



SHEFFMED
BRITISH INNOVATION GLOBAL CONSCIENCE

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2019

Sheffmed Santa visits clinics across the country



Malawi Project

A nursing perspective



You have now made several trips to Blantyre and also hosted nurses from Malawi at Fife, what do you feel has been the greatest outcome from this twin strategy?

I feel the biggest achievement is that of team building. Creating trust takes time and commitment. Understanding cultural differences are much greater than I preconceived. Malawain's are a very humble and reserved nation, eager to please and grateful for everything. This unfortunately can lead to the wrong paths being taken. On my 4th visit I do feel I've got a better grasp of the culture and I've definitely become a trusted member on their team. Having hosted colleagues also meant I have become family. In Malawi to host guests is considered honer able. The twining has given insight to both teams creating trust in the first place allows for this.

There are several projects involved in supporting ENT services in Malawi, how interlinked are these?

My first visit was purposely chosen to coincide with other UK projects. I wanted this as I wasn't sure what to expect and wasn't sure if there was anything we could offer. As the years have gone by, the cohort of UK teams has worked well. We all do slightly different projects with the same main goal , a sustainable ENT unit in Malawi, working together pulling on each others strengths to achieve this.



What have you learned from your work in the Malawi project?

I've learned about me! Not something I expected but the emotions have been a rollercoaster. Finding my inner strengths and weaknesses. Using my strengths both at home as well as away.

What are your plans for 2019?

The project changes as demand changes. We will be hosting nurses this year but not in the same capacity as before. We have all learned from experiences and the project will adapt accordingly. As the bonds strengthen the aims become more driven from Malawi.. Which is exactly how I wanted it to be. So this year there will be visiting nurses but in what capacity still needs to be tweaked out. A returning team or teams will be put together. I personally would like to visit when there are no visiting teams, to see how the unit works on ordinary days.

If someone wanted to get involved from a nursing perspective how could they do this?

To visit Malawi as a lone nurse would be hard. I would suggest no matter what area you work in that you would be best placed to work with a team that already has links. If you were wanting to work specifically in ENT then please go to the website and see what the UK teams are doing and join in or alternatively contact me tricia.annand@nhs.net



Our new starters



Joanne
Credit Control

Joanne joins Sheffmed after abandoning her latest attempt to cross the Atlantic on a paddle board much to the relief of her family. Joanne also adds another furry friend to the Sheffmed 4 legged family in form of Rusty a red haired Labrador.



Steve
Sales

Steve joins the sales team having survived the Royal Marines, Costa Coffee and the last 10 years in a Cuban salsa bar. Famed for his dance floor moves (patents pending) Steve is new to our industry and eager to learn all things medical.



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