

APPNA Medical Corps Missions

APPNA Gives Back

APPNA Medical Corps/SAPPNA Mission to Cleft Hospital Gujrat:

Cleft Hospital is an amazing project in Gujrat, Pakistan. In the heart of Punjab exists this commendable well run charity hospital mainly dedicated to fixing cleft lips/Palate for the most deserving and sometimes forgotten children of Pakistan. APPNA Medical Corps and Society of Anesthesiologists of APPNA (SAPPNA) together arranged the charity mission to Cleft Hospital. It comprised of 2 Plastic surgeons, Drs. Farooq Shahzad and Hassan Shah and 4 anesthesiologists, Drs. Unser Khan, Vaqar Syed, Dawood Nasir and Iqbal Zafar Hamid. Dr. Kaleem Sayyed, Healthcare Quality Management Expert and Dr. Mubasher Rana, Chair APPNA Medical Corps also accompanied the mission. The camp was conducted from Feb 19-21, 2018. There were 16 surgeries performed including cleft lip/palate and oculoplastic surgeries. Patients were also evaluated in outpatient clinic. Dr. Ijaz Bashir, Founder and President of Cleft Hospital was a very gracious host and made all the local arrangements very well.

In addition, education seminar was arranged by SAPPNA at Aziz Bhatti Shaheed Hospital (Civil Hospital) of Gujrat. Dr. Dawood Nasir conducted a workshop on US Guided chronic pain and regional anesthesia. Dr. Kaleem Sayyed spoke eloquently on Quality improvement in the hospital. The intent is to initiate QI programs in the hospital and Dr. Sayyed continues to guide the local staff on their progress. Drs. Unser Khan and Vaqar Syed also gave talks on Patient Transport Safety and Child anesthesia. In addition to Gujrat, educational conferences were conducted at Gujranwala Civil Hospital, Services Hospital, Lahore and King Edward Medical University. All these conferences and workshops were well attended and received very positive feedback.

APPNA Mobile Clinics in Pakistan

Providing Quality Healthcare to Remote Areas of Pakistan

I would like to thank APPNA President, Dr. Iqbal Zafar Hamid for his vision and determination in starting this project. The concept is to provide free healthcare to the remote areas of Pakistan. Adequate healthcare in these areas is practically nonexistent. The first project has been started at Mirpurkhas. APPNA purchased 2 ambulances equipped with gurney, IV poles, EKG, oxygen, clean water supply and medication closet at cost of about \$11,000 each. These ambulances are staffed by a doctor, house staff and dispenser. They are deployed to different villages in the adjoining areas of Mirpurkhas.

Our ground partner in Pakistan is Muhammad Medical College which is very amicably led by the dynamic Dr. Syed Razi Muhammad. We are also collaborating with APPS UK who already operates such mobile clinics near Islamabad. Hum TV is our sponsor and media partner. The project was launched on Feb 22nd, 2018 in Mirpurkhas. It was indeed a very special day when we accompanied the vans to remote villages near Mirpurkhas, Sindh. The happiness and gratitude expressed by the villagers was reason enough to launch the project and provide help to the people of Pakistan.

Since its launch, APPNA Mobile Clinics in Mirpurkhas are a huge success. Just in the first month Feb 22nd – March 22nd, 2018, there have been **30 visits and 2743 patients seen**.

We would like to thank all our partners in the project. We would also like to thank our donors. This is just the beginning and we hope to launch similar mobile clinics all over Pakistan. Please donate generously and let us know if you would like to sponsor a Mobile Health clinic in your area of interest.

APPNA Medical Corps Mission to Coban, Guatemala Feb 18-23, 2018

This is the 3rd APPNA Medical Corps mission to Guatemala and is supported by Rotary Club. The following APPNA physicians made up the team: Dr. Hassnain Syed from Chicago, Dr. Minal Ahson from Florida, Dr. Razia Sheikh and her son Akbar Sheikh a Pre-med student from Fresno, CA. Jane Winning, a nurse from Fresno also accompanied them and was Mission lead.

They volunteered at a charity school in Coban, Guatemala and saw Children and adults of the community who don't have medical insurance. The school has between 450-500 kids from age of 5-18. They also saw kids that are called "dump kids" as they live around the dump located approximately a 1/4 mile away. They have a preschool there where the kids can go while their parents or grandparents pilfer through the dump looking for food or things they can salvage to sell or use in their living quarters whatever they might be. The school was built by Spain and is well maintained and provides the kids with two meals a day and some uniforms.

It was a very successful mission where they saw and treated as needed 431 patients that would not have the benefit of being seen by a physician if it weren't for this team. They provided free medications as needed for treatment and also Vitamins to girls and women between the ages of 12-45 thanks to a grant from Vitamin Angels.

Nurse Jane Winning wrote: *"I can't say enough or find the right words to say about the dedication and work that this team of individuals supplied and made a difference in the 431 kids and adults that they saw and the support that the teachers and student translators provided. Without all of them this would not be possible or successful. It is because of people like this team that gives me the reason to continue to provide what we can in an area where the need is so great. To us in the US it is totally hard to believe these individuals live on less than \$25 a month"*.

APPNA Rohingya Relief Ongoing 1-2 week Medical Missions (Urgent Need for Volunteers)

Medical need at the Rohingya camps in Bangladesh is tremendous and urgent. APPNA is continuously sending missions to the camps. Our ground partners are OBAT Helpers, an NGO registered in USA and Bangladesh. They have been doing charity work in Bangladesh for many years and have established a very good clinic in the Rohingya camps near Cox's Bazaar. They facilitate visa, local logistics and ancillary help at the clinic. They have also negotiated a discounted price at Long Beach hotel in Cox's Bazaar.

The most need is for Primary Care Physicians, Pediatricians, Emergency medicine and OBGYN. The mission is expected to be for 1-2 weeks. You can volunteer at <http://appna.org/medicalcorps/>. You can also bring your children over 13 years of age if you would want them to help. At this time, Bangladesh government does not allow residents to practice.

Let us show the world that APPNA really cares when and where a humanitarian crisis strikes. APPNA Physicians who have already volunteered at Rohingya Camps in Bangladesh are:

Dr. Shaheen Mian, Dr. Humeraa Qamar, Dr. Tanvir Chodhri, Dr. Aliya Ali, Dr. Mir Shujaat Ali, Dr. Usman, Dr. Farzana Naqvi, Dr. Bushra Dar, Dr. Helal Ekramuddin, Dr. Shahid Yousuf, Dr. Javed Akhtar, Dr. Zia Moiz, Dr. Mahmood-ur Rasheed and Dr. Uzma Nasim