

Rotary International District 7640

Sending These Medical Professionals as a
Group Study Exchange to Uganda and Kenya
April 2-April 23, 2012



Front center Rose McCarthy, Team Leader
L to R RN Christine Sofield, DR. Diane Marchesani, DR. Abe Alfaro, and DR. John Saia



Rose Marie McCarthy

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Team Leader

- Born and raised in Brooklyn NY, Rose attended City University of New York. She graduated in 1973 with her degree in Nursing. However, she started as photography and arts major. Since 1976 Rose has worked as a RN in Atlantic City area, and was head nurse in various casinos for ten years.

- Rose has been a devoted employee with AtlantiCare for over twenty years and is currently with the Heart Institute promoting cardiac health awareness to the community by cardiac

outreach/screening, addressing the risks of heart disease, and the importance of wellness.

- Rose enjoys travel, riding motorcycles, acting, exercise, playing classical piano and singing old-time country and folk music.

- She's been a Rotarian for over eight years and is past President of the Atlantic City Rotary Club. During her dedicated years as President she created Crocs for Kids and collected over 1500 pairs of crocs to send to District 7640's sponsored orphanage in Santo Domingo.

- She enjoys helping with fundraising and recruitment in many organizations and has been on the Executive Board for Crime Stoppers, The Heart Association, The American Cancer Society, Literacy Volunteers, Habitat for Humanity, The Red Cross, and The Noyes Museum.

- Rose is a loving mother of two: Danny who is 29 years old and a History teacher and Devin Rose, who is 26 years old and a certified medical assistant. Although there no grandchildren yet she is the proud "Grandmother" of 4 adorable dogs, Muddy, Ruby, Zena and Gidget



DR. Diane Marchesani

Bio: Diane Marchesani

Diane was born and raised in Hazlet, NJ. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Comparative Literature and Spanish from Washington University in St Louis. Her path took a turn from the humanities, though, when she decided to go to medical school after volunteering with HIV/AIDS patients during college.

That passion for HIV/AIDS medicine and all Infectious Diseases drove her to become an Infectious Diseases Specialist. She completed medical school and residency at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-School of Osteopathic Medicine, and Infectious Diseases fellowship at

Cooper University Hospital. Diane is now settled in Galloway, NJ after living in 3 states over the past 1 year. She has worked in Missouri, New York City, and is now working in a private practice in the Atlantic City, NJ area.

When she is not working, she spends time with her cat, Stella, and her close network of family and friends. Diane is a real "Jersey Girl" and loves the Jersey Shore, Bruce Springsteen, and Bon Jovi. She enjoys reading, movies, music, and is learning how to play the guitar. She dreams of a world that is one day free of HIV and all disease.



Dr Abe Alfaro

Biography For Abe Alfaro

Abe Alfaro is a physician in rehabilitation medicine and specializes in the treatment of abnormal movements for patients who have diseases or injuries of the brain, spine, nerves and muscles. He has degrees in rehabilitation medicine from Temple University School of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pa., and in medicine from the University of New England , College of Osteopathic Medicine. As a Ph.D. in exercise physiology he studied the effects of exercise on blood clots and the implications for heart and circulation diseases. As a U.S. Public Health Service and National Institutes of Health post-doctoral research fellow in Cardiology, he studied the effects of hypertension on the heart. Dr

Alfaro, has lectured and published extensively on his work.

Abe grew up in New York City, and now lives in Linwood, New Jersey with his wife Aren. His daughter Lauren is in law school at Rutgers University.

He exercises regularly, and race walked in the New York City Marathon five times..

Abe enjoys gardening and ballroom dancing.



DR. John Saia

Bio of Dr. Saia

John Saia was born and raised in the southern region of the State of New Jersey. He did his undergraduate studies at the University of Connecticut, attended medical school in Philadelphia and, after three years of internship and residency, completed his cardiology fellowship training at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Saia is a partner in a 30 member cardiology group. He presently covers AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center in Atlantic City, New Jersey. He specializes in noninvasive cardiology in both the office and hospital setting.

Dr. Saia is an active member of the Medical Staff of AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center and was President of the Medical Staff the year that AtlantiCare won the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige Award for quality and excellence, presented to AtlantiCare by the President of the United States. In addition to cardiology, Dr. Saia's other medical interests include patient safety issues. He is presently chairman of the Patient Safety Committee at AtlantiCare, whose primary function is to make the hospital environment as safe as possible for our patients.

Dr. Saia's interests include skiing, scuba diving and skydiving. He also helps coach his local high school's wrestling team for the past four years.

Dr. Saia is most proud of his 4 sons and 2 grandsons. His oldest son previously visited Kenya several years ago and always related that it was a life-changing experience. He is looking forward to interacting with the citizens and medical professionals in Kenya and Uganda.



RN Christine Sofield

Chris Sofield Bio

Chris was born in northern New Jersey and relocated to south jersey as a teenager. While working for Atlantic City Medical Center, now Atlanticare, she decided to return to school for nursing. She has spent her entire nursing career working for Atlanticare and just celebrated her 25th anniversary as an employee. She continued with her education after becoming a RN to obtain her Bachelor of Nursing degree.

Currently working in endoscopy, she holds a leadership position and has many roles and responsibilities. In addition to her job responsibilities, is actively involved in several hospital committees and projects.

Chris has 2 teenage children, Austin 16 and Sarah 13. She enjoys many activities including travel, music, reading, movies and most outdoor activities. Chris has a sense for adventure and is very grateful and excited to be given the opportunity to participate in this group