

# Moragan runs half marathon to take Global Healing to its next phase

By Sophie Braccini



John Donnelly and Dr. Karla Cerritos at the Roatan Public Hospital in Honduras. Photo provided

Doctor John Donnelly has never been afraid to reinvent himself in order to achieve what he believes is the right thing.

The Moraga resident was an immunologist who conducted research for most of his career until he decided to cross the divide and work for nonprofit organizations. He now presides over Global Healing, a Berkeley-based nonprofit that aims at training and empowering health practitioners in countries that lack sufficient medical funding, especially those working with mothers and their young children. He will run the San Francisco half-marathon on July 23 to raise funds for his organization.

Donnelly portrays himself as a serial retiree, a polite way to say that he quit some of his former employers. He retired from Merck before joining Chiron and retired again after it was purchased by Novartis. He then joined his first nonprofit, Path, a 40-year-old organization that provides services to mothers and children in countries that most need it. Donnelly negotiated contracts with large foundations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to organize the low cost production of vaccines for children in these countries. He explains that pharmaceuticals now are more inclined at producing and commercializing drugs at full price in rich countries and low cost iden-

tical ones in poorer countries at the same time. Donnelly loved the work at Path, but after a few years, the intense necessary travel started to be too much, so he retired again.

He was then approached by Global Healing, which has been in existence for 20 years, and needed a new president.

In spite of his reserved nature, Donnelly speaks of Global Healing with passion. The goal of Global Healing is to make sure that mothers and children get the best quality health care in their country, provided by local skilled healthcare professionals. Donnelly explains that in many poor countries as the standard of living increases the basic medical needs are taken care of, such as vaccines and contraception. But when people get really sick, doctors do not have the latest training and equipment that will allow them to save their patients.

Donnelly gives the example of Vietnam's main pediatric hospital where Global Healing works in the pediatric Intensive Care Unit. He has traveled to the country several times and formed ties with many people there. He is acutely aware of the difficulties people still face to get medical treatment. It can take 16 hours to reach the national hospital for a very sick child who needs advanced treatment. Vietnam does have a rapidly growing economy, but big divides exist between

regions.

Donnelly explains that Vietnamese doctors are very qualified, but have been trained and have equipment that date from the previous century. For example, when infants need breathing assistance, they used to be put on ventilators with tubes going down their throat. The children had to be sedated, because it is painful. A sedated child cannot eat, so he has to be fed intravenously, and has to be turned every two hours. Nowadays, doctors here use continuous positive airway pressure that blows air in the child's nose and helps inflate the lungs. The outcome for children is much better.

Global Healing works with American volunteers who are sent abroad to train the medical teams and also bring the appropriate technology when possible. In the Vietnamese example, the device is not very expensive and Global Healing provides it.

The nonprofit works with experts, such as Professor J. Colin Partridge at UCSF, to identify the techniques that are most easily transferable and will make the most impact. Global Healing currently works in Honduras, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Vietnam.

Donnelly leads an organization with a staff of four, including himself, a board of directors, and advisory board and scores of medical volunteers who travel the world to train others.

Global Healing needs support here also: volunteer photographers, filmmakers and administrators are in demand. Donations are also welcome and Donnelly goes the extra mile for it. He can be seen at 5:30 a.m. training for the half marathon in the streets of Moraga. He says that he used to run marathons, but that since his knee surgery he cannot run as fast as he used to.

To sponsor him go to <http://bit.ly/2szAPYk>. More information about Global Healing is available at [globalhealing.org](http://globalhealing.org).



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# Community mourns Miler Gloor Magrath, longtime Lafayette business owner

By John T. Miller

Miler Gloor Magrath, who for over 40 years was a co-owner of Diamond K Supply in Lafayette, passed away earlier this month following complications from a stroke. He was 62.

Magrath became President of Diamond K in 1990 and ran the business along with his brother, Bill, and sister, Anne Magrath Coleman. His siblings will continue to run the company. Their parents, Bill and Nancy Magrath, originally purchased an interest in the business in 1947 from Ogdan Kiesel and eventually assumed full ownership.

The current manager of Diamond K, Kevin Montgomery, has worked for them for three years. He commented, "Miler was a very generous man, donating to local schools regularly. He also was a huge fan of the Eagle Scout projects in Lamorinda and constantly donated materials to them as well. Miler leaves a void here at Diamond K that will never be filled, but we will carry on this business in his memory."

Magrath was born in Oakland,

grew up in Lafayette and graduated from Acalanes High School and California State University, Chico. His passions included traveling with his family and friends, duck hunting, golf, fishing, gardening and the San Francisco 49ers. According to Montgomery, he was never without his San Francisco Giants hat, either.

Magrath is survived by his wife, Maureen; two daughters, Molly and Mackenzie; his faithful dog, Maisy; sister Anne Magrath Coleman; brother, Bill Magrath; father-in-law, Dr. James McFadden; and many nieces, nephews, grand-nephews and in-laws. He is predeceased by his parents, Bill and Nancy Magrath, and mother-in-law Pat McFadden.

The family asks that, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of your choice.

All are welcome to a celebration of Magrath's life to be held from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, July 16 at Contra Costa Country Club in Pleasant Hill, where he was a member. Diamond K will be closed on that day.

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