



# New Orleans Medical Mission Services

Executive Summary

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**New Orleans Medical Mission Services Foundation, Inc.**

New Orleans Medical Mission Services Foundation, Inc. (NOMMS) began active operation in April of 2002. The founders were physicians and senior business executives. The purpose of our organization is to “to serve the underprivileged peoples of foreign countries by providing medical expertise, treatment, services, education, equipment, and supplies. We elevate the dignity and self-esteem of recipients and participants.”

The service functions of NOMMS are to:

1. Conduct medical surgical missions.
2. Collect and donate medical equipment, supplies and instruments to our partners in foreign countries.
3. Operate an eye clinic in conjunction with each medical mission and distribute free eyeglasses.
4. Provide medical education and education materials.
5. Maintain emergency first aid supplies for rapid donation to disaster affected areas.

Donations of medical supplies, equipment and instruments are essential for our activities. Approximately 90% of the medical donations cannot be used in the United States as they are outdated or expired. They are however, acceptable for use in the countries we service. NOMMS considers the recycling of medical supplies with proper quality assurance as a significant benefit the poor. The supply of donated medical materials has increased dramatically since the inception of NOMMS. Not only have medical material donations met the needs for our medical missions they have allowed NOMMS to donate over twenty-five containers to our foreign partners.

Before a mission is approved by the Directors of NOMMS, a partnership with a foundation and sponsor is firmly established. Criteria for approval as a partner is as follow:

1. There can be no charges for services and materials used to provide medical treatment.
2. Safety and security measures must be in place during the entire mission for all participants including working conditions, transportation, and housing.
3. The mission partner must provide assurance that both the mission team and the medical materials sent in advance and carried with the team will be acknowledged and approved by all regulatory agencies within the country and the work location.
4. All medical treatment to be provided during the mission will be reviewed and approved in advance by the physicians of the host partner and NOMMS physicians.

One of the functions of New Orleans Medical Mission Services Foundation, Inc. is to travel to foreign countries with a team of medical and support personnel to perform medical interventions to benefit those people who are unable to obtain health care. NOMMS performs no unnecessary or cosmetic procedures. Our ministry is one of healing

the sick and doing so with care and compassion. The Foundation has no direct religious affiliation. We do work in the name of Christianity and minister to all people of all religions, races and denominations.

The foundation was formed as a legal entity in Louisiana. Effective April 23, 2001, NOMMS was classified by the IRS as a charitable organization described in section 501 (c) (3). The IRS further classified NOMMS as a 509 (a) (2) "Public Charity."

The original funding of the foundation came from private donations. This initial funding enabled NOMMS to conduct the first mission to Ecuador with 28 physicians and technical staff in 2002. In addition it provided the seed money to begin operations with a small warehouse and a limited purchase of medical supplies to support the first mission.

The Officers of NOMMS include the President, Chief Executive officer and a Chief Financial Officer. The officers are Directors and form the Executive Committee of the Board. At the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors approved the formation of Steering Committees, as required by the By-laws, to support the growth of NOMMS. The Sub Committees are:

1. Medical
2. Financial
3. Development
4. Community Relations
5. Logistic
6. Technology
7. Legal
8. Administration

Initially the foundation utilized approximately 50 volunteers. Currently, the volunteers have grown to over 400. We are proud of the diversity of our volunteers. The ages range from teenagers assisting in the warehouse to retired medical and non-medical individuals. All religions and races are represented in our volunteer corp. Our volunteers share a common vision and belief in our mission statement.

NOMMS leases 2800 square feet of suitable space to receive, process, store and ship medical materials. A small area of the warehouse is climate controlled for storage of sensitive medical supplies.

Starting in 2004, NOMMS engaged a Public Accounting firm to conduct the annual external audit and comply with tax reporting requirements. Audit reports are available upon request.

NOMMS maintains a General Liability policy to insure the risk exposure at the warehouse facility. In addition, a Director and Officer Liability policy is maintained.

To support additional missions and donations of medical supplies, equipment and instruments, NOMMS conducted the first fundraising Gala in May of 2003. The *Mission Possible Gala* is the primary fundraiser. Other sources of revenue include, the Annual Golf Tournament, private donations, grants from foundations and religious and civic organizations.

In late 2003, NOMMS developed and opened a web site to communicate information about the foundation and provide a means to effectively communicate with donors, volunteers and foreign partners. The web page can be accessed at “[medicalmissionservices.com](http://medicalmissionservices.com).”

Our current goals are to complete two medical missions per year, conduct one eye clinic as part of one of the missions, conduct two education programs per year and donate four containers of medical materials per year. The average cost of a medical mission is \$70,000. The average cost for the donation one container of medical materials is \$5,000. The current education program costs \$5,000 for supplies and materials.

In summary, New Orleans Medical Mission Services Foundation, despite its short history, has successful results in meeting its past goals. NOMMS has a strong volunteer corps and a network of concerned individuals and companies who donate medical materials on a continuing basis. The financial picture is satisfactory with sufficient funding to support current operations and meet short-term mission goals. However, our plans, as stated earlier include expansion of vertical and horizontal services. Additional fundraising will determine the timeline to reach our goals. Realistic expansion to three missions per year, eight containers of donated materials and three education programs is constrained only by additional financial support.