

HANDS

Hands Along the Nile Development Services, Inc.
E-newsletter May 2009



Another Medical Mission to Egypt Completed Successfully

**"We enjoyed this training so much!!! I am so happy to have been able to gain such important knowledge about breast cancer and first aid. Thank you for the wonderful sessions."
"I truly hope I can participate in this kind of training again."**

As our translator was reading to us from the notebook filled with statements of gratitude by training participants, HANDS' Medical Mission volunteers smiled, pleased to hear how much difference they had made by taking part in this year's program in Egypt. From March 29 to April 9, volunteers Lucinda Webb, a nurse practitioner from New York, Laurie Roberts, a registered nurse from California, Dr. Samia Sidhom, an ophthalmologist from Tennessee, and Nancy Maaty, a medical student from George Washington University in Washington DC, accompanied by HANDS staff member, Ivana Smucker, travelled to Egypt to train and advise healthcare professionals and community health care volunteers. On the Egyptian side, our partner organization, CEOSS, organized all the training sessions and recruited local participants. The team provided a variety of training programs in Cairo, Minya and Beni Suef that addressed the following topics:

- First aid and CPR
- Breast cancer screening and early detection
- Women's reproductive health
- Sepsis prevention and treatment
- Reading OCT (Optical coherence tomography) scans (which proved to be very timely in Beni Suef, as the local hospital had received their first OCT machine a month after this training)

- Using the internet search engine PubMed to access medical information online.

The training offered was very well received. Throughout the program this year, we received numerous pleas to repeat the training sessions, making them available to more communities in Egypt. The number of participants in workshops nearly doubled by the end of the program. As word about the training spread among local community based organizations involved in health care, our partner CEOSS's staff were contacted with requests to accept many additional trainees. Following these successful sessions, and recognizing the great need for more such training, HANDS will be looking for more nurses to conduct CPR training and to teach about women's health issues for upcoming medical mission trips.

Since many Egyptian medical professionals lack access to computer training, the Internet training provided this year was also warmly welcomed by the participating doctors. We intend to make this training an integral part of future Medical Missions.

Beside the training component of the trip, a volunteer ophthalmologist, Dr. Sidhom, also spent some time examining, diagnosing and treating patients with eye problems in Minya and Beni Suef. She worked out of the van which is part of the HANDS-sponsored Community Eye Care Center in Minia. She also brought with her a donation from America: reading glasses and eye drops, which she distributed to the patients free of charge. Dr. Sidhom also brought *The Wills Eye Manual* as a gift for the Community Eye Care Center.

HANDS would like to offer our deep appreciation and gratitude to this wonderful group of volunteers for their dedication and hard work. Not only did they take time off from their busy schedules to participate in this program, but they also raised funds from their friends and families to cover the costs of the trip. HANDS is also extremely thankful to the Global Giving Foundation for providing matching funds that helped pay for this year's Medical Mission, and to CEOSS' staff, who worked so enthusiastically to make this program possible and our volunteers safe and welcome.



HANDS is an American organization working to develop partnerships between Americans and Egyptians to increase intercultural understanding and support community development in Egypt. To learn more about us, please visit our web site: <http://www.handsalongthenile.org/>. You received this email because your address is on our mailing list. If you do not wish to receive announcements from HANDS, please click on the link below to unsubscribe.

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