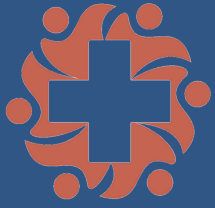


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# SERVING TOGETHER

Official Newsletter of Mission:318



## Welcome to Serving Together

### Where we put Actions into Words

Welcome to Mission:318's first issue of Serving Together. Since the beginning, Mission:318 has been about serving, but mostly about serving together. We believe that relationships are at the core of everything we do, and we are committed to strengthening them through our work. Without relationships with you, the communities we serve, and God, none of this would be possible.

Our medical missions are more than just providing medical care to those in need. We are proud to say that our efforts make a significant impact on the communities we serve. Over the years, we have had the privilege of working with incredible people from different walks of life, cultures, and backgrounds. Each experience has taught us the value of teamwork, humility, and compassion. We know that this is not possible without the relationships we have formed along the way. Personally, the relationships I have developed through helping others fuels me to do more, be more, and serve more.

In this newsletter, you will find stories about our volunteers, the communities we serve, updates from our missions, and events at Mission:318. We hope that they will give you a glimpse into why we are so inspired to make a difference in the world.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our donors, volunteers, and partners for their unwavering support. Your generosity and commitment to our cause have been instrumental in helping us achieve our mission.

We invite you to stay connected with us and look forward to sharing more updates with you in the future. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those in need.

Blessings,  
Patti

Patricia Limpert, MD  
Founder and Medical Director of Mission:318

## This issue:

Welcome to Serving Together  
PAGE 01

Putting Action Over Words:  
Mission:318 Updates  
PAGE 02

Volunteer Spotlight:  
Dr. Cindy Basinski  
PAGES 03-04

Mission:318 Giving Day  
PAGE 05

Upcoming Events  
and Opportunities to Serve  
PAGE 06



## Putting Action Over Words

We began 2023 with a record number of volunteers traveling to Yendi, Ghana. Two surgical teams with forty-one team members served together at Yendi Municipal Hospital. The quality of care continues to improve in Yendi, with increased availability of supplies, adequate nursing and midwifery, and the continued dedication of Dr. Ayuba Abdulai, Mr. Frances Kwaku Owusu, NP, and Matron Beatrice Ayeleni, RN. Over the course of the two weeks, our teams assisted in 148 surgeries and trained over 50 hospital staff.

Both teams visited the Ya Naa, the chief of the Dagbon region and spent time in the villages, connecting with the people of Yendi.

Randall Littleton and Dr. Jonathan Limpert had local radio interviews continuing Mission:318's outreach to the community.

At the end of the second week, alongside over 150 residents of Yendi, Member of Parliament, local tribal leaders, and hospital staff Mission:318 participated in a commissioning ceremony of the Alicia Reine Bishop Emergency Center. The ceremonial event, hosted by Reverend Emmanuel Mustapha marked the completion of the infrastructure funded by Mission:318 and the passing of the keys to the hospital chairman and the Ghana Health Service.

“...Let us not  
love with  
words or  
speech but  
with actions  
and in truth.”  
1 John 3:18



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# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: DR. CINDY BASKINKSI

*Renown and passionate urogynecologist, Dr. Cindy Baskinski, tells her story of serving with Mission:318.*

## **How did you first learn about Mission:318?**

My journey with Mission:318 started with a business trip to Saint Louis. I was having dinner with a gynecology colleague, when he brought up the topic of mission work, and shared his experience in Ghana. He was getting older and knew the travel was getting more difficult and he suggested I take his place. I enthusiastically said YES!

## **Who was the first Mission:318 person you met?**

Shortly after my conversation with my colleague, I met with Patti Limpert. Patti was enthusiastic, and thrilled that I was interested in becoming part of the team. Patti shared that Mission:318 goal was to transform the lives and provide hope to forgotten communities through the healthcare, which was enticing, but more enticing was the story of Dr. Ayuba Abdulai, the only physician working in Yendi. Dr. Ayuba, as I learned to call him, is the general surgeon, the pediatrician, the ENT doctor, the internist and every other doctor necessary for the people of Yendi.

## **Describe your first trip to Yendi, Ghana with Mission:318.**

After learning about Dr. Ayuba, I immediately contacted him via e-mail to let him know that I was coming to his hospital. My specialty is called Urogynecology and this specialty deals with reconstruction of the female pelvic floor and incontinence. Dr. Ayuba was very excited when he heard this information as he was very interested in learning techniques to treat these conditions.

That first year was a huge learning curve. Urogynecologic surgery in the United States is largely based in robotic surgery. When I arrived in Yendi, there was little to no technology or instruments for this kind of surgery and the patients suffered from the most severe physical abnormalities with conditions that often socially isolated them in their villages. Performing surgery in Africa tested me physically, professionally, and emotionally. The hospital hours were very long with no running water and hot, humid conditions. Despite this, the experience was so meaningful because the African women were incredibly grateful for the surgery they so desperately needed.



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: DR. CINDY BASKINKSI



## **What inspires you to return to Yendi?**

I have now been to Yendi three times, and each year has gotten a little easier. Each year, more faces are familiar and I am more prepared mentally. But one of the main reasons I return is the special relationship I have developed with Dr. Ayuba. Going to Ghana, I thought that I would be teaching the medical staff about how to do surgery. However, it was I who had the most learning to do. Dr. Ayuba is the most remarkable doctor I have ever met. His commitment and work for the people of Yendi is the most selfless demonstration of love that I have ever seen. Dr. Ayuba works 7 days a week, 24 hours a day nearly every day of the year. He has a wife and three small children who he sees on occasional weekends. I have watched him perform a complex surgery, care for a child with malaria, check on a laboring patient with a troubling heart rate, answer every question from staff continually, be an interpreter, be the repairman of the generator at the hospital, and a gracious host to all of us at Mission:318. All of this done in just one morning of work for him.

Dr. Ayuba carries a great burden but he is always smiling, kind, patient and loving. I have had long conversations with Dr. Ayuba and tried to convince him to take time with his family and for himself. His response to me is always, "This is what God has asked me to do." He would go on to say, that if he left the hospital and something would happen to a patient, he carries a lot of guilt. Dr. Ayuba has a meager salary, very little time with his family but a serving heart to the people of Yendi.

## **How has serving with Mission:318 changed you?**

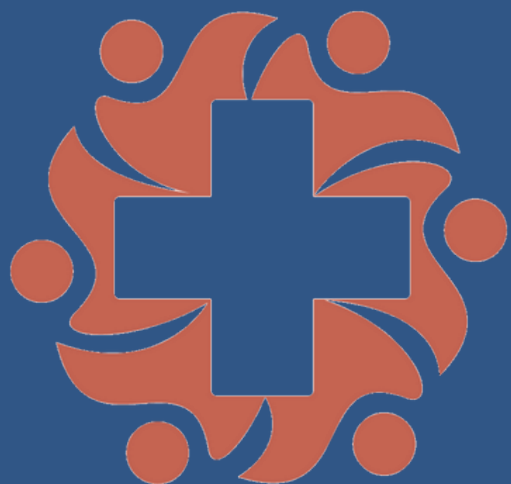
Coming back to America, I try to take the lessons of dedication and love that I have learned from Dr. Ayuba and bring that to my patients in Indiana. My work with Mission:318 has made me a better doctor and a better person. I am humbled by the energy and passion of the team of Mission:318. The individuals who choose to participate in this mission, do this knowing it will be an emotional, physical, and for many a financial commitment. Seeing the smiles of the women I have treated and the hugs they give me to in gratitude, let me know that I have made a small difference in a place with many needs. I am grateful for those around me who have committed so much to make the world a better place, especially, my dear friend, Dr. Ayuba.



## Mission:318 Giving Day

Giving Day was a success!

On March 18th, Mission:318 hosted our first annual Giving Day. Giving Day was designed to raise money for our scholarships programs, which provide resources for nurses, nurse anesthetists, patient first assistants, and other team members. On Giving Day we raised enough money for four scholarships! Scholarships at Mission:318 are some of the most important work we do. Scholarships allow young professionals to serve, develop skills, and change the lives of forgotten communities around the world. To hear about the impact on our scholarship recipients, [Katelyn Schulte](#) and [Daniel McGee](#), visit our website [mission318.com](http://mission318.com), or click on their names.





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## Upcoming Events and Opportunities to Serve

### 3rd Annual Topgolf Event May 21, 2023 6-9pm

This event in Chesterfield, MO brings together members of our community for a fun, informal gathering, with a focus on raising money for supplies and travel-based support. Your registration includes six-person tournament play, free golf club rentals, appetizers and soft drinks, and access to our silent auction and 50/50 raffle. Register below or online at [mission318.com](https://mission318.com).

[REGISTER FOR  
TOPGOLF](#)

### Mission:318 Takes Flight Event Fall 2023 (date TBD)

Our signature fundraising event, where we come together for a special evening to recognize the accomplishments, dream about future impact, and ask our corporate and generous donors for their continued support. Our largest fundraising effort, this event is critical to the organization and the impact on the forgotten communities we serve.

### Medical Mission - Haiti April 27-30

Partnering with Brace for IMPACT 46  
(all spaces full)

### Medical Mission - Ghana October 2023

Inquire online at [mission318.com](https://mission318.com)