

Operation Helping Hands (OHH), founded in 1999 by Drs. Michel Aboutanos, Tim Broderick, and Jay Yelon, is a humanitarian outreach network designed to bring medical and surgical relief to underserved areas around the world. In March 2000, the first team of six physicians, four nurses, and one support staff, traveled to Hospital Dr. Leopoldo Pou in Samana, Dominican Republic. Equipped with surgical and medical supplies they set up makeshift operation rooms and worked with the local physicians and nurses to perform laparoscopic cholecystectomies, burn reconstructions and general surgical procedures on adults and children. By the close of the ten-day mission, the team had performed over 60 major operations and formed life lasting relationships.



For additional information, please visit the OHH website [www.ohh.vcu.edu](http://www.ohh.vcu.edu) or contact Dr. Michel B. Aboutanos at the Division of Trauma and Acute Care

*The success of our missions will only be measured by the smiles of the children we help, the generosity of our sponsors, and the opportunity to return again to offer our services and be challenged and changed by them*



# Operation Helping Hands

**MEDICAL & SURGICAL RELIEF  
Around the World**

**Operation Helping Hands  
Medical College of Virginia Hospitals  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
1200 East Broad Street  
P.O. Box 980454  
Richmond, Virginia 23298-0454**

Virginia Commonwealth University  
Medical Center  
Richmond, Virginia



Operation Helping Hands (OHH) is an international humanitarian relief program that brings medical and surgical assistance to the poor, the sick, and the forgotten in the most remote corners of the earth. OHH was founded by dedicated and caring physicians and nurses from the Medical College of Virginia Hospitals of Virginia Commonwealth University, which now serve as headquarters for OHH.

**OHH VISION:**

Provide total care to the poor and the sick in impoverished countries in terms of medical and surgical assistance and help develop the infrastructure for self sustaining health service program.

**OHH MISSION**

The mission of OHH is above all and foremost a humanitarian mission. OHH recognizes the tremendous health care needs, and specifically surgical needs of the poor, especially children, living in devastating conditions in developing countries where basic medical care is mostly non-existent.

All missions are carried out in the humanitarian spirit of service and compassion. All missions are supported by the generosity of special people and organizations in our community who carry and foster that same spirit.



**OHH GOALS**

The objectives of Operation Helping Hands include the:

- 1) Offering of basic medical, surgical and nursing care to specific areas in the developing countries, where such services are lacking, and specifically solicited.
- 2) Fostering of longstanding relationships with the local people of the recipient countries where the mission projects are carried out.
- 3) Involvement of medical and nursing students in the missions in order to plant the seed of service early on in their training.

**SURGICAL MISSIONS**

OHH carries out short surgical missions (10 days) to remote areas of the Carribean, Central America, South America, and Africa.

The Surgical teams is composed of volunteer surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, OR technicians, medical students and local healthcare professionals and volunteers.

Types of operations performed include general surgical operations as well as plastic, genitourinary, orthopedics, OB-GYN, and others. Example of operations performed include laparoscopic gallbladder removal, hernia repairs, head and neck surgeries, and various cancer operations. Specialty operations include skin grafts, scar excisions, burn wound care, hydrocelectomies and hysterectomies.



**SCHOOL & HOSPITAL PROGRAMS**

OHH supports the development of schools and community hospitals in the remote areas of the world. Major support includes educational programs, medical supplies, school supplies and recreational programs...The school programs are spearheaded by the OHH medical school chapters

**Ways to help**



Gifts of all sizes are needed:

- > \$25 would buy needed antibiotics and pain medication for a child to recover from surgery
- > \$100 would buy clothes and shoes and other gifts for our patients and their families
- > \$1,000 would sponsor a medical student or a volunteer to travel and participate in the missions

**Other major opportunities:**

- Sponsor a surgical mission
  - \$15,000 for Central American Missions
  - \$25,000 for South American Missions
  - \$35,000 for African or Eastern Missions
- Sponsor a school or a hospital
  - \$5,000 helps OHH bring and ship needed school supplies and equipment
  - \$25,000 helps upgrade lacking and outdated medical equipment
- OHH Foundation
  - > \$100,000 - \$1,000,000 would provide an endowed base of support to ensure sustainability of the mission program

**Also needed:**

- Time and service by medical professionals and administrative personnel
- Medical equipment and supplies
- Transportation to include air, ground, and shipping



**Gifts to OHH are tax deductible** and can be directed to the Operation Helping Hands fund at the MCV foundation, P.O. Box 980234, Richmond VA 23298-0234.