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## Frehner Family Dental spreads smiles across the globe

By Leah Grygleski | Global Dental Relief

For 27 years, **Dr. Dan Frehner** (Monroe) has been providing compassionate care to patients. After graduating from dental school and settling into private practice, Dr. Frehner sought opportunities to use his expertise to make a meaningful impact.

That search led him to Global Dental Relief (GDR), an organization celebrating its 25th year of providing donated dental care and oral hygiene education to children around the globe. Known for its “turn-key” service abroad trips, GDR hosts dental and general volunteers to provide quality dental care to underserved children in a 1-2 week service experience.

“I found GDR through a Google search,” Dr. Frehner recalled. “I knew I wanted to do a mission trip, and GDR seemed the most organized. Their coordination and logistics let us focus on caring for patients rather than the details.”

Dr. Frehner joined several GDR projects solo and later brought some of his dental staff to clinics in Cambodia and Guatemala. Heather, a registered dental hygienist at Frehner Family Dental, joined him and has cherished every moment.

“I love working with others who share the same passion of giving back,” she said. “We stay in touch with our volunteer groups long after the clinic ends.”

What stands out most for Dr. Frehner and Heather?

“The smiles on the kids’ faces,” Dr. Frehner said. “Walking into a clinic with 100 children lined up outside can be overwhelming, but it gives me such fulfillment to restore smiles for kids who don’t have the means to visit a dentist on their own.”

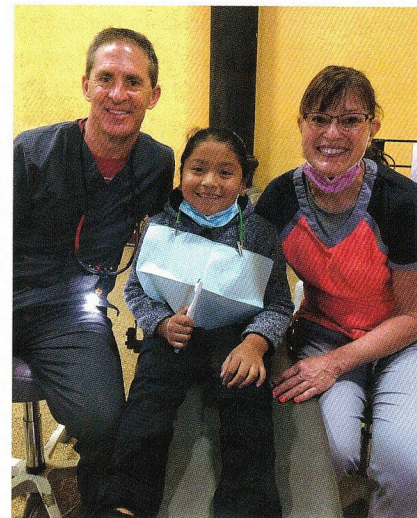
Beyond the clinics, the trips offer unforgettable cultural experiences. From exploring Lake Atitlán in Guatemala to Angkor Wat in Cambodia, and spending time with local partners, volunteers are immersed in the richness of each culture.

For Frehner Family Dental, volunteering as an office group and the adventure of applying dental skills in new setting amplifies the experience even more.

“We usually commit to these trips eight or nine months in advance, which means we spend the year planning together and researching the host country – it really bonds our group and builds excitement for the trip,” said Dr. Frehner.

For dentists and dental teams considering signing up, Dr. Frehner’s message is simple: “Volunteering with GDR is organized from start to finish and is so rewarding. You get to make a real difference, connect with amazing people and experience the world in ways you never imagined.”

To learn more about Global Dental Relief’s work in Guatemala, Cambodia, India, Kenya, Nepal and Mexico, visit [globaldentalrelief.org](http://globaldentalrelief.org) or email at [volunteer@globaldentalrelief.org](mailto:volunteer@globaldentalrelief.org).



## Service training and CE opportunity!

Special Olympics of Wisconsin is working to improve access to dental care for people with intellectual abilities and educate dental professionals on inclusive care. To broaden their dental volunteer base, the organization is pleased to introduce a free, one-hour session for WDA components.

Special Olympics staff are willing to travel anywhere in Wisconsin or provide virtual training opportunities. If your component is interesting in hosting a CE event with Special Olympics of Wisconsin, please reach out to WDA Component Relations Specialist Arianna Stasinoulis at [adstasinoulis@wda.org](mailto:adstasinoulis@wda.org).

