

ONBOARD

CANVASBACK MISSIONS | WINTER 2024





I've been thinking a lot about the early days of the mission. Those were exciting times full of miracles every day! But they were also very hard days. Jamie and I were constantly praying for help to pay the next bill. We did it because we had faith in our calling and we knew that the work in Micronesia was essential to **Changing Hearts and Lives.**

In those days, we sailed our doctors out to tiny outer islands where medical and dental care was scarce and the island staff was in desperate need of basic medicine and supplies. One of the greatest joys of my life was watching our volunteers provide training that would make an impact long after we set sail and headed out of the lagoon.

Canvasback's efforts helped to build a legacy that led to the development of an outer-island dispensary system. Then, we shifted our sights to our current model of bringing specialty care to the larger island hospitals and empowering the people of the Marshall Islands with the tools to reverse the epidemic of diabetes.

All the while, we kept our emphasis on **Building Capacity: giving local health providers the skills and means to treat their patients.** Canvasback is helping to sponsor Tzun Rafael, a local Palauan doctor, to attend the Pacific Island Orthopedic Association Orthopedic Masters Training Program. He will be the first Palauan Orthopedic surgeon and be able to provide a service to the people of Palau.

On our recent trip to Palau, I had the privilege of watching my long-time friend Dr. Nathan Kam train the local doctor on high-tech gastroenterology procedures that are providing Dr. Myra the skills to treat patients without the help of our Super Teams.

Building Capacity also means providing supplies and services that are unavailable to the islanders. Palau now has a full fracture set for the treatment of their patients. In Majuro, Canvasback provided an Ophthalmologist to perform unavailable corneal transplant surgery. And thanks to Canvasback, patients now have the means of acquiring custom made single-vision eyeglasses at a mere fraction of what they normally cost!

The gratitude expressed by patients and their families is palpable, and it reinforces the importance of our mission. We believe that healthcare should be accessible to all, and it has become very evident that Canvasback's efforts—with your support—are **Changing Hearts and Lives.**



Jacquie Spence
Executive Vice President, Founder

SUPER TEAM

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

PALAU

\$1.3M IN SERVICES PROVIDED

361 Patients

GASTROINTESTINAL	ORTHOPEDICS
32 Colonoscopies	293 Consultations
36 Upper Endoscopies	37 Surgeries
640 Team Training Hours	23 Physical Therapy Sessions



MAJURO

\$1.2M IN SERVICES PROVIDED

749 Patients

OPHTHALMOLOGY	GYNECOLOGY
194 Surgeries	344 Clinic Visits
405 Consultations	328 Procedures
592 Auto-refractions	270 Pap Smears
1009 Glasses Dispensed	58 Pathology Biopsies
66 Custom prescription glasses	37 Surgeries

**Impact of teams from Nov. 2023 - Aug. 2024*

A HEALTHY IDEA AT THE WELLNESS CENTER

The Canvasback Wellness Center on Majuro is famous for its affordable, nutritious meals and fun health classes! With our directors, Lauren and Rick Wiegel, we're offering classes four nights a week for prediabetes and chronic disease management.

We've also begun a new project specifically focused on tackling the rising obesity rates among Children. In collaboration with the Ministries of Education and Health and supported by a grant from the World Diabetes Foundation (WDF), over the next three years, we're establishing and revitalizing 51 school and community gardens while implementing a new Physical Education curriculum nationwide!

This comprehensive approach not only addresses immediate health concerns but also fosters long-term community resilience, ensuring a healthier future for the next generation in the Marshall Islands!



TOMORROW'S HEALERS

In August, Belau National Hospital welcomed a dedicated specialty **gastroenterology Super Team** to elevate local healthcare capabilities. This mission focused on providing advanced training for Dr. Myra Adelbai-Fraser and the OR staff, ensuring they can deliver top-notch gastroenterology services to their community.

Under the expert guidance of Drs. Nathan Kam and Ju-En Thlick, the team performed **68 procedures, including 36 upper endoscopies and 32 colonoscopies, directly benefiting 53 patients.** Alongside them, Dr. Raymond Yip enhanced anesthesia and pain management, while our support staff, including Nimfa Wroblewski, Victoria Wroblewski, Ivonnie Paul, and Sara Harkness, provided essential support in the operating room and recovery areas.

In addition to hands-on training, the team improved the hospital's new "Tamanu" Electronic Medical Records system, streamlining processes for GI procedure documentation and pathology requisitions. These enhancements will ensure greater efficiency and accuracy in patient care!

We also donated **over \$25,624 worth of specialty equipment**, including a refurbished gastroscope.

Our volunteers' expertise improved workflow, benefiting both the medical team and patient safety. These changes allowed for easier access to anesthesia equipment and streamlined procedures, reinforcing the importance of ergonomics in surgical environments.



This mission reflects our commitment to empowering local healthcare professionals and enhancing the quality of care in Palau. **Thank you to everyone who made this possible!** Together, we are making a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.





OPHTHALMOLOGY

In January our ophthalmology team led by Dr. David Gano, Dr. Jeffrey Ing, and Dr. Paul Chung, provided vital eye examinations and performed 194 surgeries, including cataract surgeries and two corneal transplants—the first of their kind in the region!

In total, the team conducted **405 ophthalmic consultations, 592 auto-refractions, and 244 A-scans, alongside distributing 345 pairs of reading glasses, 84 prescription glasses, and 580 sunglasses.** Additionally, 67 patients will receive custom-made single vision glasses, provided at no cost.

The mission not only gave access to eye care but also **contributed \$718,226.24** in donated services and equipment. This initiative marks a significant step forward in advancing vision care in the Marshall Islands, benefitting countless patients in the community.



MAJURO MEDICAL OUTREACH

With collaboration and commitment to improving healthcare, the RMI Ministry of Health partnered with Canvasback Missions for two impactful missions in 2024. The ophthalmology Super Team provided essential eye care services, including surgeries and assessments, significantly enhancing access to eye health in the Marshall Islands. Following closely, our gynecology team focused on women's health, offering examinations, surgeries, and vital screenings that saved lives!



WOMEN'S HEALTH

Led by Dr. Anne Anholm, our team conducted **344 clinic visits and completed 328 procedures, including 37 surgeries** such as total abdominal hysterectomies and mastectomies.

Vital screenings resulted in early interventions, with many procedures prompted by pap smear diagnoses, potentially saving lives. The team also interpreted **256 PAP cases and performed 126 ultrasound scans,** all while ensuring quality patient care through a dedicated support staff.

The mission contributed **\$487,697 in services and donated supplies.** We know that our care for the women in Majuro impacts everyone and provides the foundation of a strong future!



YOU ARE THE HEART OF CANVASBACK!

As the year draws to a close, we reflect on the incredible impact we've made with your support at Canvasback Missions. **Thanks to your generosity, we've been able to provide vital healthcare services and training to communities in Micronesia, changing hearts and lives!**

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our donors and supporters. Your commitment has enabled us to make significant strides in our mission. This year, we've witnessed firsthand the difference your support can make—from life-saving medical care to empowering local doctors with essential training.

But there is still so much more to be done! Many individuals and families in Micronesia are waiting for the care and support they desperately need. As we approach the new year, **we invite you to make a meaningful impact with a year-end gift.** Your donation can help us expand our programs, reach more communities, and continue our vital work.

Imagine the joy of knowing that your generosity is transforming lives—providing access to medical treatment, training dedicated healthcare professionals, and fostering a healthier future for all. Together, we can make this vision a reality!

As many of you know, at the end of the year, we begin our annual Phonathon. We love getting to chat with you as we raise funds for the coming year! However, **if you don't want a call or would like to support our team by giving us time to call others, please feel free to make your gifts early.**

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation before the year ends. You can make gifts on our website, by using the QR code, or by mailing to our address on the back of this OnBoard. Let's continue this journey together and make an even greater impact in the coming year.

THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR YOUR UNWAVERING SUPPORT AND BELIEF IN OUR MISSION.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:



ZIMMER BIOMET



Matson.



WORLD DIABETES FOUNDATION



SCAN HERE
TO MAKE A
GIFT OR FIND
OTHER WAYS
TO JOIN US

- **A GIFT WE CAN COUNT ON**

Monthly support helps Canvasback sustain and grow this incredible mission in a way that is effective and dependable.

- **VOLUNTEER**

Canvasback needs willing and capable professionals in medicine, education, business, agriculture, culinary arts, engineering, construction, photography, videography, graphic design, public health, and much more!

- **PARTNER**

Canvasback Team welcomes everyone to be a part of our team.

- **ADVOCATE**

We can't do this alone. If you have worked with or seen our teams in action, you can help advocate for the Canvasback cause. Contact us for resource materials.



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