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## **Tanzanian Dental School Laboratory Technicians Visit the USA for Training with Major US Laboratory**

Two young dental school technicians, from the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences Dental School (MUHAS) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania recently completed six weeks of training on dental laboratory procedures in Huntsville, Alabama. The training was sponsored by leading US dental lab, Oral Arts Dental Laboratories, and MCW (Miracle Corners of the World). It was part of MCW's recent initiative to help establish the first national dental lab in Tanzania, following the major renovation of the dental clinics at the Dental School, also facilitated by MCW.

MCW shares the vision of MUHAS and the Ministry of Health leadership for the dental school's laboratory to serve as Tanzania's National Dental Laboratory and become a center of excellence for the region, and to provide dental appliances and prosthetics to all of Tanzania as well as surrounding countries.

The primary goal of training the technicians, Ricardo Moshy and Sospeter Kanaku, was to ensure that the new laboratory equipment and materials could be operated optimally and at maximum capacity. MCW received support through in-kind donations from more than 30 national and international dental laboratory manufacturers and distributors.

The coursework provided the lab technicians with in-depth practical training on advanced dental lab techniques so they would be able to fabricate more advanced fixed and removable dental prosthetics appliances than are currently available in the country of Tanzania.

The training included (but was not limited to) the following areas:

- Flexible partial denture systems
- Fixed crown and bridges systems
- Model and die fabrication for fixed prosthesis
- Denture setup techniques
- Metal casting procedures
- Light-cured composite fabrication
- Specialized dental lab practice and inventory management software training

While the lab techs were in Alabama, the state suffered a major catastrophe as a series of tornadoes blew through the state, resulting in widespread damage. Ricardo and Sospeter participated in disaster relief efforts through a local church over a weekend, working to help remove debris and clear roadways.

Upon their return, the technicians concluded that the techniques and knowledge they acquired will markedly improve the dental laboratory output and the quality of dental appliances for the benefits of all Tanzanians.

### **ABOUT MCW**

MCW (Miracle Corners of the World) is a non-profit organization founded in 1999 with the vision: Local Change through Global Exchange®. Our mission is to empower youth to become positive agents of change in their communities by giving them the tools, confidence and networks to pursue entrepreneurial projects in their communities. Based in New York, MCW serves youth through Leadership Training, Community Center and Oral Healthcare programs, and Partner Initiatives (Genocide Prevention). For more information, please visit [www.miraclecorners.org](http://www.miraclecorners.org).

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