

CANVASBACK MISSIONS
ONBOARD
SPECIAL EDITION

A Letter from JAMIE SPENCE

Canvasback's President

For over thirty-eight years my wife Jacque and I have been following God's call to bring medical care to the islands of Micronesia. We have seen so many miracles and worked side-by-side with amazing on-island health-workers and selfless volunteers. When I look back on the incredible changes I have seen throughout the islands and the many lives that have been transformed, I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to do this work. But I know this isn't just my work, it is made possible by people like you who give funding to our programs



or volunteer their time. Together, we have become part of God's larger plan to bring wholeness and healing to the world.

This special edition of our OnBoard Magazine is going to tell you some of those stories and give you a broader look at the work Canvasback has been called to do. You might be a long time supporter of the mission or this might be the first time you have heard about us. If you are already a partner in Canvasback's work, I just want to say thank you for your dedication to the people of Micronesia. If you haven't been a part of the mission, we would love to work with you. Either way, I hope you enjoy the stories from our staff and volunteers and I hope they make you feel a little bit of the warmth and joy we have been lucky to find in Micronesia.

Sincerely,

Jamie

In gratitude,

SPECIALTY TEAMS

Each year, Canvasback Specialty teams provide millions of dollars worth of much needed care to the people of Micronesia. Working in the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, we partner with on-island hospitals to not only provide care, but also to train local staff so that even after our teams leave, the good work can continue.

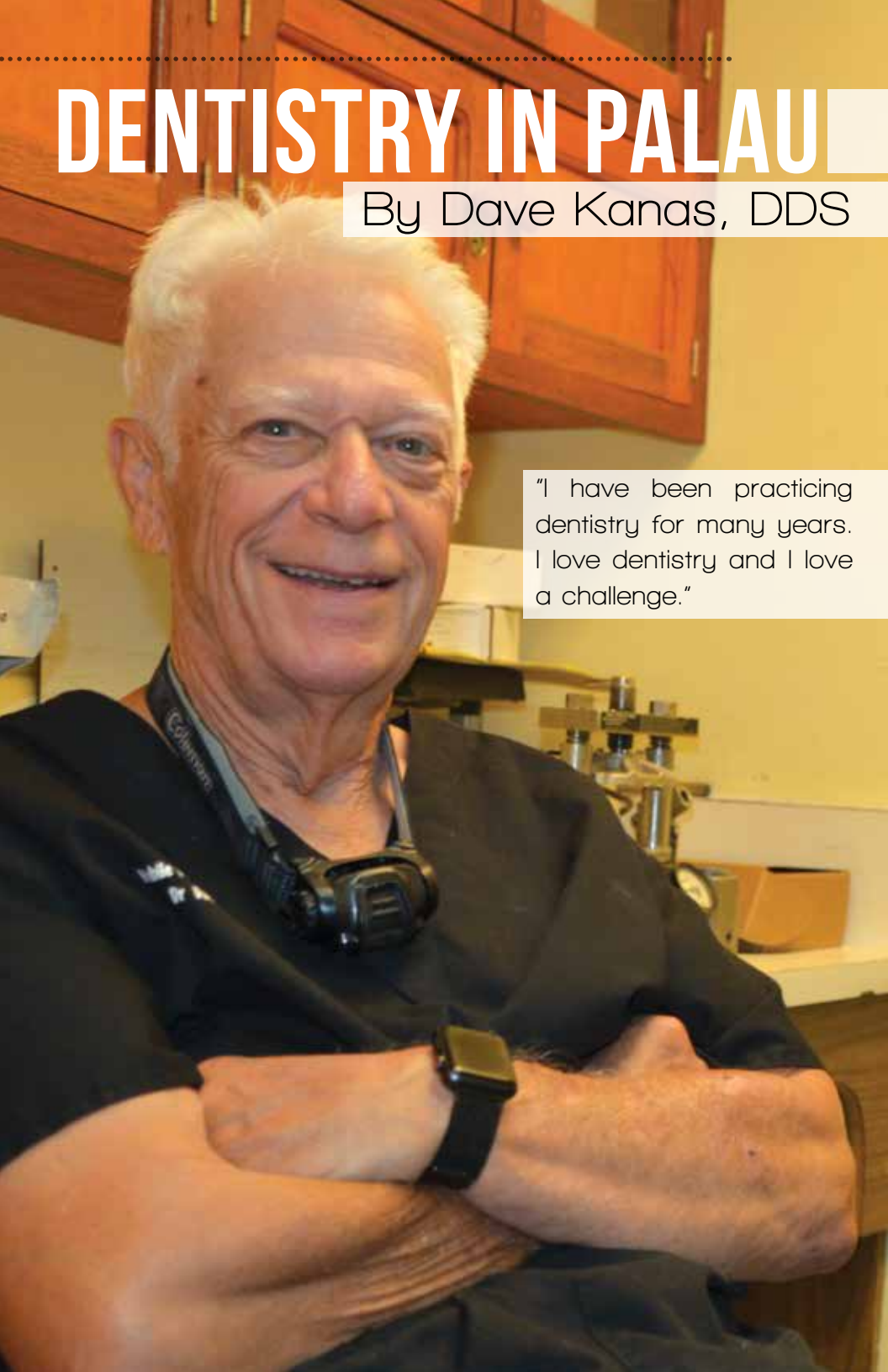
We are always looking for dedicated medical personnel and other volunteers to continue the mission in the islands. Our teams include orthopedics, urology, cardiology, gynecology, ophthalmology, ear nose and throat, and dental.

Do you feel called to serve in Micronesia? If so, we would love to hear from you! Visit our website for more details.



DENTISTRY IN PALAU

By Dave Kanas, DDS



"I have been practicing dentistry for many years. I love dentistry and I love a challenge."



By the time this article is published, I will have participated in five Canvasback Mission trips. Each trip is about two weeks in length and they all offer a challenge!

On a recent mission, I worked on one patient replacing many of his front teeth, both top and bottom. Because of the somewhat less-than-ideal conditions, his work took most of the day. He was a mess, and although I was unable to acquire all the proper instruments or equipment for this involved procedure, I was able to figure it out and I gave him a big smile that was life-changing.

I really enjoy helping people who have no other way to receive care. The Canvasback teams don't receive any money for services performed—it's all free to the patients. The mission field—in this case, the islands—sometimes lack specialized tools and equipment that I and my peers would consider standard.

Dentistry isn't just cookie-cutter kind of stuff—I love having to figure things out. In the islands, you run into situations that you just can't solve easily. I love figuring out ways to make things work and change lives.

I just want to help. It's not about the money. People helped me when I was a little boy. I remember my mother taking me to the dentist. She didn't have the money to get me the care and the dentist said, "Don't worry, we can take care of this." I never forgot that. This is a way for me to give back.

The people of Micronesia aren't able to receive the same level of care provided to our patients in the States—they lack the money and resources. I'm so happy I have the opportunity to work with Canvasback to change life-outcomes!



A Letter from
TOMMY E. REMENGESAU, JR.
President of the Republic of Palau

Canvasback Mission Volunteers:

On behalf of the people of the Republic of Palau, I extend my personal gratitude for your organizing the recent mission that provided much needed medical assistance to our citizens.

made a wonderful difference in the lives of many.


The surgeries and procedures you performed have had a tremendous impact, not only in the lives of the people who received their new Zimmer-Biomet knees and hips, but in the improvement of the experience and skills to our hospital staff as well. They were able to observe and learn new

techniques and procedures that will make a difference in our hospital operations for years to come.

Finally, I want to acknowledge each one of you for your volunteer participation in this worthwhile mission that brings much needed medical treatment to so many in the Micronesian region.

Thank you again for your support

for the people of Palau.

Sincerely,

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President of the Republic of Palau



Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President



TITUS' MIRACLE

Emily Crow, a Physician's Assistant, and her husband Bradley Crow, an Orthopedic Surgeon, joined us on a recent trip to Palau. She told us a bit about her experience.

While in Palau, we treated over 100 patients in the clinic with injections and basic procedures. Between the two surgical teams on our mission, we were able to do a record number of surgeries, including 25 joint replacements, over the two weeks we were there.

Each patient was grateful to have surgery and eager to walk with less pain and deformity. It made our team realize how lucky we are to have immediate access to healthcare, orthopedic specialists and modern medical technology.

One patient in particular, Titus, really touched our hearts. He was one of the first patients who walked through the doors of the clinic and needed a crutch to walk. He had bowing of his left leg from advanced arthritis known as a varus deformity. Unfortunately, his case was so severe it required specialized implants to address his problem.

Titus had been waiting for years for a knee replacement, so helping him was one of our top priorities. Luckily, our local Zimmer Biomet representative was with us and started an urgent plea to see if we could get the needed implants. Zimmer Biomet generously approved to donate the implants, but the obstacle of getting them to the island on time still remained. With quick thinking, Zimmer Biomet overnighted the implants to another surgeon who would be joining our team at the tail end of our visit. We were ecstatic to tell Titus that we were going to be able to perform the surgery he had been waiting for!

Titus was one of the last cases we did while we were there and he did extremely well following the procedure. He was up walking the same day and was so happy he even danced a little!

At the end of our two weeks it was hard to head home knowing that there is still a need. So many more patients in Palau would benefit from our care. The work during our trip was hard but could not have been more rewarding. We were fortunate to work with such a great team of volunteers and such a dedicated organization. We look forward to another trip with Canvasback Missions in the future!

Majuro's Very Own **WELLNESS CENTER** :

The Canvasback Wellness Center operates on the capital atoll of Majuro in the Marshall Islands. Each day the Wellness center teaches people how to overcome disease with simple lifestyle changes. In a country where a typical breakfast is donuts and Kool-Aid, the people suffer from many



diseases caused by diet and lifestyle. The #1 issue is diabetes. Year after year, it remains the number one cause of death in the country. However, thanks to the work done at the Wellness Center, we are seeing changes happen. From community programs to school health programs to national legislation, things are starting to turn around for the Marshallese. This year alone we have helped: pass the nation's first PE curriculum, establish health workers in the community, and worked with local and national government on tobacco and nutrition legislation. We still have a long way to go, but thanks to Canvasback Wellness Center and its many partners, there is now light at the end of the tunnel!



high school how to be healthy and make healthy lifestyle choices.

As you can imagine, this is not easy to do. Over the last two years we have been developing health curriculum and physical activity curriculum for the Marshall Islands.

We started from scratch and now each school has its own garden program. Wellness Staff are going out to help teachers use the new health curriculum and our cooks teach students how to harvest and use the food from the gardens. We know it's going to take time, but already we are seeing changes as students are starting to ask for healthier meal options and the

Ministry of Education is working on a healthy meal program for the students in each school. So stay tuned for more amazing things happening in the Marshall Islands as we try and save a nation, one child at a time!



HEALTHY MEALS MEANS HAPPY KIDS

By Tanner Smith, Wellness Center Director

Like many people, I grew up in the states during a time when schools were just learning the value of healthy students. I remember well eating sloppy joe sandwiches every Thursday in the school cafeteria. Our health class didn't start until 5th grade and mostly included anatomy learning and not actual healthy lifestyle information.

Fast forward 20 years and schools serve salads instead of French fries and teach gardening (something unheard of in my day). You might think that the States is leading the way in this and in some ways they are, but, the Pacific community is quickly seeing the value of health education.

At the Canvasback Wellness Center in Majuro, we are working with partners like Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and World Diabetes Foundation, to teach students from kindergarten all the way to

Canvasback Missions, Inc.



IMPACT

On a TV Near You!

Hearts and lives are being impacted in Micronesia on a regular basis because of our wonderful financial partners. Canvasback Missions has been serving in the islands for 38 years... and the stories of success just keep multiplying!

It's time to share some of these amazing stories with you and with a word-wide audience. We can guarantee you that IMPACT will make you smile and, sometimes, shed tears of joy.

Join host Jim Ayer on location in exotic Pohnpei, Palau, and Majuro and share the happiness we have been experiencing for years.

Go to Canvasback.org to discover networks and airtimes.



Our work is made possible by our faithful supporters and amazing sponsors. Thank you so much!

 **CANVASBACK MISSIONS**

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