Volunteers sought for Navy Humanitarian Missions

On August 20, 2018, the Department of Defense and the US Navy contacted the University of California San Diego Pre-Dental Society Nongovernmental Organization, because they are re-commissioning the USNS Comfort hospital ship and sending it out on a special mission. They are asking us to participate with a very unique humanitarian mission to help with the Venezuelan refugee crisis that is facing South America. The plan is for the USNS Comfort hospital ship to deploy around September 21st and return sometime in December. We are now seeking civilian volunteers to join this mission.

This mission is currently being planned. Right now, the only country that we know we are going to is Colombia, but further details are expected this month and other countries will be added. The UCSD Pre-Dental Society seeks dentists, physicians, pharmacists, optometrists, nurses, dental hygienists, dental assistants, medical assistants, medical and dental lab technicians, pharmacy techs, physical therapists, biomedical repair technicians, sonographers, translators, educators, engineers and all other health-related professionals. Dentistry will be a major part of this mission. If you are interested in volunteering for this mission, please contact us immediately at the emails listed below.

In the past, volunteers did not have to stay on for the entire mission. We do not know the embark or disembark dates, or the logistics at this time. Preference will go to those who can volunteer for longer periods. Volunteers must pay for their transportation to and from the ship. In the past, once aboard the ship, the Navy covers volunteer expenses, including food and lodging.

“It is a great honor that the Navy has selected our civilian NGO to help with this crisis. We have a chance to make a difference and work with many partner nations to help alleviate suffering and save lives,” said Dr. Irvin B. Silverstein, UCSD Pre-Dental Society Director.

Request an application via e-mail at missionsteam@ucsdpds.org or dsilverstein22@cox.net as soon as possible to begin the credentialing process and get on our list for new updates as they come in. Credentialing volunteers takes time to process.