

Dateline: June 27, 2011

The MESA organization which is the *International Service* arm of Rotary District 6600 covering Northwest Ohio has just completed a shipment of very urgently needed medical equipment to Abuja, Nigeria. This project has been the collaborative effort of many of the clubs and members who make up Rotary District 6600. Having become aware of a great need in Abuja, Nigeria for dialysis equipment to meet the crises levels of kidney failure, Northwest Ohio Rotarians responded to say, “We can do something about this need.” The initial request was made by Past Rotary International President, Jonathan Majiyagbe and Past Rotary International Vice President, Lou Piconi. Their gentle encouragement meant a great deal to the Northwest Ohio Rotarians who moved into action approximately 8 months ago to collect and test the very sensitive equipment that was needed.



This month a full 40 foot seagoing container filled with Dialysis equipment, reverse osmosis water purification equipment, seating systems, and necessary medical supplies was shipped to the Metro Rotary Club of Abuja, Nigeria—it is the “partnering Rotary Club.” The equipment will be installed in the National Hospital, Abuja and Garki Hospital Abuja, both of which are in the capital city of Nigeria. Key U.S. players in the success of this humanitarian shipment include Dennis Schell, the lead Dialysis Technician and a Maumee Rotarian involved in securing



the equipment. Without Dennis’ experience and great patience, this project would not have happened. Support for the effort came from the University of Toledo, College of Engineering, Biomedical Division which tested the equipment to assure that it was operable. Financial, organizational and manpower support came from the Rotary Club of Toledo and from the Maumee Rotary Club. The container shipment was prepared under the direction of MESA Director of Operations, Gary Davis and many Rotarians from Findlay and elsewhere in Northwest Ohio who

carefully loaded 20 pallets of equipment into the container for shipment. Dr. Thomas Osinowo, M.D., a member of the Maumee Rotary club traveled to Abuja in April to meet with Nigerian Rotarians and with hospital personnel involved with the project. Also involved in supporting the shipment was Mr. Clement Chukwu, a member of the Toledo City Planning Department who provided much encouragement for the project.

The Nigerian Rotarians have been very enthused about the possibility of working with Northwest Ohio Rotarians and several of them traveled to New Orleans on the occasion of the Rotary International Convention in early June in order to meet personally with leading members of Rotary District 6600. At that Convention Ohio Rotarians, Jim Heinrich, Bob Vincent, and David

Dayne (and their wives) met with Prince Seyi Lufadeju, the current president of the Abuja Metro Rotary club along with several members of his delegation. Other members of the Abuja Rotary club that have been instrumental in this project are former Nigerian Ambassador to China, Jonathan Oluwole Coker and Jonathan Majiyagbe, Past President of Rotary International. While this shipment is one of their first shipments of MESA to Africa, it appears that both parties feel greater collaboration with that region is a strong possibility in the future.



About MESA: MESA is an acronym for *Medical Equipment and Supplies Abroad* and the name denotes that the organization is an accumulator of medical equipment that has been replaced or “retired” from area or regional healthcare providers (hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, manufacturers etc.) All such equipment generally has a much longer useful life and can be reconditioned and transported to needy areas of the world that Rotary serves. The mission of MESA is primarily to facilitate international service projects bringing equipment, technology and



volunteerism to meet the humanitarian needs of underserved areas of the world. Each year MESA makes or facilitates numerous shipments or projects to countries all over the world, especially in Central America. Generally the projects relate to urgent healthcare needs but MESA has also been involved in the construction of schools, the establishment of Micro Banks to serve impoverished women and families and water purification and sanitation projects in host countries.

MESA is a 501 (c) 3 organization and is celebrating its 30th year of operation in 2011. Annually the organization raises greatly needed operating funds through an Annual Bike and Motorcycle Ride which aims to raise \$100,000 this year. This year the Bike Ride will be held every day from July 9-14. Interested donors can contact Gary Davis (419 348 7719) for details about the Bike Ride or about contributing to

MESA’s operating budget. For more information about MESA visit rotarymesa.org.