Project GEMINI Update - Your International Project at Work

February, 2012 Ron Goodenow, Editor



EMS Training in Guyana

Paul Gallagher, Westborough Rotarian and Chair, Project GEMINI (Global Emergency Medicine Initiative), and Ovid Fraser, Southborough Rotary Club and Team Leader (who is a native of Guyana), headed up a team of medical professionals for five days of intense emergency medical services training in Georgetown, Guyana. GEMINI is the official international project of District 7910 and has conducted EMS training and equipment donations in Guatemala, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Armenia, and Nicaragua.

The team of five medical professionals (three paramedics and two doctors) was led by Tim Redding, Program Director for the Northeastern University Paramedic Program and founder of <u>Emergency Education Consultants</u>



(EEC), a medical education and consulting company focusing on pre-hospital medicine and education program implementation. Tim and his medical colleagues donated their time and expertise to the program, which raised over \$46,000 from Rotary clubs in District 7910, the Rotary Club of Georgetown, as well as banks and businesses in Guyana.

The focus of training was the Georgetown Public Hospital, 16 nurses of which received Certificates of Competence. Nine additional participants were staff of Dr. Balwant Singh's Hospital, Davis Memorial Hospital, St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital and the Guyana Red Cross Society. Training was accompanied by equipment and supplies, including defibrillators, bandages, and collars, all of which will be used in future training. Major topics included training in splinting, bandaging, bagging, the use of EMT equipment, transporting patients and the application of First Aid/CPR. All students were given a GEMINI produced electronic resource kit on a flash drive that included instructional materials, and links to global EMS resources and organizations.

A highlight of the program is that it is 'training trainers'. Members of the US medical training team will be returning twice to keep building a knowledge base and expertise on the ground.

In the words of Tim Redding, the "passion and interest the students had to learn the material was impressive. Many students excelled, worked hard and had fun. We look forward to our next trip."

For further information on GEMINI and the Guyana project visit the <u>GEMINI website</u>. GEMINI welcomes new participants.

