

AT&T donates generator to Dominican hospital

Good Samaritan facility treated 60,000 patients last year

By Jennifer Manes
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MIDDLETOWN — Doctors at the Good Samaritan Hospital in La Romana, Dominican Republic, struggle to provide a reliable level of care to patients as they are often subjected to power failures. Lights frequently flicker on and off during surgeries while patients and employees deal with oppressive conditions throughout the hospital — it is not financially possible to air condition the building.

Terry Wooding, a Wallingford Rotary Club member, saw an immediate need for a backup power source at the hospital and decided to act on it.

“I knew from my involvement with the hospital that there was a need,” Wooding said at an AT&T repair facility Friday. “It was just a matter of putting the people together.” Wooding, executive vice president of Petra Construction Corp. in North Haven, serves clients who constantly upgrade their generators to comply with federal mandates. Using his connections with AT&T, he located a generator that could benefit the hospital.

The hospital in La Romana is sometimes forced to run dialysis machines off car batteries, and regularly operates in the dark and without air conditioning.

The 100-kilowatt generator was presented Friday to Moises Sifren, administrator of the Good Samaritan Hospital. Sifren said the generator would vastly improve conditions at the hospital. It treated about 60,000 patients last year.

“We have a really small generator,” Sifren said. “From 10 a.m. to three o’clock, we are unable to use our air conditioning because the one we have is too small. We have one that is too big, but with the gas prices, it takes too much money to run. If we run the air conditioning, it is taking money away from patient services.” The Rotary Club helped



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Frank Howd, left, a manager of network maintenance for AT&T, explains the workings of a generator to Moises Sifren, administrator of the Good Samaritan Hospital in La Romana, Dominican Republic, at the AT&T garage in Middletown. The generator is being donated to the hospital.

build the hospital along with volunteers from U.S. church groups. Its president, Roz Gallagher, said the hospital is forced to run dialysis machines off car batteries and regularly operates in the dark.

“It’s a devastating thing to have happen when you lose power in the operating room and this will help to prevent it,” she said.

“This is going to do them very well. It’s going to service them very well,” said Frank Howd, who services AT&T’s emergency power throughout the state.

Howd said the 1949 generator acted as the backup power source at the company’s central headquarters. It is scheduled to ship out to the Dominican Republic Monday. It should arrive in a port near La Romana, Dominican Republic within nine days. From there, it is expected to take several weeks to clear customs, Sifren said. He expects it to be up and running within one to two months.

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