

team had more than 30 pieces of luggage; one for each of the seven team members, the rest full of medical supplies. They also needed a van to transport them back and forth between the hotel and the hospital.

In addition to his missionary trip to Ghana this year, Obeng also went to Guatemala with Mission of Love. There, he and another physician from Humility of Mary Health Partners performed reconstructive surgeries

on 18 patients. "I was representing R.E.S.T.O.R.E.," Obeng says, but I went with Mission of Love @ Casa Guatemala, which provides for some 250 abandoned, orphaned, abused and neglected children.

His goal is to recruit even more volunteers for future trips, including other physicians. Hopefully, he says, R.E.S.T.O.R.E. will continue to grow so that more lives can be transformed.

Anthony Spano wants to make children's lives better too. He was introduced to philanthropy through his fraternity, Phi Kappa Tau, while attending Youngstown State University.

As part of their philanthropic efforts, Spano and his fraternity brothers raised funds for Paul Newman's Hole in the Wall Gang Camps, places where seriously ill children can experience a little piece of their lost childhoods.

After he graduated, Spano says he wanted to continue the effort and

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***None of the volunteers are paid for their time or efforts, Spano stresses. "This organization is 100% volunteer. I like doing it and I don't need to get paid."***

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began organizing charitable basketball, softball and bocce games. That was in 2005 and each year it's gotten bigger.

To keep the momentum building,

Spano established the Hope Foundation of the Mahoning Valley in 2007. That's also when his focus shifted from providing financial support to Hole in the Wall to supporting local organizations dedicated to making children's lives better.

Thus far, Spano reports, the Hope Foundation has raised nearly \$20,000 to benefit organizations such as the Rich Center, Akron Children's Hospital Mahoning Valley, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Youngstown Hearing and Speech Center, Easter Seals of Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana Counties, and the Children's Center for Science & Technology. The Hope

Foundation will also send a chronically ill child from the Mahoning Valley to Flying Horse Farms in Columbus for one week of camp.

Funds are raised through ticket sales, sponsorships, donations, raffles, 50/50 drawings and selling chances to win \$50 by making a half-court shot, Spano says. His annual charity basketball game pits teams of community leaders, elected officials and community dignitaries against each other and, as the most successful event, raises about \$8,000.

A nine-person board of trustees governs operations of the foundation and distribution of monies raised.

None of the volunteers are paid for their time or efforts, Spano stresses. "This organization is 100% volunteer. I like doing it and I don't need to get paid."

The Hope Foundation's next charity basketball game is slated for 4 p.m. Jan. 29 at YSU. It will be carried on cable channels at 8 p.m. Feb. 8 to a potential audience of one million viewers.

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The 40 Under 40 Awards recognition event will be held Nov. 18 at the DeYor Performing Arts Center and Ford Family Recital Hall in downtown Youngstown. Tickets are \$45 each and are available through the DeYor box office, 330 744 0264.

*Congratulations* to all of the 2010  
40 under 40 nominees.

*Your commitment to our  
community is appreciated.*