

CLARKE COUNTY

Project HOPE celebrates volunteers

Star staff report

National Volunteer Week was April 15 through 21, and Project HOPE on April 20 celebrated the volunteers who promote global health and respond to disasters around the world.

The Millwood-based non-profit global health development and humanitarian organization recognized Jahn Moeller, a registered nurse from Queensland, Australia, as its Volunteer of the Year, and Merck & Co. Inc., as its Corporate Partner Volunteer of the Year.

According to Project HOPE, Moeller contributed 1,104 volunteer hours in 2017 at the Hôpital Albert Schweitzer in Haiti. He trained health-care professionals in the operating room, developed a trauma response cart to assist with triage, created a nursing education and training program for new RNs and local staff, and he assisted with the hospital blood drive.

“There is a real need [for health care] in under-served communities, and volunteering doesn’t just help the people I’m there to serve,” Moeller is quoted as saying in a news release. “Being in Haiti, I learned to be more patient, flexible and understanding, which allows me to be a better nurse.”

Merck, which has partnered with Project HOPE for six decades, was named Corporate Partner Volunteer of the Year specifically for its support of Project HOPE in the Dominican Republic.

Merck, known as MSD outside of the U.S., provided Global Health fellows, who contributed 1,584 hours for producing a marketing and business development analysis, some of which has been implemented to expand the reach of Project HOPE’s diabetes educators program.

Project HOPE also honored the contributions of nurse Anne Borden, corporate volunteer Cathy Dunwody, physician Danielle Basurco and engineers Emily Corwin and Jeremy Martinez for their work following Hurricane Maria.

They are among 2,500 Project HOPE volunteers who provided care and training around the globe last year.

Founded in 1958, Project HOPE provides medical training and health education, and conducts humanitarian assistance programs in more than 25 countries.

For more information about volunteering for Project HOPE, visit projecthope.org. Follow Project Hope on Facebook.