

Novus Medicus Mission Opportunities

PLEASE READ: Welcome to the Novus Medicus Missions Committee list of mission opportunities! We are so grateful for your desire to serve Christ in those most in need. Below is a list of mission and service opportunities, medical and non-medical, that are available for medical students, residents, fellows, and attendings (many are open to other health care practitioners as well). These opportunities can be something that you participate on your own, with a friend, or as a group. We also have some resources to help with fundraising for any opportunities you may participate in. We pray that you may encounter Christ in those whom you serve and witness Christ to them!

If you know or have done a **new opportunity** that you would like to add to this list for others to participate, please fill out this survey (<https://forms.gle/iwqjLvL2aT51WG3QA>)!

If you find any **incorrect or outdated information** on this list, please fill out this survey so we can remove or correct it (<https://forms.gle/ntVpfYW8eQfrt2Dx9>)!

If you have **questions, would like more details, or just want to talk about mission**, please reach out at novusmedicusmissions@gmail.com.

Please note, this document is currently under construction, so if you have any questions about information that is not yet updated or entered, reach out at the email above. We also recommend using a laptop rather than mobile device to get the best viewing experience

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Novus Medicus Led Mission Opportunities

Harlingen Mission Trip w/ Culture of Life Ministries

Dates: *Come back soon for 2026 trip dates*

Location: Harlingen, Texas

Website: <https://www.colmhealth.org/>

Link to the Most Recent Flier:  *Harlingen Mission Trip 2025 Flier.png*

Sign-Up Link: *Come back soon for 2026 registration*

Point of Contact: Contact novusmedicusmissions@gmail.com to find the latest details

Culture of Life Ministries is a free family medicine clinic just north of the US-Mexican border that serves over 400 patients a month. The Novus Medicus Missions Committee leads a trip that serves yearly for about 1-week at the clinic and volunteering at other community sites. Culture of Life offers a great opportunity to serve in a clinic run by Catholic doctors living out mission by serving the most in need in their community. There are also opportunities for fellowship with other Catholic medical professionals and trainees and plenty of time for prayer, the sacraments, and other spiritual formation. The trip is open to all medical professionals and students!

Medical Mission Opportunities

Culture of Life Ministries (Texas)

Location: Harlingen, TX

Point of Contact: Stephen Robinson, MD | sarobinsonster@gmail.com | 956-536-6000

Website: <https://www.colmhealth.org/>

Description: Culture of Life Ministries is a free family medicine clinic just north of the US-Mexican border that serves over 400 patients a month. They are a great opportunity to serve in a clinic run by Catholic doctors living out mission by serving the most in need in their community.

Opportunities to Serve: Culture of Life Ministries is set up to host volunteers, so it is a great opportunity for both students, physicians, and other medical professionals to go on missions. Opportunities include:

- Technical skills training in colonoscopy, echocardiograms, stress tests, breast biopsies, wound care, pulmonary function tests, cyst removal, and phlebotomy
- Didactic curriculum on topics relevant to running a mission clinic
- Cultural awareness training with optional opportunities to enhance medical Spanish skillset
- Moral and emotional support from our community of medical missionaries
- Optional spiritual support from the Catholic Diocese of Brownsville

St. Mary's Legacy Clinic (Tennessee)

Location: Knoxville, TN

Point of Contact: Sister Mary Lisa Renfer, RSM, DO | srmarylisa@smlcares.com

Website: <https://www.stmaryclinic.org/>

Description: St. Mary's clinic is a mobile clinic run by the Religious Sisters of Mercy that serve underprivileged areas in Appalachia. They hold medical clinics about twice a week doing primary care appointments, medication distribution, lab work, and minor procedures.

Opportunities to Serve: In addition to their clinics, St. Mary's Legacy Clinic is hoping to do screening and interventions at current and potential sites to address social determinants of health. They also want to run health fairs to connect patients with resources and educate them on health practices. Sr. Mary Lisa puts an emphasis on including times for prayer and sacraments on a mission trip and said there are a lot of devout Catholic physicians in the area that we could potentially host as well.

Southern Eye Clinic of Serabu (Sierra Leone)

Location: Sierra Leone

Points of Contact: Cathy Schanzer, MD, Ophthalmology | mcschanzer@hotmail.com
Tom Lewis (Executive Director) | tlewtlew@hotmail.com

Website: southerneyeinstitute.net

Description: Southern Eye Clinic of Serabu is open year round, providing diagnostic examinations, medicines, eye glasses and modern eye surgery free of charge to all patients. Surgery is performed when appropriate surgeons are available.

Opportunities to Serve: The team travels twice a year for 2-3 weeks to do surgery, but the clinic is open year round and has outreach to other villages. Medical students are always welcome on their short-term trips. Please reach out for more details especially if you have an interest in ophthalmology!

Freely Given, Inc (Cambodia)

Location: Cambodia

Point of Contact: Nic and Jacelyn Davidson | 218-506-8793 | freelygiveninc@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.freelygiveninc.org/mission/>

Description: Freely Given Inc. started by Nic and Jacelyn Davidson who seek to bring medical care to rural communities and share the light of hope in Christ. Nic is a Catholic speaker/trainer and Jacelyn is a family medicine physician who together live and serve in Cambodia alongside their five children.

Opportunities to Serve:

- **Short term mission trips**
 - Firmly believe in the value of short-term mission trips
 - Not only do these endeavors change the lives of those who are served through the trip, they profoundly impact those who do the serving
 - Regularly host a variety of short-term mission trips, including medical missions, ministry teams, and humanitarian service trips
- **Long term volunteering**
 - Currently seeking a homeschool teacher for their children, a media specialist, and other ministry opportunities (Medical clinics, Teaching English in rural villages, Volunteering with the Missionaries of Charity, Rural church ministry in Taom (and there are many locations to which this can be expanded!), Medical clinics

See the Lord (Various Sites)

Location: Various Sites in the United States and Internationally

Point of Contact: Tiffany Khong, O.D. | info@seethelord.org

Website: www.seethelord.org

Description: See the Lord is a Catholic organization founded in 2011 dedicated to making God more visible in the world through healthcare, education, and Catholic ministry to those most in-need due to lack of financial resources or accessibility.

Opportunities to Serve: See the Lord trips provide quality eye care and glasses, seminars on public health and disease management, and spiritual evangelization to those they serve. This organization offers great opportunities for optometry and ophthalmology clinicians and students.

LEAST/Foundation for Saving Sight (Guatemala)

Location: San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala

Point of Contact: Katie and Juan Pablo | <https://www.leastmission.org/contact/>

Website: <https://www.leastmission.org/>

Description: American (Katie) and Colombian (Juan Pablo) husband and wife team lead a ministry serving the needy elderly in San Lucas Toliman. They have a feeding program, home health visits, and ongoing renovation/construction project to turn an old orphanage (Casa Feliz) into a nursing home. They frequently host American non-medical mission teams to do renovations, building projects, etc. as well as ophthalmology teams several times a year through the Foundation for Saving Sight which is run by Katie's father.

Opportunities to Serve: The family currently has 2 kids under 2 (as of 2024), so their bandwidth to host is limited and some projects are temporarily on hold. They are planning to stay in the area and will also likely have some capacity to have people stay with them in the future.

Catholic Medical Missions Board (Various Sites)

Location: New York, NY (Headquarters); Clinical sites in Haiti, Kenya, and Zambia

Point of Contact: Volunteer Services | volunteer@cmmb.org

Website: <https://cmmb.org>

Description: CMMB is a Catholic nonprofit with over 100 years of experience in global health. They partner with rural hospitals and communities in Haiti, Kenya, and Zambia to provide essential medical care and health system support. Their work is grounded in Catholic social teaching, and they welcome medical professionals and students who share their commitment to serving the poor and vulnerable.global health.

Opportunities to Serve:

- **Short-Term Missions (7–15 days):** Participate in medical missions to rural hospitals, providing direct patient care and training local staff
- **Clinical Rotations (1–2 months):** Medical students and residents can engage in supervised clinical experiences in resource-limited settings
- **Internships (150 hours):** public health students. Remote or NYC-based roles supporting CMMB's global work, suitable for pre-health and public health students.

World Medical Mission of Samaritan's Purse (Various Sites)

Location: Mission hospitals in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East

Point of Contact: Use the application portal below to connect with their volunteer coordinator

Website: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/medical/world-medical-mission>

Description: World Medical Mission is the medical arm of Samaritan's Purse, sending Christian physicians, residents, and medical students to mission hospitals around the world. Their work emphasizes compassionate care and Christian witness in underserved regions. Partner hospitals offer a wide range of specialties and typically serve as the only healthcare access point for large populations.

Opportunities to Serve:

- **Month-Long Clinical Rotations:** Fourth-year medical students can apply for month-long international electives that may qualify for school credit, depending on institutional approval.
- **Short- and Long-Term Service:** Physicians and residents are also welcomed for both short-term relief work and longer-term placements.

Clerkship Opportunities/Elective Rotations

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Location: Harlingen, TX

Point of Contact: Stephen Robinson, MD | sarobinsonster@gmail.com | 956-536-6000

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Mission Doctors Association (Various Sites)

Location: Headquartered in Los Angeles, CA; active mission sites in Peru, Uganda, Tanzania, and Cameroon

Point of Contact: info@missiondoctors.org | (213) 368-1872

Website: <https://www.missiondoctors.orgmissiondoctors.org>

Description: Mission Doctors Association is a Catholic nonprofit that recruits, trains, and supports physicians for short- and long-term international medical service. While MDA does not formally place medical students, physicians on mission are often open to hosting medical students, particularly those affiliated with the Catholic Medical Association (CMA).

Opportunities to Serve:

- **Medical Student Observerships:** CMA, may arrange observerships by directly contacting MDA-affiliated physicians. Notable contacts include: CMA, may arrange observerships by directly contacting MDA-affiliated physicians. Notable contacts Medical students, especially those connected with CMA, may arrange observerships by directly contacting MDA-affiliated physicians. Notable contacts include:
 - Dr. Zach Gastelum (Family Medicine) – Peru
 - Drs. Brian and Robyn Jennings (Family Medicine) – Uganda
 - Dr. Susan McNeil (Family Medicine) – Uganda
 - Contact the CMA or Novus Medicus Missions Committees for details on current physicians abroad
- **Short-Term Missions (1 month):** Physicians with at least 3 years of post-residency experience can serve in Catholic mission hospitals in Africa and Latin America. MDA provides orientation and handles coordination with host sites.
- **Long-Term Missions (3 years):** Catholic physicians and their families may apply for full-time service. Participants undergo extensive formation and are placed in hospitals where continuity of care and training for local staff is a key part of the mission.

Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (Africa)

Location: Training programs across 12 African countries

Point of Contact: Each PAACS site manages its own rotations; contact the specific program director directly

Website: <https://paacs.netpaacs.netpaacs.net+1paacs.net+1>

Description: PAACS is a Christian nonprofit that trains and discipless African physicians in surgical specialties to serve in underserved regions. Their programs integrate rigorous medical education with spiritual mentorship, aiming to provide compassionate care and share the love of Christ. Training is offered in General Surgery, OB-GYN, Orthopedic Surgery, Neurosurgery, Anesthesia, and Pediatric Surgery.

Opportunities to Serve:

- **Medical Student and Resident Rotations:** PAACS does not centrally coordinate rotations for students or residents. Interested individuals must contact the specific PAACS training site directly to inquire about opportunities.
- **Short-Term Faculty:** Experienced surgeons can volunteer as short-term faculty, contributing to both clinical training and spiritual discipleship of residents.

Institute for International Medicine (Various Sites)

Location: Kansas City, MO (Headquarters); international sites across Africa, Asia, and Latin America

Point of Contact: info@inmed.us

Website: <https://www.inmed.us>

Description: INMED is a nonprofit organization that trains healthcare professionals and students to serve effectively in low-resource, cross-cultural, and international settings. Their programs emphasize the clinical and public health challenges faced by underserved communities worldwide. INMED integrates didactic learning with hands-on service opportunities, offering academic credentials such as certificates and diplomas in international medicine and public health.

Opportunities to Serve:

- **Professional Certificate Course in International Medicine & Public Health:** A structured, 8-week online course that provides foundational knowledge in diseases of poverty, maternal-child health, disaster response, and cross-cultural skills. Particularly useful for second-year medical students as global health context alongside USMLE Step 1 preparation.
- **Graduate Diploma in International Medicine & Public Health (DIMPH):** Combines the certificate course with a supervised 4+ week international clinical rotation at an INMED-affiliated site. Participants engage in hands-on service in inpatient, outpatient, maternity, and community health settings.
- **Self-Paced Online Courses:** INMED offers several CME-accredited, asynchronous courses on international health topics, including ultrasound, refugee care, and HIV management. Courses typically take 3–10 hours and are accessible for one year.

Residency/Fellowship Opportunities

See the Lord (Various Sites)

Location: Various Sites in the United States and Internationally

Point of Contact: Tiffany Khong, O.D. | info@seethelord.org

Website: www.seethelord.org

Description: See the Lord is a Catholic organization founded in 2011 dedicated to making God more visible in the world through healthcare, education, and Catholic ministry to those most in-need due to lack of financial resources or accessibility.

Opportunities to Serve: See the Lord trips provide quality eye care and glasses, seminars on public health and disease management, and spiritual evangelization to those they serve. This organization offers great opportunities for optometry and ophthalmology clinicians and students.

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Opportunities to Serve:

- **Month-Long Clinical Rotations:** Fourth-year medical students can apply for month-long international electives that may qualify for school credit, depending on institutional approval.
- **Short- and Long-Term Service:** Physicians and residents are also welcomed for both short-term relief work and longer-term placements.

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Point of Contact: Each PAACS site manages its own rotations; contact the specific program director directly

Website: <https://paacs.netpaacs.netpaacs.net+1paacs.net+1>

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spiritual mentorship, aiming to provide compassionate care and share the love of Christ. Training is offered in General Surgery, OB-GYN, Orthopedic Surgery, Neurosurgery, Anesthesia, and Pediatric Surgery.

Opportunities to Serve:

- **Medical Student and Resident Rotations:** PAACS does not centrally coordinate rotations for students or residents. Interested individuals must contact the specific PAACS training site directly to inquire about opportunities.
- **Short-Term Faculty:** Experienced surgeons can volunteer as short-term faculty, contributing to both clinical training and spiritual discipleship of residents.

Ascension Via Christi International Family Medicine Fellowship (Wichita, KS and International Clinic Sites)

Location: Wichita, KS (Domestic); international clinical sites across Africa, Asia, and Latin America (e.g., Niger, Rwanda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, Honduras)

Point of Contact: Patrick Allen, MD | Patrick.Allen@ascension.org and Todd Stephens, MD | Samuel.Stephens@ascension.org

Website: International Family Medicine Fellowship – Via Christi

Description: Founded in 2008 within the Via Christi/Ascension Family Medicine system in Wichita, KS, this one-year post-residency fellowship trains family physicians for global health service in low-resource settings. The program integrates advanced clinical rotations with robust didactic training and overseas service—grounded in a Catholic mission to serve the poor and underserved.

Curriculum Overview:

- **Didactic & Clinical Training (5–7 months in Wichita):** Includes a diploma-level Tropical Medicine & Public Health course through West Virginia University (2 weeks in WV, 6 weeks online), plus rotations in trauma, burn ICU, spinal anesthesia, POCUS, HIV, orthopedics, dentistry, NICU, and rural ED locum tenens coverage.
- **International Clinical Immersion (5 months):** Fellows serve in mission hospitals such as Galmi (Niger), Karanda (Zimbabwe), Kibogora (Rwanda), Memorial Christian (Bangladesh), Mukinge (Zambia), or Loma de Luz (Honduras), applying full-scope family medicine, obstetrics, inpatient/outpatient care, and public health.

Training & Benefits:

- Preparation in tropical medicine, cross-cultural care, ultrasound, and global health didactics.
- Practical procedural exposure in diverse inpatient/outpatient and ED settings.
- Fellowship open to family physicians post-residency; U.S. and international graduates accepted.
- Application Window: Aug 1–Dec 15; Fellowship Year starts July 1.

In His Image Global Health Fellowship (Tulsa, OK and International Clinical Sites)

Location: Tulsa, OK (Domestic); various international clinical sites

Point of Contact: Matt Haney, DO | mhaney@inhisimage.org

Website: <https://inhisimage.org/fellowship/>

Description: The In His Image Global Health Fellowship is a one-year, post-residency program designed to prepare family medicine physicians for long-term international medical ministry. Combining clinical training, spiritual formation, and cross-cultural immersion, the fellowship equips participants to bring both medical care and the healing presence of Christ to underserved communities around the world.

Curriculum Overview:

- **Domestic Clinical Training (7 months):** Includes rotations in underserved primary care clinics, emergency department shifts, and orthopedics/HIV-TB/POCUS exposure, alongside weekly spiritual formation, didactics, and ministry involvement.
- **International Clinical Immersion (5 months):** Fellows spend time at 3–4 global sites, customizing the focus between clinical service or educational faculty roles at overseas hospitals.
- **Spiritual & Ministry Development:** Weekly discipleship groups, personal mentorship, POCUS teaching, and preparation for overseas transitions are integrated throughout the year.

Training & Benefits:

- Tailored curriculum in tropical medicine, ultrasound, and global health education
- Salary equivalent to a PGY-4 with benefits, travel stipend, and paid time off
- Requirements include CTropMed certification and participation in the Global Missions Health Conference
- Fellowship runs Aug 1–July 31, with applications due by Dec 15; two fellows accepted annually.

Mission Doctors Association (Various Sites)

Location: Headquartered in Los Angeles, CA; active mission sites in Peru, Uganda, Tanzania, and Cameroon

Point of Contact: info@missiondoctors.org | (213) 368-1872

Website: <https://www.missiondoctors.orgmissiondoctors.org>

Description: Mission Doctors Association is a Catholic nonprofit that recruits, trains, and supports physicians for short- and long-term international medical service. While MDA does not formally place medical students, physicians on mission are often open to hosting medical students, particularly those affiliated with the Catholic Medical Association (CMA).

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 - Contact the CMA or Novus Medicus Missions Committees for details on current physicians abroad

- **Short-Term Missions (1 month):** Physicians with at least 3 years of post-residency experience can serve in Catholic mission hospitals in Africa and Latin America. MDA provides orientation and handles coordination with host sites.
- **Long-Term Missions (3 years):** Catholic physicians and their families may apply for full-time service. Participants undergo extensive formation and are placed in hospitals where continuity of care and training for local staff is a key part of the mission.

MaterCare International (Various Sites)

Location: Projects in Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Haiti, East Timor, and other low-resource regions

Point of Contact: info@matercare.org

Website: <https://www.matercare.org/>

Description: MaterCare International is a Catholic organization of health professionals dedicated to improving maternal health in underserved areas. Rooted in the Gospel of Life and Catholic bioethics, MaterCare provides life-affirming obstetric care, supports mission hospitals, and trains local staff to reduce maternal and perinatal mortality.

Opportunities to Serve:

- **Resident Rotations & Observerships:** OBGYN and family medicine residents can join short-term clinical placements in MaterCare-supported hospitals, assisting with deliveries and emergency obstetric care.
- **Fistula & Emergency Missions:** Residents may join teams serving women with obstetric fistulas or responding to maternal health crises.
- **Training & Education:** Opportunities to help lead workshops and support training for local healthcare workers.
- **International Conferences:** Biennial events in Rome offer residents chances to present and connect with Catholic global health leaders.

Catholic Medical Missions Board (Various Sites)

Location: New York, NY (Headquarters); Clinical sites in Haiti, Kenya, and Zambia

Point of Contact: Volunteer Services | volunteer@cmmb.org

Website: <https://cmmb.org>

Description: CMMB is a Catholic nonprofit with over 100 years of experience in global health. They partner with rural hospitals and communities in Haiti, Kenya, and Zambia to provide essential medical care and health system support. Their work is grounded in Catholic social teaching, and they welcome medical professionals and students who share their commitment to serving the poor and vulnerable.global health.

Opportunities to Serve:

- **Short-Term Missions (7–15 days):** Participate in medical missions to rural hospitals, providing direct patient care and training local staff

- **Clinical Rotations (1–2 months):** Medical students and residents can engage in supervised clinical experiences in resource-limited settings
- **Internships (150 hours):** public health students. Remote or NYC-based roles supporting CMMB's global work, suitable for pre-health and public health students.

Non-Medical Mission Opportunities

Hope of the Poor (Nebraska, Alaska, Mexico)

Location: Omaha, NE | Alaska | Mexico City, Mexico

Point of Contact: Danny Leger | 402-578-3715 | danny.leger@live.com

Website: <https://hopeofthepoor.org/>

Description: Hope of the Poor is an organization that inspires all generations to radically live out the Gospel through finding Christ in the distressing disguise of the poor. They host missions in Omaha, Mexico City, and Alaska with Omaha being the main site for CMA trips as it offers year round trips for spring break, winter break, or summer break mission trips.

Opportunities to Serve: Hope of the Poor mission trips include solid Catholic formation that they integrate through a retreat with prayer and meditations inspired by St. Mother Teresa. Their week-long mission trips involve serving the homeless but are open including either 1 or 2 days of clinical elements or integrating it sporadically throughout. The focus is more on encountering the poor than just offering services. **We are called to encounter our Savior not to be one and to encounter our own poverty** by emphasizing evangelization and mission.

Christ in the City (Denver, CO or Philadelphia, PA)

Location: Denver, CO and Philadelphia, PA

Point of Contact: info@christinthecity.org

Website: <https://christinthecity.org/>

Description: Christ in the City was founded in 2010 with its mission rooted in drawing participants into an intimate relationship with Jesus, touching what it means to be human: being loved by God in the midst of our own poverty and being called to love those around us in the midst of their own poverty. Missionaries devote themselves to intentional formation and fellowship while serving and loving Christ in their brothers and sisters in the streets.

Opportunities to Serve: Besides the formal missionary program, Christ in the City offers:

- Weekly opportunities to serve a hot meal to their homeless friends where volunteers are encouraged to sit down and talk with the men and women experiencing homelessness. All food is provided through donations from generous volunteers.
- Street ministry downtown on Friday nights, both in Denver and Philadelphia! Friday night ministry is a great way to connect to our mission of knowing, loving, and serving the poor.
- Week-long spring break mission trips for college students! (see website for dates)
- Representatives from Christ in the City to share their mission and stories from the streets with your small group, class, or parish

Source of All Hope (Baltimore, MD)

Location: Baltimore, MD

Point of Contact: Abby Steele | Outreach Coordinator | abigail.steele@archbalt.org

Website: <https://www.sourceofallhope.org>

Description: Source of All Hope is a Catholic missionary community rooted in daily Eucharist, prayer, communal living, and street ministry in Baltimore. Missionaries form authentic friendships with individuals experiencing homelessness, believing that Christ is most present in those our society often overlooks. The community combines spiritual formation with on-the-ground outreach to foster healing and companionship .

Opportunities to Serve:

- **Mission Year (12-month commitment):** Young adults live in community, praying daily, engaging in street walks, Saturday meals, evangelization events, and supporting the Basilica's perpetual adoration.
- **Summer Mission Experience:** Week-long (or full-summer) immersive programs for college students combining prayer, community life, and relational street ministry.
- **Friday Street Walks:** Weekly outreach for college-aged volunteers—walking with Baltimore's homeless friends, listening and befriending—free and open to sign-up.
- **Saturday Meal Ministry:** Volunteers prepare and share meals, sitting and eating alongside their friends from the streets each Saturday.

FOCUS Missions (Various Sites)

Location: Various Sites in the United States and internationally

Point of Contact: Use the site below

Website: <https://focus.org/missions/>

Description: FOCUS Missions, the service arm of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), offers Catholic-centered mission trips aimed at inspiring participants to grow in faith through authentic encounters, spiritual formation, and intentional service in underserved communities.

Opportunities to Serve:

- **Medical Missions**
 - Domestic: Harlingen, TX offers short-term (typically ~10 days) medical care service trips through partnerships like Culture of Life Ministries.
 - International: Summer and spring break medical trips to countries such as Ecuador (e.g. Quito site) are available, engaging students in clinics and community health efforts. Other destinations—Peru, Argentina, Uganda—also host medical mission teams, providing student engagement in medical outreach.
- **General Missions & Service Trips**
 - Includes spring break trips, summer service trips, post-graduation young adult trips, and partnerships like Varsity Catholic trips for student-athletes and Greek missions.

- Teams serve the poor through building, teaching, refugee ministry, and outreach across the globe—in Ecuador, Brazil, Belize, India, and more.
- **Domestic Homeless Ministries**
 - Urban outreach opportunities like homeless meals and street ministry are available in U.S. cities including Denver, Baltimore, New York, and Washington, D.C.
- **Application & Support**
 - Missions are application-based; applications typically open early fall for spring trips and early winter for summer trips.
 - Participants receive pre-trip orientation, on-field leadership, travel insurance, and post-trip reflection. Fundraising support is provided by personal coaches.

Unverified Medical Mission Opportunities

These opportunities listed below have been recommended or attended by CMA members, but the Novus Medicus committee has not yet reached out to find out more information about them, their accommodations for Catholics, or the mission experiences they offer. Many of these are likely great organizations, so please explore them with your own discernment and research (and let us know if you learn more)!

Catholic Opportunities

- Chance for Children Haiti: <https://www.chances4children.org/>
- Africa Surgery: <https://www.africasurgery.org/>
- Catholic Relief Services: <https://www.crs.org/our-work-overseas/program-areas/health>
- Caritas: <https://www.caritas.org/what-we-do/health-hiv/>
- Parish Twinning Program of the Americas: <https://ptpausa.org/>
- Order of Malta: <https://www.orderofmalta.int/>

Christian Opportunities

Caution: Some of these agencies may not align with all of Catholic social teaching

- Samaritan's Purse: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/medical/world-medical-mission/>
- Medical Teams International: <https://www.medicalteams.org/>
- Helping Hands International: <https://helpinghandsinternational.com/>
- ImaBridge Africa: <https://imabridge.org/>
- STEMM Tanzania: <https://stemm.org/>
- Mission Flight: <https://www.missionflight.org/>
- CERT International: <https://certmissions.servicereef.com/>
- CMDA Global Health Outreach: <https://cmda.org/global-health-outreach/gho-find-a-trip/>

Secular Opportunities

Caution: Some of these agencies may not align or even directly oppose Catholic social teaching

- Heart to Heart International: <https://www.hearttoheart.org/>
- Kenya Relief: <https://medicaloutreach.americares.org/organizations/kenyarelief-org/>
- Mercy Ships: <https://www.mercyships.org/>
- Himalayan Health Exchange: <https://himalayanhealth.com/>
- International Volunteer HQ: <https://www.volunteerhq.org/>
- Global Medical Response: <https://www.globalmedicalresponse.com/>
- International Service Learning: <https://islonline.org/>
- Timmy Global Health: <https://www.timmyglobalhealth.org/>
- Global Brigades: <https://www.globalbrigades.org/>
- Doctors Without Borders: <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/>
- The Smile Train: <https://www.smiletrain.org/>

CMA Physician Contacts

Below is a list of Catholic Medical Association physicians who are open to being contacts regarding their experience and work in medical missions

Jason Smith, MD

- Family Medicine: jasonhsmithmd@gmail.com

Cathy Schanzer, MD

- Ophthalmology: mcschanzer@hotmail.com

Robyn Jennings, MD

- Family Medicine: robynmeredith87@gmail.com

Lisa Gilbert, MD

- Family Medicine: lisa.gilbert2@ascension.org

Fundraising Resources

Fundraising Recommendations

1. Create a **list of potential supporters and gather emails and phone numbers**. Assume the rule of 2s for how many you need to ask. Every two people you ask will give what you ask for assuming they respond (be persistent). (Ex. Goal of \$1000 = 20 asks at \$100) If you ask for more, you can reach out to fewer people. If you ask for less, you can reach out to more people.
2. **Send out personal emails, calls, or even texts** (letters can work but are a bit slow) depending how well you know the person. Templates are attached for some of these but adapt them to sound more appropriate for you. Tip: Make it personal, ask specific amounts, and include ways for people to support (people give what you ask). **Be creative with how people can provide support** whether cash, check, Venmo, CashApp, etc.
3. **Keep track of who you ask and if they have donated**. An Excel sheet can be useful to know who to follow up with and when. Consider including name, contact info, method of communication and last communication, decision made, donation received or not, next follow-up date. A sample can be found in the packet or attached separately but adapt it to how you would like to do it.
4. **Follow-up is essential** both for those who said yes to support and those who never responded. **Don't assume they will remember and if they ask you to contact them later for a decision, DO IT!** Keep track of when you last tried contacting them and when you will try again. Try a new means of communication as needed such as call, text, email, etc. Tip: Keep the ball in your court by always closing out an email, call, or text with a timeframe when you will follow-up. Then, you don't feel guilty for doing it, and they may be expecting it.
5. Don't be afraid to **ask big or give a range at least**. People will surprise you if you let them, and they want to support good causes and people. Take your goal number and set that as the low end of your range. Most will meet you in the middle if you give a range. If they need to do less, they will, but don't go too low because you'll get what you ask for!
6. Remember to **pray throughout the process and for those you are asking**. Also, address your emotions and fears. It may feel uncomfortable to ask for money, but remember that **these people will get to share in mission with you through their support!** It is more blessed to give than to receive as St. Paul tells us (Acts 25:30). I lived off a fundraised salary for 2 years, so I get the many challenges of it, so please reach out if you need to talk through this, have a negative experience, or feel frozen in the process.
7. **Send a thank you** either when you receive the donation and/or after the trip with some photos and a letter talking about the impact of the trip! People love to see the fruit of their support, and it will help them feel a part of the mission. It also leaves them with a good likelihood of supporting any future endeavors you go on.

The Fundraising Process

- **Prayer** - *"Your father knows what you need before you ask Him. - Matthew 6:8*
 - Prayer is the bedrock of who we are as sons and daughters of God.
 - Through prayer, we come to know God's Will for our life, and in prayer we have the Way to ask our Good Father for all we need to accomplish His Will.
 - Pray about
 - Your fears and anxieties
 - The team of mission support partners
 - The hearts and souls you will encounter

- **Contacts** - "Not that I seek the gift; but I seek the fruit which increases to your credit." - Philippians 4:17
 - Contacts are a very important tool in fundraising
 - Steps to this portion of fundraising include:
 - Collecting a list (we suggest starting a spreadsheet) of names and contact information
 - This list should be anyone who might possibly join your spiritual or financial support team
 - Family: aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins, siblings, etc
 - Friends
 - Priests
 - Parishioners in your hometown
 - Teachers
 - Coaches
 - Coworkers
 - People you have gone on mission with before
 - Business owners in your home town or current town
 - Doctors or dentists from home or local area
 - Local guild CMA members
 - Connections you have made at conferences or events
 - An example of an organized contact spreadsheet might include:
 - Names of contacts
 - Their address and phone numbers
 - Date you sent them your letter
 - Amount of money received from fundraising
 - Date you called them
 - Date you mailed out thank you
 - Send each contact a letter (or email)
 - Sign each letter and add a personal note
 - Record who you sent letters to in your spreadsheet
- **Follow-Up**
 - Tips and how to:
 - Pray before each phone call
 - Call
 - Ask: "Hey, just checking in to see if you received the letter I sent you recently and wondering if you have any questions for me!"
 - Set up a follow up check in (while you have them on the phone) if they are wanting to donate
 - That way it's not as awkward to reach out again if you haven't received the donation
 - Hand write thank you cards to each person who donates once it arrives

Sample Fundraising Email/Letter

Hello [name],

[some general greeting followed by briefly explaining where you are in your medical journey and recent events]

In about a month, I will be volunteering with a group of doctors, medical students, and several other healthcare professionals in Harlingen, TX with Novus Medicus (a part of the Catholic Medical Association) to provide free healthcare services to the community there, which is predominantly recent immigrants and refugees due to the proximity to the border. We will work at a clinic run by Dr. Robinson and Culture of Life ministries, which is a wonderful organization, and you can read more about them here: <https://www.colmhealth.org/>. While we are there, we will also be helping with some of the needs of the local parish and community.

I'm reaching out firstly to ask for your prayers for our group, Dr. Robinson and Culture of Life ministries, and the Harlingen community. Adequate (and compassionate) healthcare for immigrants and refugees is difficult to come by, and their clinic there has been making an incredible impact.

Secondly, I would appreciate it if you would consider helping with a financial donation. **I am looking for a group of supporters to share in this mission through donations of [\$100-200].** This would go towards the cost of flights, food, and lodging for that week as well as support the organizations and people we will be serving. Trips like these not only provide immediate aid to communities, but also provide invaluable training for us as medical providers. They help us develop the skills to better care for vulnerable people in our communities and medical practices, and to do so with a Christ-centered attitude.

If you want to support this trip, you can do so in a couple ways. First, you can send a donation by [Venmo/CashApp/etc] at @[handle]. If you want to mail a check or cash, you can send it to [address]. Please let me know if you do any of these options so I can keep watch for it!

Thank you in advance for all of your prayers and support! I will follow-up with you [timeframe] to see if you want to hear more about the trip and if you want to support in any way financially. Feel free to contact me before then at [email and phone number] with any questions or to talk more about the trip! Thanks for your consideration, and I look forward to connecting soon!

In Christ,

[Name]

Sample Fundraising Tracker

Name(s)	Address (optional)	Email	Phone Number	First Contact Sent	Follow-Up	Donation?
Joe Smith	123 Green Street	Jsmith@gmail.com	610-123-4567	Letter sent 3/2	Called 3/9	Yes
Bill and Betty White	456 Blue Road	Bbfamily@gmail.com	484-987-6543	Email sent 3/1	-	No
Dr. Sandra Dogg	789 Pup Lane	Docdogg@gmail.com	294-173-2935	Text sent 3/1	Texted 3/8	Yes
Total Amount						

Sample Thank You Letter

Dear [Name],

Thank you for your support of the Novus Medicus Harlingen Mission Trip. We had an incredible experience! We were able to bring a team of medical students and healthcare professionals to help serve at Culture of Life Ministries which provides much needed healthcare services to recent immigrants and refugees free of charge.

Experiencing healthcare in a Christian environment was very impactful and inspired us to apply what we learned in the various places we practice. It was refreshing to have the space to address a patient's spiritual needs in addition to their bodily needs through prayer and ministry of presence. Each day we set aside time for personal prayer and reflection to ponder our roles as healers and seek spiritual refreshment.

[Share stories and pictures]

Finally, spending the week with like-minded individuals from all over the country was encouraging to see we are not alone in wanting to integrate our faith into medicine. Thank you again for making this mission trip possible through your generous support!

Sincerely,

[Name]