

HOPE means health for world's poor

By DIANE ABRAMS

Project HOPE not only means hope for the world's sick and underprivileged. It also means Health Opportunities for People Everywhere, including the U.S.

Two Detroit-based doctors, who are also residents of Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills, found out for themselves recently how the program, which began with a satellite hospital and expanded to land-based programs, really works.

Dr. Sidney Goldstein, head of cardiovascular medicine at Henry Ford Hospital, and Dr. Donald Magilligan, head of cardiac and thoracic surgery, are part of a team that includes Moroccan colleagues and HOPE personnel, which is responsible for evaluating and developing a broad spectrum of medical programs in that country.

"Project HOPE has been involved in expanding expertise in underdeveloped countries for 21 years now," said Dr. Goldstein.

The organization's plan, he

explained, is to broaden worldwide medical training through an international health education foundation.

"The foundation has done so well that it's a privilege to participate," he added.

The principle objective of the foundation, he said, is to teach techniques of U.S. medical science to physicians, dentists, nurses and allied health personnel in countries where there is a need for improvement. He became involved when HOPE responded to an invitation issued by the Moroccan government to help with its many health problems.

During a five-year program in the North African nation, Dr. Goldstein, Dr. Magilligan and their Moroccan and HOPE colleagues will work on education programs directed toward the attack on cardiovascular disease. A wide-spread program for the prevention of rheumatic fever will be initiated immediately, according to Dr. William Walsh, Project HOPE's founder.

"Rheumatic fever is a severe infectious disease that occurs chiefly in children and frequently results in permanent damage to the valves of the heart. This is common in Morocco, partially because of poor hygiene," Dr. Goldstein explained.

Magilligan and Goldstein met with other specialists and HOPE team members in Morocco, where cardiologists are served without sterility. "One of our meals consisted of a pigeon pie for an appetizer, followed by couscous and lamb," said Dr. Goldstein. "Everyone just kind of digs in because they don't use knives and forks."

The training methods for doctors also vary from those used in the U.S., according to Dr. Goldstein.

"Most of the doctors in Morocco are trained in Europe and France," said Dr. Goldstein. "In the United States, gy and cardiothoracic surgery is centered in the capital city of Rabat."

"There are about 300 doctors for 11 million people in Morocco," said Dr.

Goldstein. "Most illness goes untreated, so people end up with severe heart disease."

DESCRIBING Morocco, Dr. Goldstein reflected on the inconsistencies of an otherwise underdeveloped nation. "It's relatively primitive, but quite advanced," he said of the country's progress.

"They've done a lot of development, but it's the paradox of the underprivileged — they're sophisticated people in an agrarian society," he said.

One thing is for certain, though, King Hassan II of Morocco is known for a particular awareness of his people's health needs.

The king's personal physician, Dr. M. Benomar, will visit Henry Ford Hospital in mid-April. With him will be Dr. Abderrahmane Alaoui, director of cardiac thoracic surgery at Rabat's Avicenne Hospital. Dr. Alaoui originally trained at Henry Ford.

Although the Moroccan people were eager to communicate during his visit, Dr. Goldstein said he found his French to be a bit rusty. After four or five days, he said, he was doing much better but by then it was almost time to leave. The language isn't the only dissimilarity that greets Americans arriving in Morocco. Women wear veils under

the traditional Moslem custom and cal point of view."

Dr. Goldstein said Morocco's university hospital has 2,000 beds. Its facilities are in good condition. He added that the king is anxious to develop the art of cardiac surgery.

"Open heart surgery is a necessity in Morocco. Here it is a luxury," he said.

STREP INFECTIONS are another prevalent problem with the African people. Streptococcus is a rounded bacteria occurring in pairs or chains which often cause heart disease.

"The life expectancy is 50 years in Morocco. Doctors have skills in general doctors are trained in practicality. There it's taken more from a theoretical practice, but are mostly limited to studying problems familiar to the homeland," said Dr. Goldstein.



Sidney Goldstein, M.D., believes it is a privilege to participate in the Project HOPE program.

Crises centers combine to offer better service

Common Ground and Hotline, two of Oakland County's oldest crisis intervention programs, have combined services.

"The combining of these two veteran prevention programs assures continuation of a full bank of quality services for youth and, at the same time, attempts to hold down the spiraling costs of providing these services," Common Ground Director Diane Vincent said.

Common Ground has assumed responsibility for administering the Hotline and providing telephone crisis intervention to the community. For the present, Hotline and Common Ground will remain independent corporations.

The Hotline service has moved to Common Ground headquarters in Birmingham and key Hotline personnel have been integrated into the Common Ground staff and volunteer program.

Troubled young people who call the Hotline number automatically reach Common Ground where the combined programs offer a complete range of services by telephone.

TRAINED COUNSELORS will be on hand to provide telephone crisis intervention, telephone referral to appropriate community resources and/or telephone intake for face-to-face counseling, medical assistance or legal consultation.

Both Common Ground and Hotline were formed in response to the adolescent drug crisis of the late 1960s and both programs are directed primarily toward youth.

Over the years, Hotline has provided an emergency telephone link between a person with immediate problems and a trained and sensitive listener. The problems handled most frequently concern drugs, pregnancy, sexual problems, alcoholism, depression, legal problems, runaways, social relationships and family conflicts.

Common Ground has evolved from a self-help counseling program for teenagers to a large human service agency which focuses on prevention of and early intervention in mental health problems.

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