

Editor's Note:

## New feature article.



### "Your Physician, Your Community, Our World."

Featuring Jonathan Kaufman M.D., Pediatrics



I am a general pediatrician with Pediatric Associates of Barrington. I have been fortunate to be a member of this community for 21 years, with practice locations in Barrington, Crystal Lake and Elgin. Our service area is broad and diverse, allowing me to be exposed to communities with a wide range of political, ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.

My professional philosophy and commitment as a general pediatrician is to provide comprehensive care to children and their families from birth until age 21. This includes well child care, acute care, as well as anticipatory guidance, behavioral and developmental guidance and preventative counseling.

Personally, I feel that all children are entitled to high-quality health care, regardless of their ethnic, cultural or socioeconomic roots, and regardless of their family's ability to obtain insurance. I also believe that it's a moral responsibility to help those who may not have access to healthcare or essentials for survival, such as food, shelter and clothing.

In this regard, I have been an active participant in many community service projects throughout our service area over the last several years. I have been a volunteer pediatrician at The Family Health Partnership Clinic in Woodstock for the past 12 years. The Clinic is very busy. We treat adults, as well as, children and never turn anyone away because they can't pay. The Clinic has an outstanding core group of volunteer physicians, generalists and sub-specialists who donate their time and expertise to help those in need.

In addition, we at Pediatric Associates of Barrington run an annual holiday drive where we collect books, gently used clothing and toys. The items help keep children clothed throughout the winter months, as well as foster their drive to read and learn.

I was recently involved in a community project titled *Activate Elgin*, spear-headed by the federal government. The Elgin YMCA implemented a project in the local schools teaching the benefit of nutrition and exercise to elementary school children and teachers. As pediatric obesity is practically an epidemic, the project may help promote a healthier lifestyle for these children and their families.

I am especially excited about my newest community service project, whereby I will travel with a group of local high school students to the Dominican Republic during their spring vacation. We will stay at an orphanage where the students will take part in several projects, including teaching English in the village school. They will also teach crafts and games to the children, and help me with a medical mission supplying needed health care services to the underprivileged and underserved people in the villages around the orphanage.

Born with the belief that I have a responsibility to help those less fortunate than me and that healthcare for children should be a right and not a privilege, I will continue to be active in community service projects on a local, regional and international level. I welcome the help and support of anyone else who shares my beliefs and philosophy.

### Reflections ... Giving...Sharing

Chaplain Suzanne "Sam" Martinez, Editor of Connections

#### Ancient Lands, Ancient Art

Several years back while traveling in Japan, I met a gifted and giving woman, Masako Miyazawa. My love of Japan has brought me back every year, and I was blessed to also have the opportunity to see Mrs. Miyazawa.

Our conversations would range from our cultures to our passions. During these visits she shared with me her gift and passion of Origami. Origami is the traditional Japanese folk art of paper folding. This ancient art dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century AD. Mrs. Miyazawa has mastered this art. I watched intently as she would transform flat sheets of decorative colored and printed paper into a finished sculpture through folding techniques.

Mrs. Miyazawa inquired about my profession and was eager to learn of my passion of hospital chaplaincy. She listened intently as I shared the holistic care our hospital provides for our patients, caring for the whole person; mind, body and the spirit. At each gathering we learned a bit more of each other and Origami. Before my departure to the US, she always gave me a gift of her passion, Origami sculptures. Each delicately folded paper held a beautiful work of art; an animal, flower or Japanese image of family. As I held the Origami in my hands I realized the art work also held love.



This year when I met with **Mrs. Masako Miyazawa**, she presented me with a large collection of Origami. Mrs. Miyazawa had dedicated the past two years in creating Origami as gifts for Good Shepherd Hospital patients.

Her hope was to give a gift of joy and warmth through her love and passion of the art of Origami. During the next few months, the chaplains, ministers of care and the spiritual welcome ministers will hand them out to the Good Shepherd patients.

From across seas and faraway lands, Mrs. Miyazawa has united us with her love, caring and sharing of the ancient art of Origami.