

Shands Healthcare BIIIH

An eye for helping those less fortunate

Shands nurse helps fight blindness in developing countries

Sandy Burnett, RN, who works in Shands AGH Ambulatory Care and Shands at the University of Florida Med/Surg Unit, volunteers aboard the world's only airborne teaching facility — the ORBIS Flying Eye Hospital.

The DC-10 jet serves as the hospital. Doctors, nurses and biomedical technicians from the developing countries that the flying hospital visits work alongside the ORBIS international medical team to exchange knowledge and improve skills.

"It is a multilayered program," Burnett said. "Our aim is to train the local eye-care community so it can better treat and prevent eye disease prevalent among their nation's population."

Since 1990, Burnett has visited Myanmar, Bangladesh, China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Costa Rica, Peru, Guatemala, Cuba, the Sudan, Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon.

During her first visit last year to Enugu, Nigeria, Burnett taught the medical



A Sandy Burnett, RN, from Shands AGH Ambulatory Care and Shands at the University of Florida Med/Surg Unit, sat with a patient during her recent journey with ORBIS.

staff a safer way to discard sharp medical instruments.

"I asked them to use the disposable water bottles as sharps containers," Burnett said. "It is gratifying to know they are still following the disposal method I suggested last year."

Without Shands Healthcare, Burnett's journey and mission to help the less fortunate through ORBIS may not have been possible.

"Shands has been very supportive of my travel

and teaching," Burnett said.

"Shands has assisted with medical supplies, nurses' magazines, educational books and audio-visual films that I shared with the ORBIS international medical team."

Advance for Nurses, a regional biweekly trade publication, featured Burnett in the July edition. To access the article online, please visit www.advanceweb.com/nurses/ ■

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[upcoming]

New HealthCasts on Shands.org

Stroke Treatment and Prevention with **Michael Waters, MD, PhD**, University of Florida College of Medicine neurologist.

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm with UF College of Medicine thoracic and cardiovascular surgeons

Philip Hess, MD, and **Thomas Martin, MD**, and **Anthony Lee, MD**, UF College of Medicine vascular surgeon.

UF Orthopaedic Surgery Program with **Deenesh Sahajpal, MD**, UF College of Medicine orthopaedist.

Visit Shands.org/healthcasts to listen to these new HealthCasts, as well as browse the HealthCast library. Shands HealthCasts also can be great resources for our patients.