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Pictured are Jim Wash, President of Ross IMDT and Roy Cline President and CEO of Caring Partners with boxes of the dental equipment for Cuba.

Local company to send dental equipment to Cuba

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Working together to help others is what community is about and two companies have shown how having a partnership can be a total self-giving act for those in need.

Ross Institute of Medical and Dental Technology (IMDT) of Cincinnati and Caring Partners International, Inc. (CPI) of

Franklin have partnered to provide an entire dental operator for the people of Cuba.

Jim Wash, President of IMDT, said the school is an allied health career school and they were replacing their existing equipment.

"We found a great need and partner in the community," Wash said.

Roy Cline, President of CPI, and Wash met through a mutual friend at church, who heard

about Ross moving their main campus and replacing their existing dental equipment.

When Cline learned of the available equipment, he visited with a team that inspected the equipment.

"What makes it valuable is that it includes all the pieces we need," Cline said.

The donation includes literally everything need to operate a

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Dental donation

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dental office. Some of the equipment that has been shipped over includes: X-ray, dental chairs, sterilizers, hand pieces and instruments, as well as clinic equipment such as an exam table and vitals equipment.

Chris Hester, director of Public Relations for Ross, said the equipment after being inspected by the Ministry of Health will be set up for permanent use by citizens of the surrounding area of Cotorro, Cuba by January 2010.

"This donation represents a first for Caring Partners who has never received all of the equipment at one time in a donation," she said.

Cline said Cuba was chosen to receive the dental operator because there is a retirement home run by the Western Convention of the Baptist Church which serves the western part of Cuba. The home wanted a dental office at the location and Cline said they were told to build the office. A facility has been built since and a team from Caring Partners visited it and found it appropriate for that use.

He said all equipment send is

in good working condition and includes the manuals, but they usually don't send lab equipment because of maintenance difficulties.

Cline said this dental facility will benefit many people outside of just the retirement community.

Hester stated the residents of the home, in addition to 10,000 residents of Cotorro will be able to take full advantage of the operator.

Cline explained that all of their work is done through churches, which helps the churches and surrounding community. The

Western Convention of the Baptist Church will receive the equipment when it arrives in port. The dental equipment shipped out Thursday, November 19. It was taken by truck to Cincinnati, rail to Port Everglades, Florida, and then on a container ship to Havana, Cuba.

Caring Partners, approved by the US government and the Cuban government are one of the few remaining non-profits working in Cuba.

Teams from CPI will take five to six day clinic trips to an area in need of medical assistance in

third world countries and will treat up to 1200 to 1500 people per trip. The team carries in their own medicines and Cline said the work can be a good evangelistic tool as well by spreading the gospel message of caring for people.

"It's a very simple, but very effective way of reaching people," he said. "Physical needs are great, but greater are the spiritual needs."

During the next CPI team trip in May, they will visit the site where the supplies have been sent to inspect the installation.

CPI is a non-profit organiza-

tion, which was started in 1992 provides medical supplies to third world countries free of charge.

Cline, who was also the founder of Caring Partners said they had offices in Middletown until December 2008 when they moved to a new facility in Franklin. Caring partners has had teams in China, India, Cuba, Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, and Thailand.

For more information on Caring Partners visit: www.caring-partners.org. For more information on Ross visit www.rossmedicaleducation.com.