

2018

## Stan Brock, 2010 Inamori Prize Recipient

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### Recommended Citation

Raguveer, Vanitha (2018) "Stan Brock, 2010 Inamori Prize Recipient," *The International Journal of Ethical Leadership*: Vol. 5 , Article 5.

Available at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.case.edu/ijel/vol5/iss1/5>

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## Stan Brock, 2010 Inamori Ethics Prize Recipient Vanitha Raguveer

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The 2010 recipient of the Inamori Ethics Prize, Stan Brock, remains a force of ethical leadership and profound service, bringing medical care directly to the people who need it most. Inspired by his own injury when overseeing the world's largest cattle ranch operation in Guyana, Brock went on to found Remote Area Medical (RAM) in 1985, which connects volunteer health professionals to rural communities that do not have adequate access to medical care. In 2016, RAM provided care to thirty-one thousand patients at seventy clinics, spending under \$3 million, or \$94 per encounter.<sup>1</sup> Since its founding, RAM has given more than \$120 million in free medical care to almost one million men, women, and children. He also acted as an integral part of the passing of the Tennessee Volunteer Medical Services Act of 1995, which allows out-of-state health professionals to come to the area and provide free care to the community. Since then, ten more states have passed similar laws, allowing for more charity care to be provided. He has written three books: *Leemo, A True Story of a Man's Friendship with a Mountain Lion*, *More about Leemo*, and *Jungle Cowboy*, and has starred in two films, *Escape from Angola* and *Gaylon the Indestructible Man*.<sup>2</sup>

In 2012, Stan Brock was named a CNN Hero for the work he has pioneered, starting and running the largest free medical service provider in the U.S., but insisted that the volunteers were the true heroes, saying "All I do is show up and carry some of the luggage." On July 4, 2017, he received the 2017 Lions Humanitarian Award from the Lions International Foundation. This award, won by other prominent leaders like Mother Teresa and President Jimmy Carter, includes a \$250,000 grant to continue on humanitarian activities, and represents an immense honor. With RAM's current clinics all around the U.S., Brock now hopes to expand the free clinics back to his homeland, Britain. Following his recent visit to investigate the state of dental care after changes to the National Health System, Brock recognized the public need for access to dental care and hopes to address this need.<sup>3</sup>

Under Brock's direction, RAM has set up clinics in various rural communities in states like Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, New York, Oklahoma, and Texas. Furthermore, RAM provides disaster relief in other countries like Haiti and Nepal as well as in the states. Care includes doctors, dentists, nurses, optometrists and veterinarians to do everything from

eye-care to cancer screenings. To do this, they use quality technologies designed in mobile fittings, and in 2015, delivered medicine by drone for an event in Wise County, Virginia.<sup>4</sup>

Since his award winning in 2010, RAM has grown exponentially, and Brock, despite his eighty-two years, continues to work tirelessly, ensuring all projects and events run smoothly. He maintains a simple lifestyle, living out of his office, sleeping on the floor and subsisting on a diet of fruits, oatmeal, and water. He takes no income and devotes all of his time and energy to serving the people, whether by leading events or by reading the many emails patients send in. Brock's passion for service and equal healthcare is an example to all that we must not wait to make a change but rather help where we can.

## Notes

1. R. F. Graboyes. "Care on the Margins—Stan Brock and RAM," Inside Sources, March 07, 2017, <http://www.insidesources.com/care-margins-stan-brock-ram/>.
2. "Meet Our Founder," April 10, 2018, <https://www.ramusa.org/meet-our-founder/>.
3. R. Blakely and K. Lay. "Dental Care Pioneer Stan Brock Wants to Bring Megaclinics to Britain," December 23, 2017, <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/dental-care-pioneer-stan-brock-wants-to-bring-mega-clinics-to-britain-d7f9sd8kc>.
4. A. Leve. "Saint Stan Brock: Who Are You?" n.d., <http://www.ariel-leve.com/all-articles/sunday-times-magazine/features/saint-stan-brock-who-are-you/>.