



DI M W E N

T E L L M E

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DHA SENDS HALF MILLION DOLLARS IN MEDICAL SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT

A forty-foot container with an estimated half a million EC dollars (US \$200,000) in medical supplies and equipment arrived in Dominica in August 2002, thanks to the Dominica Houston Association.

This shipment - the largest ever sent by a Dominica organization - far exceeds last year's DHA donation which was estimated at EC\$60,000 (US 20,000).

The effort of sorting, packing and loading the medical items took several weeks at the Medical Bridges warehouse outside of the Texas Medical Center. The shipment includes syringes, bandages, gauze, wheelchairs, beds, examining tables, dental equipment, stress test machines, defibrillators and much more.

DHA thanks **Medical Brides** (a charitable organization in Houston that houses donated medical supplies for shipment to developing countries), and **Dr. Arthur B. Tashnek** (who donated much of the medical equipment) for their donations. Special thanks also goes out to the dedicated members and friends of the DHA for their time and effort.

This latest donation is quite timely. According to *The Dominican*, an online news publication about Dominica, the main hospital on the island, the **Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH)**, is on the verge of running out of critical medical supplies. The hospital administrator recently informed the nursing staff and health officials that it was just a matter of days before the supplies ran out. The supplies are as basic

as bandages, gauze and injections.

The government has indicated that it is no position to provide the necessary funding to replenish the quick dwindling supply. The officials fear that the health situation in Dominica will completely collapse if the situation is not remedied.



Supplies at Medical Bridges

In 2000, Dominica's health care system was rated number 35 in the world by the World Health Organization. But with Dominica in the midst of its worst economic crisis in decades, along with all the other public sector services have been severely affected.



Proud Volunteers

DHA Independence 2002, Bigger & Better

If you think last year's Dominica Independence celebrations in Houston were great, wait to experience what the DHA has in store for you this year.

The authentic sounds and dances of Dominica's cultural art forms will grace our celebrations this year with expected performances of two cultural troupes the **Bruce** and **Petite Soufriere** cultural groups at DHA's dinner and dance.

The big night is **Saturday, November 2** at the **Ra Astrodome Hotel's Grand Ballroom**. Tickets are on **\$50.00 (adults), \$30.00 (children)**. You have up to 15 to purchase your ticket. After that tickets will be a premium of **\$55.00 (adults) and \$35.00 (children)**. Tickets are available from certain DHA members. Buy yours today!

The DHA is currently working hard to present a dinner and menu as Dominican as possible that all will appreciate. Comments and suggestions from last November's celebrations are being closely considered in planning this year's event.

Your support is once again needed as we present another successful DHA Independence Dinner/Dance. Non-Dominicans are also very invited!

An ecumenical service is planned for Dominica Independence in Houston on Sunday, October 27, 2002 at the United Church from 6:00 P.M. Call 281-835-1456 for information.



Samika, Nigel and Sherina

Independence
Celebrations

New office for DHA

The Dominica Houston Association strengthened its operations in the Houston area in March with the opening of its first office. The office is located in the **Fondren Professional Building, Suite 136, on 8449 West Belfort near Fondren**.

According to DHA President Gerald Bellot, it "will enable the organization to more effectively serve its constituents in Houston and Dominica."



the group's six-year history. With it, DHA will effectively recruit new members and programs to benefit Dominicans and others alike.

Among plans for the facilities is a library, documents and film on Dominica.

Dominicans in the Houston area are encouraged to join the organization and help fulfill the mission and goals.