

M.D. Corner

by Amy Riehle, Guest Contributor

Clark Boren, MD, Fox Valley Surgical Associates

Dr. Clark Boren, surgeon of Fox Valley Surgical Associates, spent the month of June on a mission trip in Kenya, Africa. This opportunity was brought to him by World Medical Mission, an international relief organization. The goal of this organization is to place physicians in all parts of the world to perform missionary medicine. When the occasion came about for him to go to Kenya, he took advantage of the opportunity and his family eagerly accompanied him. Dr. Boren said, "I have always had an interest in missionary medicine."

Dr. Boren spent a majority of his time at the Kijabe Medical Center, one of the largest third world mission complexes. Every day he started at six o'clock in the morning with his daily rounds. After the rounds took place, Dr. Boren dedicated his time to surgical procedures. He usually concluded every day around four o'clock in the afternoon. He concentrated on pediatric and women's issues throughout the duration of his stay.

The mission trip was a learning experience for Dr. Boren in many ways. He believes the environment itself was a hard adjustment, but once he was there for awhile he adapted to his new way of living. Dr. Boren learned a couple of surgical procedures that were new to him. He was taught these procedures by other missionary surgeons at Kijabe Medical Center. Along with learning, Dr. Boren also

taught other physicians. His primary function was to help with vascular cases.

In Kenya, Dr. Boren's family also volunteered their services. Barb, his wife, volunteered her time at the Rift Valley Academy, a school for missionary children. She also spent some time helping at the hospital. Jenna, Dr. Boren's daughter, volunteered in the medical center's administrative office. Matt and Nathan, his two sons, worked on an aircraft runway. They visited the pediatric ward as a whole family on a regular basis to get to know the children as much as possible. Their main focus was on a 15-year-old boy named Kurenta, who could speak a little English. Occasionally the family would play games with him and spend time getting to know him.

As a result of this wonderful experience, Dr. Boren is considering a return to Kenya in the future, even though it was a challenge. The next time he goes, he would like to spend more than one month there. Dr. Boren believes that spending more time would make the trip more worthwhile and meaningful. He really enjoyed immersing himself in the culture.

(Editor's note: Amy Riehle, the daughter of Vonnice Riehle, UHOW Provider Relations, is a student at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.) ■



Dr. Boren and sons
Matt and Nathan
with new friends
in Kenya.

Doctor Honored by American Academy of Ophthalmology

Michael P. Vrabec, MD recently received the 1997 American Academy of Ophthalmology's Honor Award. This award recognizes individuals for their contributions to the Academy and the profession of Ophthalmology in the areas of course instruction at the Annual National Meeting, paper presentations, committee membership and authorship of Academy educational literature. Recipients must also have made significant contributions to ophthalmology as determined by the Awards Committee and approved by the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Vrabec is the only ophthalmologist in northeast Wisconsin to have earned this honor. He practices at Valley Eye Associates in Appleton and Neenah. ■



Michael P. Vrabec, MD
Valley Eye Associates