



**Hancock County Medical Mission**

P. O. Box 241

Ellsworth, ME 04605

Feb. 2017 mission

## **Scholarship Program Information for Students and Parents**

**Hancock County Medical Mission** (HCMM) is a non-profit organization founded in 1989. We have a four-member board and a cadre of medical (and a few non-medical) volunteers, mostly from Hancock County. Our board consists of Dr. Charles Hendricks, Mary Donnell Townley, RN, Susan Young, RN, and translator Ted Spurling, Jr.

**Scholarships** cover (1) mission fee and (2) air travel, which come to about \$2,500. Scholarships are available to Hancock County juniors or seniors in their 3rd year of Spanish or beyond. An interest in some facet of medicine is a plus but is not required.

**The mission** will take place February 11-25 2017. HCMM will be part of a surgical team made up of volunteers from other places as part of the Medical Ministry International of Canada team in the Dominican Republic. This year will be our fourth to the Dominican Republic. HCMM raises all of the necessary monies for medications, supplies and student scholarships. Mission info can be found at <http://www.mmicanada.ca/dominican-republic/>

**Travel:** We usually depart from Bangor. If our point of departure is other than Bangor, a bus will get the team there from Ellsworth. The MMI Dominican staff will bus us to our work site (Rio San Juan, where we were stationed in 2016). Students will be responsible their passport and personal spending money.

**The Student's Role.** Students provide Spanish translation and assist professional team members in the pre- and post-operative areas and possibly the clinic – in other words, wherever needed. Students are often asked to translate outside of work as well. We make an effort to rotate the students thru the different areas so they are exposed to all aspects of the mission. The real world Spanish practice is a big plus for students. We emphasize that this is a working trip involving long hours and conditions far different from those at home. Basic needs are always taken care of but anything beyond that – hot water, internet, etc. – is nice when it happens! While there is electricity and running water, it is not uncommon for there to be interruptions in service. You learn to make do.

**Orientation.** An orientation with one or two members of the team will be arranged prior to the mission. Student team members will be given resources to learn common medical terms and phrases in Spanish. Students and their parents are also asked to attend our monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month up, starting in November, as the first meeting after the mission (usually April) to debrief.

**Health.** Self care is key to a successful trip, not only for oneself but for the sake of the team. Working and living in close conditions and the foreign environment both contribute to illness. We count on students to let us know of any difficulty they may be having of any kind so that we can ensure their trip goes smoothly. A visit to your PHP is encouraged prior to the trip. Students will be given medical history forms to fill out.

**Supervision of students:** This is our 20th year taking students and we wish to reassure you that we will take good care of your son or daughter. Our board members serve as the official responsible adults, but everyone on the mission provides guidance and support. Students always have an adult with them. Yet we understand that letting your child travel to a third world country can produce some anxiety. Please take advantage of meetings and phone contacts to get all your questions answered.

**(Board member list on reverse)**

**Charles Hendricks, MD** is a general surgeon with Eden Surgical Associates. He practices at both Maine Coast Memorial Hospital and MDI Hospital. Dr. Hendricks has gone every one of HCMM's 27 missions.

**Mary Donnell Townley, RN** is an operating room nurse, recently retired from a long career at Maine Coast Memorial Hospital. Mary has not only been on many many missions (23) but handled the procurement and organization of supplies and equipment, which on some trips filled 25-30 extra large duffle bags.

**Susan Wolfenden Young, RN** is the infection control nurse at Blue Hill Memorial Hospital and has been on 21 missions. Susan has also served as logistical planner, which includes volunteer recruitment, mission planning and fundraising.

**Ted Spurling, Jr.** is a lobsterman from Islesford who learned Spanish for the purpose of serving as translator on missions. Ted has been on 19 missions.

**Questions?** Please feel free to contact either **Ted Spurling** [jerited@spurlingdesign.com](mailto:jerited@spurlingdesign.com) 244-7408 evenings or **Mary Offutt** at 348-2483 [maryo@myfairpoint.net](mailto:maryo@myfairpoint.net).

For additional information about the Hancock County Medical Mission, please visit our web site at: [www.hcmm.homestead.com](http://www.hcmm.homestead.com) or on our Facebook page.

Or email [hancockcountymedicalmission@gmail.com](mailto:hancockcountymedicalmission@gmail.com)