



GlobalDentalRelief

NEWS

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Geoff Hoffman, DDS

Global Dental Relief Announces 2012 Humanitarian Trips, Including First-time Domestic Location

(Denver, Colo., July 20, 2011) – Global Dental Relief (GDR) has announced its 2012 schedule of twelve dental service trips to five countries. New for 2012 is a clinic in the United States, to be held in Denver, Colorado in late September. The schedule also includes trips to Kathmandu, Nepal; the northern Himalayas of India; central Vietnam; and the Mayan highlands of Guatemala. “We are continuing to serve the countries we’ve been visiting for the past few years,” said Director Laurie Mathews, “but we decided to organize a US clinic so we can bring care to children here at home as well.”

The September 2012 clinic in Denver is the first of what will eventually be three domestic locations, regionally dispersed around the country. The first Denver clinic will serve 800 children in local KIPP (Knowledge is Power) schools and the 1000 students in Denver Public School’s designated refugee school. With 75 percent of these children falling under the poverty line, the goal is to provide them access to dental care and oral hygiene education.

Global Dental Relief brings free care to children in charity or low-income schools, orphanages and remote village locations. Volunteer dentists, hygienists, assistants and non-dental volunteers deliver treatment and preventive care during weeklong clinics set up in local schools. Each population of children is recalled every two years to ensure the delivery of continuous care.

GDR trips in overseas locations continue the long tradition of bringing free care to children for whom dental care is beyond reach. In 2011, 34 dentists, 16 hygienists and 56 non-dental volunteers treated more than 8,000 children in Nepal, India, Vietnam and Guatemala. Dental care includes exams, cleanings, restorations, extractions and fluoride treatment for every child. Clinics also deliver toothbrushes and oral hygiene instruction.

“Clinics are intense and richly rewarding,” said GDR board member Geoff Hoffman, DDS, who has participated in five overseas clinics. “Volunteers can’t help but be deeply touched by the warm welcome and open hearts of the children. It’s powerful to realize that in a short period of time, the GDR group can profoundly affect the quality of life of hundreds of kids. It’s been life-changing for me personally, and for my wife who joins me on all camps. After my first clinic, I reprioritized my life so that I could volunteer on a regular basis. What a gift this has been for us!”

The complete schedule for GDR’s 2012 trips is as follows:

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE OF TRIP
Feb 16 - March 3, 2012	Vietnam	Dental Clinic - Central Vietnam *Sightseeing Northern Vietnam
April 11 – May 1, 2012	Nepal	Dental Clinic - Kathmandu *Trekking-Everest trail after clinic
May 18 - 27, 2012	Guatemala	Dental Clinic - Mayan Highlands
May 25 – June 6, 2012	Guatemala	Dental Clinic - Mayan Highlands
July 27- Aug 5, 2012	Guatemala	Dental Clinic - Mayan Highlands
Aug 3 - 12, 2012	Guatemala	Dental Clinic - Mayan Highlands
Sept. 1-15, 2012	India - Ladakh	Dental Clinic - Leh/Sightseeing afterward

Sept.15 – 30, 2012	India - Ladakh	Dental Clinic - Leh/Sightseeing afterward
Sept. 22 – 30, 2012	Denver, Colorado	Dental Clinic – Sightseeing afterward
Oct. 29 – Nov 18, 2012	Nepal	Dental Clinic - Kathmandu *Trekking-Everest trail after clinic
Nov 15 – Dec 5, 2012	Nepal	Dental Clinic - Kathmandu *Trekking-Everest trail after clinic
Nov 30 – Dec 12, 2012	Nepal	Dental Clinic - Kathmandu *Sightseeing Options available

About Global Dental Relief

Global Dental Relief (GDR) is a 501(c)3 charitable organization established in 2000 to provide free dental care and oral health education to impoverished children. GDR's commitment is to return to these same children every two years to provide continuous care. Treatment and preventive care is provided by volunteer health professionals who donate their time to treat children during intensive seven-day dental camps. Camps generally include up to five dentists, several hygienists and five to ten non-medical volunteers. Each camp treats 500 - 900 children. Since 2001, GDR has hosted more than 775 volunteers and treated 54,136 children. For more information about Global Dental Relief, visit <http://globaldentalrelief.org>.

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