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## **IRS FORM 1023 ATTACHMENT**

### **NARRATIVE OF ACTIVITIES**

#### **Part IV**

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## Introduction

earthMed was formed in 2007 exclusively for charitable and educational purposes as an independent, non-sectarian, non-political organization. Our volunteers are dedicated to improving medical care in developing countries utilizing their extensive charitable medical support experience. Our services are modeled towards achieving self-sustaining programs of health services in developing countries.

Since its inception, although earthMed has provided some informal consultation via e-mail and phone, most activity thus far has been very strongly focused upon organizing.

earthMed is run entirely by volunteers. earthMed has not established office or meeting space, and does not plan to do so in the foreseeable future. earthMed's business address is the home address of earthMed founder and director Lou Schonder, located at 106 Ardsley Road, Upper Darby, PA 19082-1504.

We are committed to operating as transparently as possible to provide assurance to both earthMed volunteers and donors that earthMed is functioning effectively, efficiently and ethically. Because of the impracticality of providing public access to earthMed's business address – a household – documentation that is required to be publically-accessible will be available on the earthMed website and by appointment.

Many clinicians desire to devote some or all paid time-off to utilize their skills to improve health care where it is desperately needed, and earthMed provides an easily-available means for medical personnel to participate in charitable medical support in developing countries. If one were to attempt providing support individually, many logistical difficulties would be encountered, and likely discourage participation. earthMed, by providing administrative support, provides the means for one to focus upon the purpose of volunteering – their intended support – and not be burdened or overwhelmed with logistics.

Relationships between those of earthMed supported locations and earthMed volunteers are personal – enabling better communication of specific needs. We believe this can provide better support in many aspects as opposed to national or regional mandates.

## Specific Support Activities

earthMed will develop educational programs and consultative support for healthcare professionals at our supported locations. This will include hands-on clinical and surgical training during visiting missions, and will also be accomplished by providing educational material during missions, via the Internet, and other means as available.

Efforts will be made to increase the availability of skilled medical personnel of our supported locations by supporting the local healthcare educational facilities and healthcare vocational schools of our supported locations.

Medical equipment donations, disposal/reusable medical accessory donations, operation and service manual donations, and donations of medical equipment repair parts will be obtained and distributed as available and appropriate for earthMed's supported locations.

Establish and maintain rapport with local, national, regional and international medical charitable programs and authorities collaborating support, avoiding duplication of efforts, and exchanging expertise and resources.

Establish and/or further develop self-sustaining programs of basic and/or advanced health services in developing countries as appropriate, and provide the means for supported facilities to improve self-sufficient availability to medicines, medical devices and medical supplies.

Work closely with international clinical engineering experts to assure earthMed's clinical engineering support provides appropriate technologies and support methodologies.

## **Missions**

earthMed has not conducted a mission since its inception, but is planning to send surgical and consultation teams to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in May 2009. Other locations are being evaluated to establish and/or further develop self-sustaining programs of basic and/or advanced health services in developing countries as appropriate.

## **Types of Support**

earthMed initially will be focused upon cardiac care because of the extensive cardiac experience of our founding volunteers. Our initial mission to Mongolia will also provide pediatric, orthopedic and thoracic surgery support. Upon becoming better established, primary medical care program development support will follow. earthMed will assess expansion of our volunteer staff to include other healthcare professionals, for example but not limited to laboratory technicians, dental specialists, pharmacists, facility engineers, and administrators.

## **Supported Locations**

In addition to Mongolia, earthMed presently is considering establishing support in Argentina, Uganda, Tanzania, Bolivia, Peru, Grenada and the Philippines.

Support in Argentina, Peru, Bolivia and Grenada would be primarily cardiac care. Support in Uganda, Tanzania and the Philippines would likely be primary care and education.

## **Determining Supported Locations**

Potential supported locations for earthMed surgical missions and medical support are determined by evaluating the locations by direct survey inquiries and communications with local and/or national public health authorities. earthMed will continually monitor evaluation policy to understand the changing needs of the prospective locations, and monitor the programs of our supported locations to best propose and/or execute improvements as appropriate to provide suitable and effective support. Regular and transparent communication will be encouraged to obtain vital information required to perform earthMed's mission, including but not limited to notification of changes of services available to patients, staffing changes,

staff education, substantial equipment and supply acquisition, case loads, surgical procedures, success rates, etc.

## **Supported Location Exceptions**

Our support could potentially be in nearly any country, with the exception of countries defined by the US Embassy as having “*long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable*” and/or countries that are hostile and/or uncooperative to interests of the United States. We also will adamantly avoid sending earthMed volunteers to any location deemed as potentially dangerous.

Because earthMed core philosophy is to develop self-sustaining programs, and programs likely cannot thrive in unstable communities, attempting support in countries deemed dangerous and/or unstable conflicts with earthMed’s mission.

## **Length of Missions**

earthMed missions will typically be one week in length and likely not longer than two weeks. The mission lengths are limited because volunteers are typically on vacation from workplaces.

## **Volunteer Expectations**

Encourage earthMed volunteers to educate themselves on global healthcare issues and the customs of our hosts in support locations with an emphasis on cultural sensitivity.

Continually increase and improve the skill level of earthMed’s medical, clinical engineering and administrative volunteer teams through recruitment, recognition and utilization of personal education, and promotion within the organization.

Encourage participation with other medical charitable programs to broaden experience of providing medical services in developing countries, and learn various methodologies of providing such support from other organizations that may present earthMed with opportunities for improvement.

Our volunteers travelling on earthMed missions will be personally responsible for their airfare and incidental expenses. Unfortunately, we cannot finance partially or fully such expenses, although it is a goal of ours to be able to do that through grant money in the future.

## **Education**

Develop educational programs for healthcare professionals at our supported locations including hands-on training during visiting missions, and educational material both during missions and remotely via the Internet, and other means as available.

Prepare and define the educational program goals and methods to monitor performance and achievements of hands-on and/or classroom training prior to surgical missions.

Provide consultative support to the healthcare professionals of our supported locations when appropriate via the Internet.

Increase the availability of local and regional skilled medical personnel by supporting the local healthcare educational facilities of our supported locations and healthcare vocational schools in developing countries.

Work closely with international clinical engineering experts to assure earthMed's clinical engineering support introduces only appropriate technologies and support methodologies.

## **Marketing**

Our marketing efforts, in many cases in conjunction with fundraising efforts, will be focused initially within the social circles of earthMed volunteers. This is due our expected limited budget for administrative purposes.

Our strategy includes a website for the organization, brochures, PDF newsletters, press releases, and promotional/fundraising e-mails. These will be targeted at existing and potential public donors, grantors, volunteers, medical device, medication and equipment donors, and supported locations.

## **Marketing Materials**

These materials will be developed and/or maintained by volunteers.

**Website:** The website will explain earthMed's mission and vision statements, our goals and accomplishments, provide recent and archived news, descriptions of supported locations, a list of key staff and links to the earthMed database that will list equipment and medical supplies of which earthMed desires in-kind donations. It will also include means and instructions for potential donors to make cash donations. The website will also attempt to persuade potential volunteers to contact earthMed.

**Miscellaneous:** PDF newsletters and promotional/fundraising e-mails will provide information similar to the website. A background sheet is including in this document.

**Press Releases:** We intend on issuing our initial press release once earthMed attains IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit status and our website is fully developed.