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A Successfully Satisfied Physician Assistant

Successful is a word, object or life that many people attempt to attain.

What does this word mean? What does successful look like? Why do some people appear to attain it while others appear to struggle? In the world of medicine, patients, administration and paperwork, how does a physician assistant (PA) measure daily success? Is it the charting that is done before you go home at night (whether handwritten or E-charting)? Is it the ability to see a large number of patients in a day (whether you get lunch or not)? Is it being called multiple times on the weekend to address a patient's concern (whether you get paid or not)? Is it the sincere thank you from a patient or family member you just encouraged (whether the patient's outcome is good or not)?



Wallace Boeve, EdD, PA-C
MAPA President-Elect

One thing to think about, does success come from the external or the internal? Is the feeling of success from the outside in or from the inside out? Brian Tracey, best selling author and professional motivation speaker, stated it well, "Successful people have problems like everyone else. The difference between successful and unsuccessful is the conscious choice to spend their energy attacking the problem and moving forward. Average people spend their time on complaining, justifying, and blaming others."

The main reason the PA profession excited me in my early days as student president in my PA training at Baylor College of Medicine and continues to energize me today is that PAs are not average people. PAs show a passion and zeal for attacking the problems they face. PAs are quick to rise above the

continued on pg. 2



And the Winners are.....

MAPA 2009-2010 Election Results

Thanks to all of you who submitted your vote by the May 31st deadline date.

Congratulations to the following candidates:

President Elect

Suzanne York, PA-C

Secretary

Heather Burgess, PA-C

Region 1

Jan Ryan-Berg, PA-C

Region 3

Brian Gallagher, PA-C

Region 5

Chris Noth, PA-C

Chief Delegate

Andrew Booth, PA-C

AAPA 2010 Delegates

Mark Moote, PA-C

Molly Paulson, PA-C

Joan Westbrook, PA-C

Below is the list of names that were "write-in" candidates for the Michigan Delegation to the AAPA HOD. The Nomination Committee and the chief delegate will be reviewing them and determining eligibility. Criteria include, but are not limited to, being a current MAPA and AAPA member. The people below will be contacted by the Review Committee via email or phone.

Trisha Anderson

James Berg

Wallace Boeve

Kevin Brokaw

Heather Burgess

Allan Faust

Brian Gallagher

Marty Haleb*

Daniel Harfoot*

Rad Hayden

Jonny Holtzman*

Kelly Jensen

Michael Johnson

Sandra Keavey

Jim Kilmark

Dan Ladd

Mike Lahei*

Ryan Maldonado*

Deborah Michaels

Lori Oswald

Marsha Salley

Chris Stewart*

Anthony Sulton*

Mary Van Eck-Hyck*

Paul Villiard *

Karl Wagner

**No contact information or records indicating MAPA membership, therefore ineligible. If you feel this is an error, please contact Cindy Wilkstrom, MAPA Academy Administrator at 1-877-937-6272.*

Successfully Satisfied, continued from pg. 1

perceived struggles of the day and reach new milestones of quality care and ingenuity. Compared to many medical professions, the PA profession is young and continues to have a vitality to make a difference in the health care system without being stagnate or falling into the trap of complacency. Many PAs who have come before and those currently representing the profession are true examples of vitality.

So if success is making a difference through vitality, will a PA feel satisfied when success is attained? When speaking about doing what you love to do and doing it well, Collin Powell stated it best, "It could mean money, but it may not. It could mean a lot of titles, but it may not, but [doing what you love to do and doing it well] will give you satisfaction." I encourage you this day to find what you love about being a PA, return to your roots and pursue it with passion and in so doing you will be successfully satisfied. Even amidst previous health care finance cut backs and fights with state Medicaid reimbursement programs of the 1970's and 1980's, an old PA friend and mentor of mine who is no longer with us (Chuck DeVroogd) once said, "No matter what, if you take care of your patients, they will take care of you."

For more encouragements or thoughts, feel free to sign up for free Weekly Thoughts by sending an email to boeview@gvsu.edu.

CMU Student Designs Innovative Medical Tool

About Yunhan

A new tool will help researchers in labs around the world improve the precision of their findings. The Chromosome Dropper Tool eases challenges of today's chromosomal analysis, which involves research using genes, embryo, clone and stem cells to help diagnose medical conditions, said Yunyan Qu, a physician assistant student at Central Michigan University who invented the tool.

"It's hard to be consistent, efficient, and produce quality results when dropping chromosomes on a slide by hand," Qu said. "My professors at CMU taught me the importance of accuracy and have pushed me to think more innovatively."

And that is what led Qu to invent this much-needed tool, which enables a technician to drop chromosomes exactly where they need to be on a slide. It also produces more efficient results because

the angle is always accurate, and it's flexible to allow a change of degree, spot location or height.

"This invention is an example of Yunyan's resourcefulness and innovation," said Thom Saunders, a research assistant professor at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. "This tool improves the quality of our research results and that will have a positive impact in the field."

Lab technicians can easily be trained to use the tool, which creates even more efficiency in the lab as a whole. Once a scientific supply company purchases rights to the tool, it will be widely distributed.

"This is another step toward progress," said Dr. Ahmad Hakemi, director of the physician assistant program at CMU. "The future of medical diagnosis and treatment will be heavily dependant on this type of research."

CMU PA Students Sweep "Challenge Bowl" at Annual MAPA Conference

Central Michigan University teams took both first and second place at this year's Annual Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants (MAPA) Conference Challenge Bowl, which was held at the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City, Michigan on October 10, 2008.

Central Michigan University, Grand Valley State University, Wayne State University, Western Michigan University, and University of Detroit - Mercy each presented two teams of three current PA students at this year's Challenge Bowl, which is a rousing competition between the five Michigan PA schools. In this competition, teams are asked multiple medical questions and must ring in first with the correct answer. Teams are then awarded one point for each correct answer and are penalized one point for any incorrect answer given.

Both of CMU's teams made it to the final round against defending champion Grand Valley State University. CMU's team consisting of Brandi Alspach, Breanna Bailey and Maureen Frankovich took first place while its team consisting of Deanna Baron, Sarah Bauer and Josh Kocha captured second. Grand Valley ended the competition in third place.

To honor the victory, CMU was awarded the coveted Challenge Bowl trophy, which will be on display in the PA program office until next year's competition. CMU last took home the trophy in 2006, following previous victories in 2002 and 2001.

MAPA's 5th Annual Professional Issues Symposium was another huge success.

This year, we brought the conference to Grand Rapids, MI. We had a great turnout and fabulous presenters. If you missed it, below are a few testimonials of those who attended. Keep a watch out for where we are heading in 2010, it may be a city near you.

Overall – all pertinent issues that require frequent attention. Thank you for this valuable information. I am already thinking of changes I can make in my practice arena. Also afforded me the opportunity to meet with colleagues with whom I have previously only had phone relationships. Kelly Bannasch, PA-C

Topics related to the business/financial matters as related to the profession was very helpful. Risk management was a very pertinent reminder. Good speakers. Yes, I would attend again. Barb Shanley, PA-C

Absolutely phenomenal. The program was well thought out, well designed from the presenters to the order of the programs, current on topics and completely relevant to our practices. Well done MAPA and Health Services Associates. William B. Mosher, PA-C



One Year Finished...One More to Go!

*By Monica Bruggeman
WSU PA-S Class of 2010*

With one year finished and one more to go, the Wayne State University PA class of 2010 is excited for rotations!

This past year has gone by faster than anyone could have ever prepared us for. It was full of long nights, lots of coffee and red bull, and an overload of information that will be applied to our clinical year!

Not only did we conquer a year of classroom work, but we also made sure to devote a substantial amount of our time to serving the community of Detroit/Wayne County. Students took turns every Wednesday evening to run a free health clinic at Walgreens in Highland Park, Michigan. We worked together with University of Michigan pharmacy students to provide services such as checking BP, cholesterol, blood sugar, weight and answering questions about their medications. A large group of our patients had no health insurance and relied on us to perform these basic health checks. We look forward to getting the incoming class of 2011 involved in this great project.

Select students in our class volunteered at The Cass Health Care Clinic on Saturday mornings, which provides free medical care to those

living in the Detroit area. The class of 2009 received a monetary grant of \$6,000, which helped the clinic continue to provide care to the community.

Just before the end of the semester, our class spent an afternoon with the students at Barbara Jordan Elementary School, teaching them about different health topics that were specific to their age groups. It was a great learning experience for both the students and our class!

Now that the first year has been completed, I look forward to hearing from my classmates as to how well their rotations are going. Our mission for second year is to take in as much information as possible to prepare ourselves for graduation in May, 2010. We will work hard with the class of 2011 to get them as much involved with the community as we were.



WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Chief Delegate Report to Michigan Physician Assistants

By Andrew Booth, PA-C
Chief Delegate

There is a new day at the AAPA.

I am sure we have all heard this at least one time in the past year, and surely, this year's 37th Annual Conference was no exception.

The AAPA held its annual CME Conference this year from May 23rd until May 28th in sunny San Diego, California. Attending this conference for CME and socializing were over 7,000 PAs from around the country. There were hundreds of PAs from Michigan in attendance, including student representation from all of our five programs. PAs from Michigan had an opportunity to gather and socialize at a reception hosted by the Michigan Academy.

The AAPA staff, including EVP/CEO Bill Leinweber, as well as the current leadership, have been busy re-inventing the look and feel of the AAPA. This includes a new logo and tag line as well as a strong advocacy

for public relations. Mr. Leinweber set the tone for this new voice in his remarks during the opening ceremony and this was carried out throughout the meetings by staff and leadership.

This conference is not just about putting the PA in Partying, there is also work being done! This year's House of Delegates was efficient and effective in its deliberations.

The House continues to do more work in a shorter time, while maintaining strong debate on some very important and controversial issues. In

total, there were 10 delegates and alternates that participated on your behalf. These delegates debated 55 resolutions and voted in ways that we believe were consistent and best for the PAs in Michigan. A couple highlights include a new definition of

"minority", updates to position papers on CAM, rural health clinics, PA impairment, and end of life decision making - to name just a few.

The house debated other issues like certification cycle, medical marijuana, distribution of PA contact information and election issues including the endorsement of candidates by the nominating committee. A full listing of the House actions can be found at the AAPA website (www.aapa.org), in the member's only section. The work was quite extensive, and I believe the will of Michigan PAs was represented at this House. The Delegates are honored to serve the PAs of Michigan in this capacity.

Overall, I believe this was a successful meeting. I appreciate the opportunity to serve and I look forward to the next AAPA Conference and House of Delegates in Atlanta.

... MAPA EARLY BIRD SPECIAL FOR FALL CME CONFERENCE HAS BEEN EXTENDED ...

**SAVE
\$50**

before July 24, 2009

**Register now online for the Fall CME
Conference and save \$50.00 off
the registration fee.**

October 8-11, 2009

Boyne Mountain, Boyne Falls, MI

Register online www.michiganpa.org

Musings on MAPA's Legislative Day 2009

By Wallace Boeve, EdD, PA-C
MAPA President-Elect

Another year has passed by and on May 13, 2009, MAPA sponsored the annual Legislative Day* in Lansing.

This year's format was switched up a little to include an exciting opportunity with AAPA and updates on current legislative hot topics. The AAPA experience gave participants opportunity for first hand exposure to the "day in the life of a legislator." The culmination of the AAPA experience was to run for re-election to office, but unfortunately my table's representative did not win his re-election. I believe we did not play the political game correctly.

Speaking of the political game, I am awestruck at the commitment of some PAs in our Academy. These individuals have spent tireless hours playing the game and serving as watchdogs on important issues (i.e. legislative, reimbursement, etc...) that many practicing PAs take for granted. To these individuals we owe a great deal of thanks.

One way to show our thanks is to step up to the plate to serve the profession which has so graciously given back to each of us. The "day in the life of a PA" is more than just listening and reading about what others are doing to protect our practices, but actually doing our part to represent our profession. As stated by leadership expert John Maxwell, "Many times our challenges in life are not in understanding, they are in doing."

The biggest way to say thank you to those who have faithfully and tirelessly served Michigan PAs is to plug in and get involved, even if only in small ways. When I was a

child growing up on a farm, we all had to do our part while my dad was on the roads as a truck driver. Between the daily chores, morning and evening animal care and the weekend field work when my dad was home, we all had to pitch in and help out. My mom used to say to my brother, sister and me, "Many hands make light work." However, if given the opportunity to shovel the manure in the barn on Saturday with my dad and brother or to help my mom and sister with cooking and cleaning in the house, somehow as the middle child, I always found myself in the house.

On the flip side, those individuals who are playing the game must mentor new individuals for future service and professional development. As author and speaker Brian Tracey stated, "You can tell how important something is today by measuring its potential future impact on your life." By mentoring others, the impact on your life and those you serve will pay huge dividends in the future. If it was not for an experienced PA and past MAPA president taking me under his wings, I am not sure I would have gained the confidence to pursue service on my own. However, this process of mentoring begins with proper thinking. According to Ralph Waldo Emerson, "The ancestor of every action is a thought."

Let us all begin today to look for opportunities to serve our profession and may those who are serving look for opportunities to mentor other PAs. Then together we can find a life of meaning. According to author and leadership expert Anthony Robbins, "It's not the events of our lives that shape us, but our beliefs as to what those events mean."

I must admit legislation has not been an interest of mine, but I really enjoyed the AAPA presentation and have a much greater appreciation for lobbyists and legislators.

Elizabeth Eastman PA-S

The importance of being an advocate for your profession transcends every field. Today's presentations were very informative & inspirational to get involved with the legislative future of PAs.

Sarah Hagan PA-S

The interactive group time was very informative and fun. I learned a lot. Thank you so much!

Marylenn Gaastra, PA-S

I was able to learn more about our current legislative issues. I also enjoyed the interaction with other PA schools. I would be willing to attend again. Thanks.

Ashley Strotbaum, PA-S

**A special thank you to Mike DeGrow and Cynthia Wikstrom for their organization and support for a great day of learning at Legislative Day 2009.*



Understanding The

*By Brian M. Gallagher, MSPA, PA-C
Region III Representative*

Every year we ask you to give \$175 of your hard earned money to MAPA. As an organization, we need to continue to prove our worth, our value and earn your membership fee. We cannot expect you to give willingly, without knowledge of what your money is doing. Our mission statement proclaims, “The Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants is committed to providing cost-effective, accessible, quality health care by promoting and strengthening the growth and enhancement of the Physician Assistant practice environment, and preservation of the PA/physician team concept.” MAPA accomplishes this through strong communication, advocating in legislature, numerous member resources and exceptional continuing education.

The Academy works diligently to improve communication between members. As members, you have access to list serves that can help you keep in contact with your colleagues and recently, a Facebook page was developed to link Michigan PA members in the world of social media. Furthermore, monthly e-mail communications have been initiated at the regional level to keep you updated on what occurs at MAPA each month. For our student members, we have developed a graduation packet to ease the transition from program to practice.

In order to increase PA awareness throughout our communities, the Rossman Marketing Group helped train a public speakers bureau. The speakers bureau is now working to meet with local Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs and other community leadership organizations. Additionally, the speakers bureau is working with leaders of the state physician’s organizations and MAPA has representatives on a variety of medical advisory boards. Finally, over the next few months you will see a new initiative, in conjunction with the AAPA, to focus on branding and increase recognition of the physician assistant.

Currently, the atmosphere is right for change. As physician assistants, we carry a powerful message to the members of Congress on high- quality, cost-effective, accessible healthcare. MAPA is your voice in healthcare in Lansing and to the American Academy of Physician Assistants. Each year, you elect a Board of peers to represent you and to protect your rights as a PA in Michigan. Assisting the Board, we are fortunate to have Executive Director Michael DeGrow—one of Michigan’s top lobbyists—advocating for us in the legislature. We are constantly battling reimbursement issues and prescriptive authority; we are working to further the scope of practice; we are seeking the right to issue referrals for Hospice and we remain vigilant in our quest to be aware of and ahead of legislation that may affect the PAs’ right to practice. While you take care of your patients, MAPA works to represent your diverse voices.

MAPA offers exceptional resources available only to MAPA members. There is an exclusive members-only website with membership directory; a program set up to remind you of your upcoming license renewals; sample forms for collaboration agreements, prescriptive authority, delegation of controlled substances and

Value of Our Academy

Over the next few months you will see a new initiative, in conjunction with the AAPA, to focus on branding and increase recognition of the physician assistant.

other commonly used contracts; also, there is guidance and advice, readily available, from the many members who have broken down barriers to our profession. If you need help with any professional issues or have questions on billing and coding, reimbursement or scope of practice, help is only a phone call or email away.

Finally, as an Academy, we continue to provide the highest level of educational and CME opportunities to our members. For the last 33 years, an annual CME conference provides a wide variety of cutting-edge topics to keep Michigan PAs well informed and educated. For the last five years, we have held a spring Professional Issues Symposium to recognize and resolve current issues we face in our day-to-day practices. Furthermore, each year, PAs and PA students unite in the Nation's capitol and in Lansing for Legislative Day where they promote physician assistants to elected officials.

Value is often in-tangible. This article highlights some of what the Academy does to provide value to its members through communication, legislature, membership resources and continuing medical education. We are the voice of the PA profession in Michigan; we carry a powerful message. However, we are only as strong as the members we represent. Currently, we represent only 30 percent of the PAs licensed to practice in Michigan. We need each and everyone's help to increase our membership. Our voice becomes louder and stronger with each member added. As students, we are told to join the organization that represents our new profession. It isn't until we are faced with the everyday challenges of practicing medicine, that the value that MAPA provides can be realized. The Board of Directors hopes that each of you feels the Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants is an honorable organization, worthy of your hard earned money. It is an honor and privilege to serve you. We look forward to continuing the advancement of our great profession!



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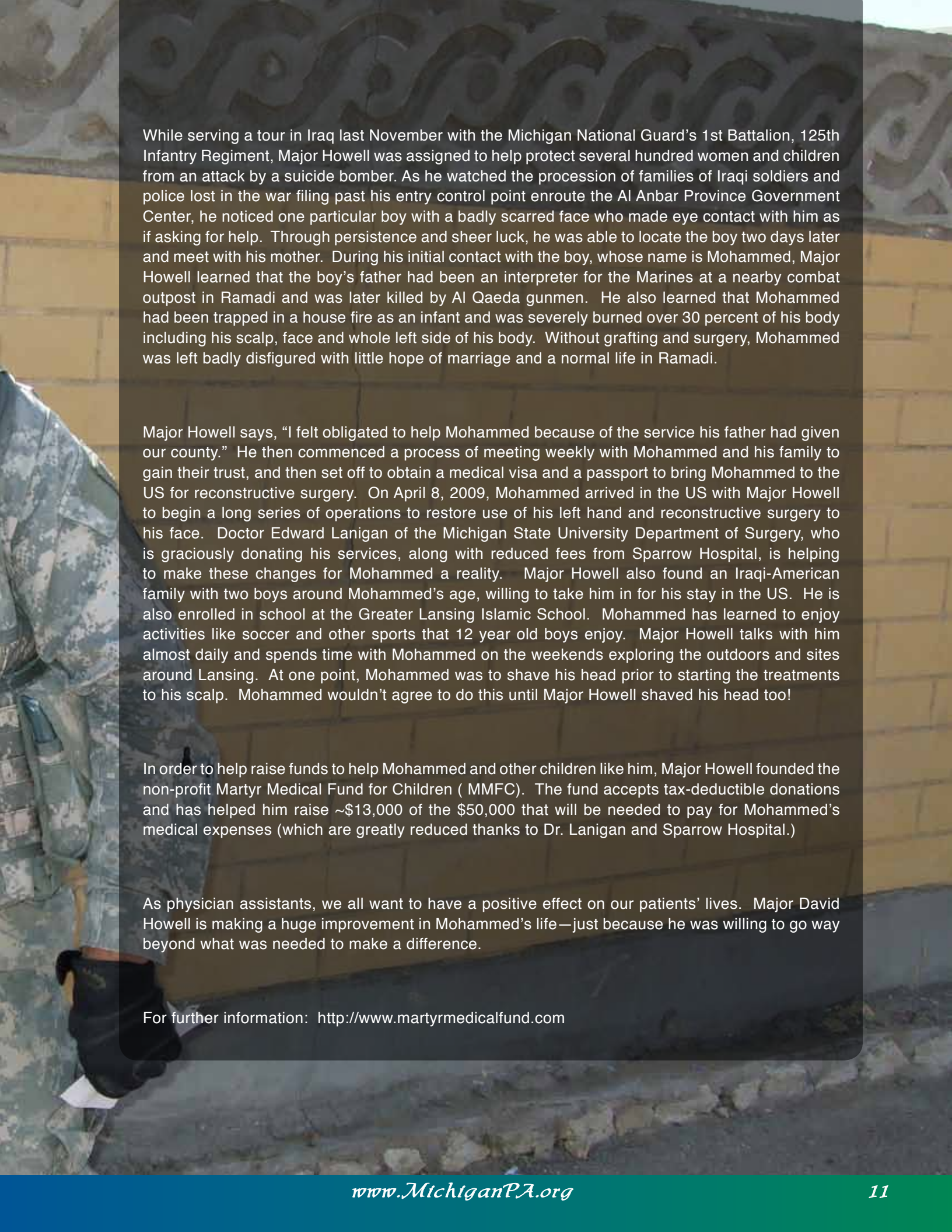
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The other 7%
goes towards
lobbying

GOING THE EXTRA MILE— AND THEN SOME!

by Christine Oldenburg-McGee, MS, PA-C

We all want to make a difference in our patients' lives. Major David Howell, a PA-C in the Michigan National Guard, did just that and more for a 12 year old boy from Ramadi, Iraq.





While serving a tour in Iraq last November with the Michigan National Guard's 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment, Major Howell was assigned to help protect several hundred women and children from an attack by a suicide bomber. As he watched the procession of families of Iraqi soldiers and police lost in the war filing past his entry control point enroute the Al Anbar Province Government Center, he noticed one particular boy with a badly scarred face who made eye contact with him as if asking for help. Through persistence and sheer luck, he was able to locate the boy two days later and meet with his mother. During his initial contact with the boy, whose name is Mohammed, Major Howell learned that the boy's father had been an interpreter for the Marines at a nearby combat outpost in Ramadi and was later killed by Al Qaeda gunmen. He also learned that Mohammed had been trapped in a house fire as an infant and was severely burned over 30 percent of his body including his scalp, face and whole left side of his body. Without grafting and surgery, Mohammed was left badly disfigured with little hope of marriage and a normal life in Ramadi.

Major Howell says, "I felt obligated to help Mohammed because of the service his father had given our country." He then commenced a process of meeting weekly with Mohammed and his family to gain their trust, and then set off to obtain a medical visa and a passport to bring Mohammed to the US for reconstructive surgery. On April 8, 2009, Mohammed arrived in the US with Major Howell to begin a long series of operations to restore use of his left hand and reconstructive surgery to his face. Doctor Edward Lanigan of the Michigan State University Department of Surgery, who is graciously donating his services, along with reduced fees from Sparrow Hospital, is helping to make these changes for Mohammed a reality. Major Howell also found an Iraqi-American family with two boys around Mohammed's age, willing to take him in for his stay in the US. He is also enrolled in school at the Greater Lansing Islamic School. Mohammed has learned to enjoy activities like soccer and other sports that 12 year old boys enjoy. Major Howell talks with him almost daily and spends time with Mohammed on the weekends exploring the outdoors and sites around Lansing. At one point, Mohammed was to shave his head prior to starting the treatments to his scalp. Mohammed wouldn't agree to do this until Major Howell shaved his head too!

In order to help raise funds to help Mohammed and other children like him, Major Howell founded the non-profit Martyr Medical Fund for Children (MMFC). The fund accepts tax-deductible donations and has helped him raise ~\$13,000 of the \$50,000 that will be needed to pay for Mohammed's medical expenses (which are greatly reduced thanks to Dr. Lanigan and Sparrow Hospital.)

As physician assistants, we all want to have a positive effect on our patients' lives. Major David Howell is making a huge improvement in Mohammed's life—just because he was willing to go way beyond what was needed to make a difference.

For further information: <http://www.martyrmedicalfund.com>



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