



AAE Members Provide Access to Care

SUBMITTED BY IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR MARK B. DESROSIER, D.M.D., ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

When Associate member Dr. Jeffery S. Albert of Boca Raton, Fla., was considering a profession, he wanted to find one that would allow him to give back to the community. He chose dentistry and he has been true to his passion.

Dr. Albert's dental volunteer activities began in 2007, after practicing general dentistry for four years. From December 2007 to July 2008, he and his wife traveled around the world, volunteering with several different organizations and providing dental services to underserved individuals.

In Cambodia, he volunteered at the Angkor Children's Hospital, sponsored by Friends Without Borders. He provided dental services to HIV-infected children from nearby orphanages. In India, he had the opportunity to volunteer with the Smile Train Organization. This foundation provides funding for the free restoration of cleft palate and lip deformities in many third world countries. The last country where he volunteered was Vietnam. The East Meets West Organization provides funding to support outreach trips to remote and rural regions. They saw over 1,000 patients in two weeks for exams, cleanings, restorations, extractions and root canals.

Throughout the seven months of volunteering, Dr. Albert established relationships with foreign dentists and organizations that will be long lasting. "The rewards for providing this kind of care cannot be described with words," shared Dr. Albert. "These experiences have been inspirational and filled with moments I will never forget."

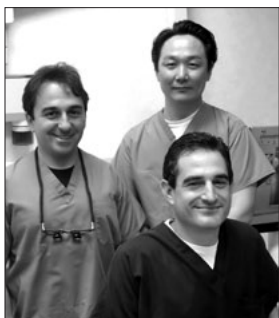
Currently, Dr. Albert practices as a general dentist in Florida, serving underprivileged individuals through the Palm Beach County Department of Health. He is also planning on applying to

postgraduate endodontic programs for the 2010-2011 year. The health department dentists focus on providing vital dental services through money awarded from grants, contracts with Health Care District and Medicaid. In addition, Dr. Albert is one of the primary dentists within the department that offers root canal therapy for the patients.

However, due to the heavy volume of patients, root canals and saving teeth are not always their first priority. To alleviate this problem, Drs. Albert and Mortman organized a program in which children 18 years and younger would have the opportunity to restore their teeth through root canal treatment and avoid unnecessary extraction. Dr. Albert recruited several local endodontists to provide free care for the children and the program has been an incredible success.

Thanks to the generous endodontists in Palm Beach County, many teeth have been saved. Drs. Rory E. Mortman, Sang Y. Shin, Bradley M. Ginzler, and Bruce D. Schulman are four of the endodontists who have made it their priority to contribute and help make a difference. Dr. Mortman has played an instrumental role in helping to organize the program. He has served as the president of several local dental organizations and continues to make an important difference in the community. Parents have been extremely appreciative and shown tremendous interest in saving their children's teeth.

For information on ways you can "step up" or to share your own story, please contact the AAE Headquarters at 800/872-3636 (North America) or 312/266-7255 (International), or by sending an e-mail to info@aae.org.



Palm Beach County endodontists (from left to right): Drs. Mortman, Shin and Albert (seated); not pictured: Drs. Ginzler and Schulman.

2009 Predoctoral Directors Workshop and Corporate Community Conference Preview

The AAE Educational Affairs Committee will host the annual Educator Workshop on August 14 - 15 in Chicago, Ill. Invited predoctoral directors will gather to discuss a pivotal topic facing dental education today—*Professionalism and Ethics: The Link Between Education and the Corporate World*.

Given the nature of this year's topic, corporate representatives from select dental companies will join the 67 predoctoral directors for a half-day program on August 14. These two groups along with members of the AAE Corporate Relations Committee, Endodontic Educator Fellowship Award recipients and the AAE Executive Committee, will participate in didactic presentations and break-out group discussions on



The last Educator Workshop was held in 2007 for program directors. An event was not held in 2008 as many educators participated in the Consensus Conference on Diagnostic Terminology.