

## Kaiser Permanente Vallejo – Medical Supply Donations Down to the Last Stool

**Environmental and Human Health Impact:** Vallejo employees and volunteers collected and donated **5,351 pounds** of surplus medical supplies and equipment from its out-of-service hospital tower. Diverted materials would have otherwise been discarded into landfill.

**Business Impact:** Cost neutral to Kaiser Permanente and cost avoidance in landfill diversion.

### Challenge

Kaiser Permanente Vallejo's original hospital tower, first opened in 1973, was taken out of service upon the opening of its new hospital in March 2010. After most equipment was redeployed within the Vallejo campus and neighboring facilities, resold to approved outside entities, or donated to local charities, there was still opportunity to do more. Left behind were many pieces of equipment and surplus supplies that could not be used or transported to the new building.

### Aim/Goal

Find a place for the surplus equipment and supplies to go before the old Vallejo tower was demolished, in an effort to avoid waste and addition to landfill.

### Team

Reid Moran Haywood – Senior Project Manager, Product Support  
 Anne Kirkham – Napa-Solano Product Manager, Product Support  
 Jason McCrarey – Diablo Product Manager, Product Support  
 Walter Huxley – Supply Chain Director, Kaiser Permanente Vallejo  
 Dr. Eric Engelman – Kaiser Permanente (retired)  
 Chuck Haupt – Western Region Executive Director, MedShare  
 Shannon Kuehnel – Programs Associate, MedShare  
 MedShare Volunteers

### Actions Taken

- ✓ In March 2011 a team of KP and MedShare staff and volunteers toured the Emergency Department, Operating Room, and floors 5-7 of the old hospital tower to assess and collect all usable medical supplies and equipment for possible donations.

### Results

**5,351 pounds** of surplus medical supplies and equipment were collected including gurneys, IV poles, an exam table, and a medical refrigerator.

**International** recipients include St. Mary Health Center in Jamaica, Global Medical Brigade in Panama, Shirati Hospital in Tanzania, and Little Flower

Orphanage in China. Additional supplies have gone into containers for eventual use in Uganda, Haiti, and other nations in need.

**Local** recipients include Davis Street Family Foundation in San Leandro, Bay View Hunter's Point Clinic, and Healthy Oakland.

### Lessons Learned

- ✓ Always include your local Community Benefits Manager in these activities.
- ✓ Any KP facility closing a building or department should consider an assessment from MedShare to determine donation potential for any goods and equipment that will no longer be used.
- ✓ Donation assessments can only take place after exhausting all efforts to re-purpose, reallocate, or sell. Something that may appear destined for a dumpster could contribute to medical care in our communities or other parts of the world.
- ✓ Always ensure proper dress and protective apparel are available when navigating out-of-use areas at KP facilities.

### Next Steps

- ✓ Walter Huxley (Supply Chain Director) will work with Vallejo Area Financial Officer and Community Benefits to assign values to donated equipment and supplies.
- ✓ Follow-up day to be scheduled for floors 3-4 in July, to capture similar opportunities that the group was unable to address in March.
- ✓ Evaluate other Kaiser Permanente facilities for similar projects.



From Left to Right: Jason McCrarey, Kenneth Rogers, Paul Litsky, Anne Kirkham, Ross Hill, Shannon Kuehnel, Susan Dyer, Dave Doody, and Eric Engelman M.D.