The Lake Tanganyika Floating Health Clinic (LTFHC) is an organization that is devoted to improving health care access, health service delivery, as well as education of health care workers, in the Lake Tanganyika basin. In a region where the only reliable transportation takes place by boat, we decided to build a regional hospital on a ship that travels up and down the coastlines, serving the remote lakeside communities. But we are more than just a floating hospital - we are partners to the lakeside communities, advocating for the needs of the lake and her people. This includes environmental stewardship, participation in the formation of local economic development, and encouragement of the grassroots political voice for the people of the region.
Caught in the Act: Dr. Amy Lehman Reveals Her Plan to Save Lives

Could one health clinic provide care to over ten million residents throughout four different countries in one of the most rural regions of the world? Dr. Amy Lehman believes so.

Anything but an ordinary general surgeon, Dr. Amy Lehman is a human dynamo. She recently stopped by for coffee, and revealed much more than I could ever expect about her brilliant plans to build a floating clinic on the world’s longest lake, Lake Tanganyika.

How will Amy do this? Where is Lake Tanganyika? Dr. Amy Lehman reveals her plans -- and more!

Caught in the Act: Dr. Amy Lehman from Creative Visions Foundation on Vimeo.
Global Activism: Floating Clinic Will Deliver Mobile Healthcare

by The Archives Jul. 29, 2010

On today's Global Activism segment we talk with Dr. Amy Lehman. She's a surgeon and the founder of the Lake Taganyika Floating Health Clinic. It's a project that will provide mobile healthcare services using a boat to reach the isolated communities in the Great Lakes Basin. Lake Tanganyika lies in between Burundi, Tanzania, Zambia and the DRC.

Academy award-winning documentarians, Fisher Stevens and Mark Monroe, in partnership with East Pleasant Pictures, have selected the Lake Tanganyika Floating Health Clinic as the subject of their next feature-length documentary film. You can watch a clip below:

Lake Tanganyika / Floating Health Clinic from East Pleasant Pictures on Vimeo.
Lehman’s campaign to construct the ship, complete with operating rooms and a pharmacy, started with two years of researching the lake region and its residents inside and out. Her business school education allowed her to turn that information into a business plan to raise the $6 million needed to build the Floating Health Clinic.
Q: What kind of aid did LTFHC Programs provide as part of the LTFHC Programs throughout the entire lake basin?

A: We undertook malaria net distribution to a region where almost no nets exist with high incidence of malaria and under 5 malaria-related deaths; medical service provision, transfers of serious cases out of the region to Dar es Salaam for definitive care.
Le Dr. Amy Lehman au secours des communautés congolaises du Tanganyika

Le Docteur Amy G. Lehman, fondatrice de la Clinique flottante du lac Tanganyika est arrivée à Kinshasa depuis ce samedi 09 janvier 2010 pour une mission qui lui conduira dans la zone du bassin du lac Tanganyika le long de l’embouchure de deux rivières, la Luza et la Lualaba, qui coulent sur le territoire congolais. La clinique flottante est en effet une structure mobile qui peut être déployée en quelques heures sur n’importe quel site pour y établir un centre de santé spécialisé.

Le Dr. Amy Lehman, une femme d’action, a été engagée dans une carrière de lutte contre la pauvreté et la maladie en Afrique. Elle est la fondatrice de la Clinique flottante du lac Tanganyika, une organisation qui fournit des soins de santé aux populations d’origine africaine. La clinique est équipée d’équipements de pointe, comme des machines de chirurgie, des années sont nécessaires pour apprendre à utiliser correctement un tel matériel. La clinique flottante est un projet ambitieux qui a comme objectif de fournir des soins de santé de qualité à des populations qui n’ont pas accès à des services de santé traditionnels.

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The Lake Tanganyika Floating Health Clinic

The Lake Tanganyika Floating Health Clinic is an international NGO whose mission is to address the problem of healthcare access for isolated communities in the Lake Tanganyika basin.

The LTFHC will provide health services via boat to remote populations who are otherwise unable to reach health care centers. The vessel will serve as the basin’s referral hospital to provide basic medical and surgical services that address prevention and cure.

In addition, the LTFHC will provide a platform for multilateral education and training opportunities, encouraging best-practices through collaboration and local support. In this capacity LTFHC will serve as a capable regional partner and will develop existing facilities to examine, triage, and treat patients appropriately. In doing so, we will promote local capacity building and will work to develop a permanent network of health services for the region.

Using green technology and practices to outfit and run a well-founded marine vessel with modern medical facilities and accommodations supporting a full medical staff and crew, we will provide desperately needed health care access to individuals and communities who otherwise would not benefit from basic healthcare services, much less cutting-edge medical care.
charms

Life Preserver
The Floating Clinic

Finding a good doctor is hard to do anywhere. But for those living in the Lake Tanganyika basin in Africa—an isolated but large area that touches Congo, Tanzania, Burundi and Zambia—it’s nearly impossible. That’s why we love the Lake Tanganyika Floating Health Clinic, a 200-foot-long vessel that will serve these neglected populations. Best of all, by wearing this charm you’re helping the Floating Health Clinic accomplish another lofty goal: training locals to provide health care in its wake.

In 100% recycled Sterling Silver plated with 14k gold.

50% of the net profits from our charms benefit the causes they represent.

Altruette charms come with a "lobster clasp" that clicks on and off your bracelet, or a "soldered jump ring" which slides onto our necklaces and key rings.

Silver: $125
Gold: $145
Choose option

Gold
The Lake Tanganyika Floating Health Clinic

Organization

The Lake Tanganyika Floating Health Clinic (LTFHC) is an international NGO, whose mission is to address the problem of healthcare access for isolated communities in the Lake Tanganyika basin.

The LTFHC will provide health services via boat to remote populations who are otherwise unable to reach health care centers. The vessel will serve as the basin’s referral hospital to provide both basic and specialized medical and surgical services that address prevention and cure.

Critical Success Factor:

A unique hybrid of combining right-brain and left-brain thinking. It’s not enough to run a non-profit strictly based on emotional drivers. A successful non-profit needs diligent, analytical thinking to thoroughly understand all possible ramifications from its actions.
Amy Lehman | United States

Amy Lehman "loves going and doing the hardest thing." Starting the Lake Tanganyika Floating Health Clinic may be exactly that. She already delivers tens of thousands of mosquito nets to the villages that line the lake's mountainous shores, and has plans to build a boat that will bring much-needed medical care to the 3 million people living in the area. Anyone doubting her commitment to the project needn't look further than Lehman's own skin: a massive tattoo of the lake covers her entire back.

READ MORE »
The villages in Congo, Burundi, and Tanzania that ring Lake Tanganyika are extremely isolated, which is apparent when Chicago doctor Amy Lehman lifts her shirt, turns around, and reveals a tattoo of the lake’s convoluted, rocky coast on her back. Delivering health care to these remote communities has become her passion. For now she rents local boats to deliver bed nets along the lake, where malaria is a leading cause of death. But her goal is to equip a floating hospital, which will bring medical care to some 3 million people. Although she trained as a cardiothoracic surgeon, childhood nerve damage prevented her from practicing. “I love chest surgery. No joke,” she says. “When I think about what else I could do that would keep me as compelled, it’s this.” So she presses ahead on plans for the Lake Tanganyika Floating Health Clinic, raising funds, commissioning a local shipbuilder, cajoling officials. “She’ll die getting this done,” says Damien Drake, who is collaborating with Fisher Stevens on a documentary film about Lehman.
ELLE STYLE THE FIXERS

9 FOR ALL MANKIND

This year ELLE honors nine women who are educating, rebuilding, doctoring, employing, and sustaining the world.

AMY LEHMAN, 38, FOUNDER OF LAKE TANGANYIKA FLOATING HEALTH CLINIC

THE PROBLEM: The remote Lake Tanganyika Basin, where 3.5 million people live without access to basic health care.

BIG IDEA: A ship—a floating clinic—to provide medical services around the basin.

LIGHTBULB MOMENT: Lehman, a surgical resident on vacation at the time, got stuck at Lake Tanganyika in a typhoon and realized, These people need a hospital. BUT: She has to raise $25 million to build it. (Lehman and her small team have already treated 300,000 people.)

GENIUS MARKETING MOVE: She tattooed a map of the region on her back. MANTRA IN A CRISIS: “Never lose your sense of humor in central Africa. The minute that happens, you’re toast.” — ALLISON DAVIS