

Volunteer Freddie Walton *by Jeanne Dillner*

While visiting Dr. Zirkle's office early this year, Freddie mentioned that he had machining experience. Following Dr. Zirkle's suggestion that he check out SIGN, Freddie started volunteering in February 2002 and has been coming in every week since.



Freddie comes in every Monday to put the 9-degree bend in the SIGN nail. The bend ensures correct contour of the nail with the anterior bow of the bone. He is instrumental in keeping the flow of nails moving through the processes. I thanked him for being so faithful, and he told me he looks forward to this job every week—it's fun and he enjoys working through the technical issues with Mark Wilson, our quality inspector.

Freddie is one example of the many people who volunteer at SIGN. We appreciate and rely on our volunteers who help in all aspects of SIGN—packaging, special projects, coordinating events, mailings, etc. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Connie at 371-1107. •

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May - November 2002

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Papua New Guinea (PNG)

Thanks to a \$15,000 donation from the Washington Orthopaedic Center, PNG is now a SIGN project. Keith Birchard has sent an update of their orthopaedic project in PNG.



Dr. Carl Birchard and Dr. Keith Birchard using the SIGN system in Papua New Guinea.

In a recent email, Keith wrote "...we used the new stainless steel SIGN system to fix a very committed tibial fracture. The system is very good but there is a learning curve we discovered. This fracture would have been difficult under the best of circumstances even with fluoro." •

SIGN Conference

The SIGN Conference was held on Saturday, September 21st at the SIGN facility in Richland. The agenda included a Powerpoint presentation about SIGN followed by a hands-on sawbones / SIGN technique workshop.

Over 60 surgeons from around the country attended Saturday's conference. We were pleased to have so many people together to discuss ways to help the poor and further SIGN's vision. Nine new SIGN projects were proposed at the conference; three have already been started. *For further information about the conference, please visit our website — www.sign-post.org •*

