



**Himalayan
Dental
Relief
Project**

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kim Troggio
303 858-8857

kim@humanitariantours.com



Alecia McDonald D.M.D.

Local Dentist Participates in Humanitarian Project in Nepal

Alecia McDonald, DMD, Provides Dental Care for Children

(Gainesville, FL, May 1, 2009) – Florida dentist Alecia McDonald recently participated in a humanitarian dental clinic held in Kathmandu, Nepal. Dr. McDonald has been practicing dentistry for four years and currently works in a private group practice in Gainesville.

Dr. McDonald was among a group of 13 volunteers that included four dentists, two hygienist and seven non-medical volunteers. The project was organized by the Himalayan Dental Relief Project, which has brought direct dental care to children in Nepal since 2000. Over the course of seven days, the project served 772 children, many of whom had never before received dental care.

The clinic was held in a local school in Kathmandu that converted classroom space into a four chair dental office for the week. Assisted by local students who received on-site training in basic skills, each dentist personally treated hundreds of children. Each child received an exam, cleanings as needed, and restorative and extractive care. In total, the clinic provided 291 cleanings and 843 restorations.

This was Dr. McDonalds first volunteer dental project outside the United States. “It was a great way to satisfy my goal to complete a humanitarian trip and explore a unique country,” says Dr. McDonald.

-- MORE --

Having traveled extensively and lived in third world countries, Dr. McDonald has been exposed to the widespread scarcity of health care or even access to clean living conditions.

“I was enthralled with the children, their thankfulness of the littlest gestures, and genuine contentment with what to us would be nothing,” says Dr. McDonald. “Before this trip, I thought that I was crazy leaving work for a few weeks. Now I am quite clear that this trip can’t be my one and only. There will be more.”

About Alecia McDonald, DMD

Dr. Alecia McDonald is a Florida native, born in Pensacola. She graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelors of Science degree and then went on to receive her dental degree from the University of Florida College of Dentistry in 2005. In addition to her private practice, Dr. McDonald works one day a month for the Gilchrist County Public Health Dept, and one day a month at the We Care Clinic, treating the underserved population of Alachua County. She is the co-organizer of the Alachua County Give Kids a Smile event.

For more information contact Dr. McDonald at 352-262-5639 or aleciaskipper@hotmail.com.

About Himalayan Dental Relief Project

The Himalayan Dental Relief Project (HDRP) is a 501(c)3 charitable organization established in 2000 to provide free dental care and oral health education to impoverished children and families of Nepal, northern India and selected locations in Vietnam and Guatemala. HDRP’s commitment is to return to these same children every two years to provide continuous care.

Treatment and preventative care is provided by volunteer health professionals, who donate their time to treat children during intensive seven-day dental camps. Camps generally include up to five dentists, five hygienists and five to ten non-medical volunteers. Each camp treats 500 – 900 children. Since 2001, HDRP has hosted more than 600 volunteers and treated 34,000 children. For more information about the Himalayan Dental Relief Project, visit www.himalayandental.com.

###