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**Rockford Spine Center Surgeon Provides Medical Services in Ecuador**  
*Dr. Fred Sweet Joins Timmy Global Health on Medical Mission Trip*

**Rockford, IL** (June 26, 2013) – Rockford Spine Center surgeon Dr. Fred Sweet recently returned from a medical mission trip to Quito, Ecuador in May. The trip was organized by Timmy Global Health, a medical mission society that provides basic medical and preventative health services to indigent populations in several countries. Dr. Sweet was joined on the trip by his wife Amy, an OB/GYN nurse and his daughter Andrea, a future medical student.

The medical brigade was comprised of 37 volunteers. During the week-long trip, they treated approximately 100 patients a day for a total of about 600 patients. To make it convenient for the residents, they moved their temporary clinic twice a day. They treated a variety of conditions including diabetes, hypertension, multiple types of parasites and common infections such as colds, ear infections, bladder infections and fungal infections. Additionally, in an effort to provide preventative care, each patient was provided with two months of vitamins, toothbrush and fluoride treatments, as well as hand-washing training.

Dr. Sweet said he and his family felt compelled to join the mission and share their abilities with the people of Ecuador.

“Serving in this capacity puts our country’s concern about access to medical care in perspective,” said Dr. Sweet. “Although we say there are many in this country that do not have access to medical care, it is nowhere near the conditions we witnessed in Quito. We are very blessed in this country.”

The city of Quito has a population of over a million people, but there is just one small hospital with approximately 50 beds. There are very few specialists and little or no preventative or health maintenance services available. Most residents in the region they visited do not have access to running water or electricity. Timmy Global Health plans several mission trips a year to this region. Word spreads quickly among the residents when the medical team will be on-site.

“The residents would start lining up hours before we opened our doors,” said Dr. Sweet. “It was such a nice feeling knowing that we were impacting and changing lives.”

**About Timmy Global Health**

Since its founding in 1997, Timmy has been motivated and driven by one simple vision: All people—regardless of who they are, what resources they have, and where they live—should have access to quality healthcare.

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Timmy Global Health expands access to healthcare and empowers students and volunteers to tackle today's most pressing global health challenges. To achieve this goal, Timmy sends medical service teams to support the work of international partner organizations, channels financial, medical, and human resources to community based health and development projects, and works to empower students at U.S. high schools and colleges to fundraise, advocate, and serve in an effort to fight health disparities at home and abroad. To learn more, visit [www.timmyglobalhealth.org](http://www.timmyglobalhealth.org).

#### **About Rockford Spine Center**

Celebrating 10 years of service in 2013, Rockford Spine Center is the only facility in Northwestern Illinois dedicated exclusively to spinal care. The facility has the combined expertise of three fellowship trained spine surgeons, and a Mayo Clinic-trained physiatrist.

Rockford Spine Center's team of experts uses a multidisciplinary approach to treat spinal disorders, ranging from simple to the most complex cases. The team has an advanced understanding of the spine and specializes in both surgical and non-surgical spinal disorders. Rockford Spine Center has earned national recognition in Newsweek, is ranked among the Top 50 Spine Surgery Practices to Know in Becker's Spine Review and earned the Patients' Choice Award in 2011 and 2012. For more information about Rockford Spine Center, visit the company's website at [www.rockfordspine.com](http://www.rockfordspine.com) or find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/RockfordSpine](https://www.facebook.com/RockfordSpine).

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