consumable medical supplies. They can be as simple as wound dressings, bandages and syringes and as complex as ultrasound and anesthesia machines. Volunteers inspect each product to make sure it has not expired and sort them down to similar items.

“These surplus supplies get discarded every day in the US,” Mr. Pass said. “We can’t thank North Shore-LIJ enough for its huge humanitarian effort and its impact of good stewardship for the local environment.”

and the Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine, which he hopes will elevate the level of care in St. Lucia and expose medical students to healthcare delivery in the developing world.

What motivates him? “My work in Africa grew out my volunteer work at the Life Center,” he said. “When you tap into the volunteer world, there is an event that seems to occur rapidly. Either you experience an aversion to the seemingly endless needs of the poor and disenfranchised that scares you away, or you get drawn into a community and say ‘I can help here.’ It just suited my personality to want to help as much as I could, even as I realized that it would never be enough.”

Dr. Scanlon’s work caught the attention of some of his neigh-

bors in Huntington who wanted to get their children involved. Together, they founded Aiding Infants and Mothers. “It’s family-oriented and tries to help by funding the needs of the poor and by exposing children to their blessings and to the needs of others,” he said. “We wanted children to experience the truth of ‘It is better to give than to receive,’ even if it sounds counterintuitive.”

The rewards of his work in Africa, Scanlon said, are “to see how we are all God’s creation and are so much alike that, after a short time, the differences vanish. It has made me feel very connected to the world, yet very aware of the advantages I have living in a stable country with provisions for health, education, security and freedom.”