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Acts of Service

Service has been a common theme of the AMCNO since our earliest days. We worked with the American Red Cross in 1951 to establish the first area blood bank. In 1983, we enlisted more than 1,400 volunteer physicians to care for the recently unemployed and their families, providing no-cost care to 2,574 people, ranging from acute illnesses to open-heart surgery. And, most notably, during the polio epidemic, 1.5 million Cuyahoga County residents, including 325,000 school children, were vaccinated by the AMCNO—the best completion rate in the United States.

The world's greatest philosophers and public servants have all mused on the topic of service, and how in serving others, we find fulfillment, optimism and hope. There is no question that today in medicine we are facing unprecedented and challenging times. Still very much in a COVID-19 pandemic for a third year, we are also fighting increased gun violence across the country, and now a nationwide attack on reproductive health care. Especially now, it seems dedicating ourselves to service is essential. And as Hippocrates so eloquently stated, "Wherever the art of Medicine is loved, there is also a love of humanity."

I am proud to say that we continue our commitment of service today. We recently visited MedWish International with our Board of Directors and Future Leaders Council members to help package a shipment of medical supplies to aid in the war relief in Ukraine. Founded in 1993, MedWish International is a not-for-profit organization that saves lives and the environment by repurposing discarded medical supplies and equipment to provide humanitarian aid to people in need.

It was especially noteworthy to do this service project with our Future Leaders Council, the youngest group of AMCNO leaders. These 15 physicians in training represent the best and brightest of Northern Ohio's medical students, residents and fellows. They are dedicated not only to their careers in medicine, but also to helping serve the community and their patients as volunteers and advocates. I hope you will take the time to get to know them on pages 14-16.

Although it can be challenging to stay focused in a time marked by chaos, I have faith that the members of this



AMCNO members and staff sort through medical supplies at MedWish International. Left to right: Future Leaders Council (FLC) member Adrian Lindsey, MD; AMCNO staff Anna Ruzicka; FLC member Zoe Rodes; FLC member Gowtham Yerneni; and AMCNO Board member Tanveer Singh, MD.

organization will once again rise to the challenge and put the needs of our community and patients first.

As always, it is an honor to represent you.

Jen Johns, MPH

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