Surgicare of Wichita's donation of supplies helps KU School of Medicine-Wichita Simulation Center and others across Wichita and beyond

WICHITA, KANSAS — One man’s loss is another man’s gain. That couldn’t have been truer than when an unfortunate humidifier problem affected some supplies at Surgicare of Wichita. After they were packaged in 55-gallon trash bags, stowed in a 10’x15’ storage unit and audited by its insurance company, the question of what to do next arose.

The supplies could no longer be used for humans in the United States but are still effective for teaching and for mission work in developing nations, so discarding them was not the answer.

A member of Surgicare’s governing board contacted Erin Doyle, program director for KU School of Medicine-Wichita Simulation Center, with the good news.

“We felt like we won the medical supply lottery of sorts,” Doyle said. “Not only were there medical supplies, but equipment as well.”

The Sim Center was able to keep about 20% of the inventory and will share items with the school’s Standardized Patient Program, too. The Standardized Patient Program employs specially trained and coached individuals to simulate patients being seen by medical students and residents, which gives them the opportunity to learn and demonstrate a variety of patient care, communication and interpersonal skills in a safe, controlled environment. Endoscopy surgical supplies have been offered to KU Wichita Surgical Skills Lab at Ascension Via Christi St. Francis.
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Other groups receiving some of the supplies include Wichita State University’s bachelor- and graduate-level nursing programs, Bethel College’s nursing program, Newman University’s respiratory, nursing and certified nurse anesthesiologist programs and the Medical Loan Closet of Wichita. WSU Tech’s surgical technician and nursing programs received supplies for its two functioning surgery bays. The Dominican Republic will even receive some supplies through a local nurse practitioner.

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MEDIA NOTE: To schedule an interview with Erin Doyle, contact Belinda Venters at 316-706-5945 or bventers@kumc.edu.

KU School of Medicine-Wichita Simulation Center provides unique expertise and an interprofessional education environment dedicated to students, residents, faculty, practitioners and patients to improve safety, quality and teamwork.

Surgicare, founded as Minor Surgery Center of Wichita by M. Robert Knapp, M.D., was one of the first outpatient surgery centers in the country. It performed its first in 1974. Today, surgeons execute a broad range of outpatient surgical procedures.

The University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita educates tomorrow’s physicians and health care leaders through community partnership. We doctor Kansas.