

## PROJECT HOPE HONORS ITS TOP VOLUNTEERS

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**MILLWOOD** — Project HOPE honored its top volunteers on Friday in advance of National Volunteer Week, which started Monday.

This is the second year that the Millwood-based global health and humanitarian organization has recognized volunteers who serve its programs abroad.

In 2013, 420 people volunteered 8,332 days in 25 countries for Project HOPE. All of them were considered for the awards.

“As one can imagine, it is very difficult to narrow down a field of 420 outstanding volunteers to just three winners,” President and CEO Dr. John P. Howe III said during the awards luncheon at the Project HOPE headquarters.

Howe presented a gold medallion to longtime volunteer Dr. Alan Jamison, a pediatrician from Morristown, Tenn., who had 376 hours last year.

For six weeks, Jamison served at program sites in Mozambique, Ghana and Benin.

“My greatest joy is providing clinical care for children,” Jamison said. “However, as I mature in experience on humanitarian missions, I have come to realize the true sustainability in my work resides in training the trainer and imparting the spirit of selfless giving to others.”

Carma Erickson-Hurt, a hospice and palliative care nurse from North Bend, Ore., earned the silver medal for her 1,425 volunteer hours. She worked in Japan, creating a disaster management training program, and aided in the Philippines, supplementing care at a hospital devastated by Typhoon Haiyan.

“It means a lot to be recognized by my peers,” Erickson-Hurt said, adding she was accepting the award “for all the wonderful people I worked with.”

She also praised Project HOPE “alumni,” those who served on the original hospital ship HOPE, for “starting the path for the rest of us.”



*Project HOPE honored its top volunteers on Friday in advance of National Volunteer Week, which started Monday. Award winners are (from left) Dr. Alan Jamison, Leah Bardfield and Carma Erickson-Hurt. Also pictured is Project Hope President and CEO Dr. John P. Howe III.*

The bronze medal recipient, Rose Wilson, a nurse from Melbourne, Australia, attended the ceremony via video. She served 632 volunteer hours in Samoa, Tonga, Kiribati and the Marshall and Solomon Islands, providing health screenings to residents and nursing education for her peers.

Wilson called her work for Project HOPE, aboard the USS Pearl Harbor, “an amazing and life-changing experience.”

The nurses she worked with are “extraordinary,” she said, and do “amazing thing with the resources they have.”

While helping to build a school and playing “horrible soccer,” her experience “changed the way I nurse.”

Project HOPE also honored Leah Bardfield, its first Global Corporate Volunteer of the Year.

Project HOPE has been partnering with Pfizer’s Global Health Fellowship program for 10 years. The company pairs its colleagues with health organizations for short-term assignments to strengthen health service delivery in underserved parts of the world.

Bardfield, who holds a doctorate in pharmacology, is a senior oncology specialty consultant for Pfizer in Chicago.

Accepting a three-month fellowship in Project HOPE’s Shanghai, China, office, she worked with senior citizens, a “growing and underserved population” in China, she said.

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