



World Health Ambassador

Vietnamese American Medical Association

CAMBODIA MEDICAL MISSION

December 27, 2004

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

On behalf of the Vietnamese American Medical Association (VAMA), we are writing to ask for your generosity and support of the Cambodian Medical Relief Mission. The Mission, organized by the World Health Ambassador (WHA) Program of the VAMA, will take place from March 18 to April 2, 2005. The WHA Program has recently been established by the VAMA to provide medical relief efforts to communities throughout the world that are in desperate need of medical and dental assistance. The Program seeks to offer medical and dental care to underserved communities overseas, regardless of ethnicity or religion, and to assist in medical relief efforts for natural disasters in the United States.

The WHA Program comprises of several core components, including: 1) *Health Advisory Team* – which analyzes the medical needs of underserved overseas communities and formulating healthcare plans; 2) *International Medical Relief Group* – which performs overseas medical and dental missions; 3) *Emergency Relief Team* – which assists with natural disaster relief efforts and other medical needs within the U.S.; 4) *Medical Support Team* – which provides the logistics to the various operations mentioned above.

The Cambodia Medical Relief Mission is the inaugural project of the WHA's International Medical Relief Group. We plan to bring a health care team of physicians, dentists, nurses, computer specialists, and other professionals to provide medical and dental treatments to the Cambodian and Vietnamese living in several villages outside of Phnom Penh, Cambodia. During the late 1970s, Cambodia suffered one of the worst atrocities in human history. Over 20% of the population was killed. Since then, while Cambodia has been on the path of recovery, it remains among the "poorest of the poor" Southeast Asian countries. Many living in Cambodia are in extreme need of basic medical and dental care but are not able to obtain such treatment.

As part of our mission, we intend to screen, diagnose, and treat approximately 2,500 people during our 14-day mission. While in Cambodia, we will work closely with the local health providers as well as key community leaders and professionals, sharing with them our medical and scientific knowledge and providing to them recommendations on the appropriate approaches to deliver health care to people in under-developed countries. Since the inception of the WHA Program just a short time ago, we have been very gratified by the overwhelming interest in this project. To date, over thirty professionals have volunteered to serve on this Cambodian mission. Additional volunteers have been placed on our alternate list.

The Vietnamese American Medical Association was established in 1987 as a non-profit organization for physicians of Vietnamese heritage who live and practice in the United States. During the past decades, membership in the VAMA has grown tremendously to include not only members who graduated from medical schools in Vietnam but also members who have graduated from medical schools in the United States. Many members of the VAMA currently are respected professors at universities and medical centers across America, including Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Stanford, Duke, University of California at San Francisco, while others are leaders in the communities across America, providing health care to patients of all ethnic backgrounds.

In recent years, the VAMA has been very active in activities such as conducting hepatitis screening for Asian American in Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, New York, Philadelphia, Dallas, and other cities; granting scholarship to outstanding Vietnamese American medical students in the US; organizing health fairs in many U.S. cities to screen for hypertension, diabetes, hypercholesterolemia, dental abnormalities, visual disabilities; supporting other organizations whose mission is to improve quality health care for people of all ethnic backgrounds, especially members from Southeast

Asian countries; and most recently, creating the World Health Ambassador Program. The VAMA is proud to be the sponsor for this Cambodian Mission through its WHA Program.

The diverse, large number of service-oriented activities sponsored by the VAMA has led to the establishment of the Vietnamese American Medical Association Foundation, an integral component of the VAMA that has achieved full tax-exempt status under section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Any contribution that is made to the VAMA Foundation for the WHA Program and the Cambodian Medical Relief Mission is deductible under section 170 of the code.

We are asking for your pledge and support of the Cambodian Medical Relief Mission. We do need significant amount of medical supplies, medications, equipments, airfare and cargo freight subsidies, and financial support to accomplish our goals and make the Mission most fruitful and productive. Please be certain that every piece of supply and every dollar you provide to support this Mission will be used in the most effective and appropriate manner. The WHA Program is managed entirely by the many generous professionals of different fields who are willing to devote time, energy, and expertise to support the program. We do not have any overhead cost to cover or any salary to support. Everything we get and every amount we receive will be used toward this Cambodian Mission – for the thousands of patients who are waiting for us in Phnom Penh. Please help us as much as you can, as we cannot do it without your generosity. We can give our time and professional service, but we need your help for the people in Cambodia. Please find the attached contribution form to indicate the item(s) you wish to contribute to our Cambodian Mission.

On behalf of the Cambodian and Vietnamese people living in the villages where our Mission will take us, we would like to thank you from our heart for your consideration of our request. We are very grateful for the lives that we have enjoyed in America and are looking forward, with your kindness, compassion, and support, to assist the many people who are less fortunate than we are, living in poverty and substandard health care.

May this Holiday Season and the Year of 2005 bring to you and your family happiness, peace, prosperity, and most importantly, good health.

With Warmest Regards,

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Enc: Contribution Form