

# ALLIANCE NEWS



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## Volunteer service was a 'given'

## for 2020 GIVE awardee

The culture of giving back has been a central tenet of the OMS specialty for generations. It's not unusual to find an expectation of service embedded in the culture of an OMS education program alongside its curriculum.

Such is the case at Nassau University Medical Center (NUMC). Earlier this year Dr. Brian Wolf, chief resident at NUMC, spent a week in Honduras serving with Dr. Melissa Amundson's Operation Nueva Vida humanitarian healthcare team.



Dr. Brian Wolf, 2020 GIVE Recipient

Following the lead of 2019 NUMC chief resident, Dr. Matthew Green, Dr. Wolf applied for a travel stipend from the OMS Foundation's Global Initiative for Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) and received \$2,500 toward the cost of his journey.

"I chose the OMS specialty because it offered a chance to change lives, and Dr. Green assured me this experience would be a highlight of my residency," Dr. Wolf said. "Our patients spanned the oral surgery spectrum that week, including trauma, orthognathic and cleft palate surgeries. Local medical technology in Honduras is antiquated or non-existent, so we relied on Dr. Amundson's supply of medical supplies, instruments and equipment to support our work."

"It was challenging being the rookie member of an established team in a country I'd never visited populated by people whose language I barely spoke," Dr. Wolf said. "But the team was welcoming, as were the Hondurans, and I

learned a great deal that week.”

Because opportunities for follow-up were so limited, Dr. Amundson held her team to the highest standards of care for their patients.

“It was tough, but it was worth it,” said Dr. Wolf. “I’d do it again, and I’d recommend it to anyone. I couldn’t have afforded it without the GIVE stipend though, and I’m grateful to the Foundation for making this experience possible.”

*The Global Initiative for Volunteerism and Education is being funded in 2020 with support from the OMS Foundation Alliance, OMSNIC, The James and Carmen Hupp Foundation and individual donors such as you. Learn more and donate at [OMSFoundation.org](http://OMSFoundation.org).*

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**Support for OMS Foundation and GIVE has moved online this year.**

**Visit the [Alliance Events](#) page to learn more and register!**

- **Virtual ‘FUN’draiser: Oct. 8, Noon - 2 p.m. EDT**
- **Virtual Health Walk for GIVE: choose your own route and date**

***Register for the Virtual ‘FUN’draiser by Oct. 5!***

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## A Note from Angie Henderson,

### 2020 Alliance Committee Chair



Angie Henderson, OMS Foundation Alliance Chair

It is my privilege to chair the OMS Foundation Alliance Committee this year and to work with my fellow committee members and the Foundation to support the specialty. I am so thankful to be a part of this amazing group. I’ve been proud to help welcome our Norma L. Kelly Scholarship recipients into our Alliance family each year, and I have witnessed new friendships blossom and old friends joyfully reunite during our Health Walks. The support, dedication, and commitment of EACH of you is what makes the Alliance so successful.

Although this year has presented more than its share of logistical challenges, [our mission](#) remains the same. We are committed to funding these OMS Foundation initiatives:

[Norma L. Kelly Scholarships](#) – \$1,000 travel stipends for spouses of OMS residents who attend the AAOMS Annual Meeting as our guests of honor. With generous support from OMSNIC we award up to 10 Kelly scholarships each year.

[Global Initiative for Volunteerism and Education \(GIVE\)](#) – Travel stipends of up to \$2,500 for qualified OMS residents serving with humanitarian healthcare teams to deliver care to some of the world’s most underserved communities.

Having served with medical missions myself, I’ve seen the profound impact humanitarian service has on the volunteers as well as those they serve. GIVE offers participating residents a chance to enhance their education while caring for those who would not receive care otherwise. Giving back to others through service teaches compassion, kindness and humility –characteristics that make for a great healthcare provider. Our residents and humanitarian healthcare teams, along with the communities they serve, are looking forward to when international travel can safely resume. Meanwhile, the Alliance remains committed to supporting this wonderful opportunity.

I hope you’ll gather “together in spirit” with us at our virtual events this year. We’ll visit both Italy and Vietnam in less than two hours during our [Virtual ‘FUN’draiser](#) on Oct. 8. Cook with Chef Alfredo or just enjoy the show as he prepares a trio of easy and delicious Italian appetizers, then experience Vietnam through the eyes of a volunteer surgeon with Dr. Douglas Baasch, a 2019 GIVE recipient. Your event registration supports future GIVE stipends, as proceeds from this year’s [Virtual Health Walk](#). Walk whenever and wherever you choose, but PLEASE walk. Canfield Inc. will match the first 50 Health Walk registrations with a \$1,250 donation to GIVE. Email a selfie from your Health Walk to [info@omsfoundation.org](mailto:info@omsfoundation.org) for inclusion on the Alliance Events page. I can't wait to see your smiling faces even though we're miles apart! “See” you in October,

Angie



2018-19 Alliance Committee L to R: Ms. Eilyn Hutton, Ms. Michelle Schneider, Ms. Carmen Hupp, Ms. Kristen Reddinger and Ms. Angela Henderson

**Your support is counted on this year, even if it's from a ‘social distance!’**

**[Donate to GIVE through the Alliance!](#)**



**Special Thanks to our 2020 ALLIANCE Supporters**



