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## Top News

### SJA Senior Compliments Unit With Capstone Project

### Mobile Medical Builds Unit For The Children Of Iraq

**BY JACOB L. GRANT, Staff Writer**

Tuesday October 2, 2007

ST. JOHNSBURY -- At a time when many are wishing that the countries of the world could work together in positive ways, the countries of Italy, Iraq and a small Vermont business have taken a step forward to make that happen.

On Monday, more than 100 people gathered at the Mobile Medical facility in St. Johnsbury to welcome local and state representatives as well as officials from the countries of Italy and Iraq. All were smiling as the Italian diplomats gifted a mobile surgical unit, built by Mobile Medical, to those representatives from Iraq.

"This is a gracious gift from the government of Italy," said Gov. Jim Douglas. "It is an important step forward."

The massive mobile surgical unit cost over \$2 million to build, and like all of Mobile Medical's units, is meant to be easily transported from area to area to provide medical assistance in the field. This unit is special, though, in that it is intended to serve Iraqi children.

Dr. A. Hadi Li Kahalili, an embassorial cultural attache from the Republic of Iraq, accepted the gift on behalf of his country. He expressed extreme gratitude to Italy and Mobile Medical's efforts and to the number of local and state officials who showed up to give their time and support.

Rick Cochran, president of Mobile Medical International Corp., said it was a real pleasure to receive a request from the Italian government wanting to buy one of his company's mobile units to donate to another country.

"Diplomatically, probably the best solution, in terms of international relationships," he said, "is medical diplomacy."

Cochran was thrilled that his small company of only 40 employees could play such a part in helping the children of Iraq.

He beamed even brighter, though, when his daughter, Lindsey Cochran, 18, took the microphone. Lindsey, a St. Johnsbury Academy student, is complimenting her father's work with a very special senior capstone project.

Lindsey is collecting medical and surgical supplies and raising money to send those supplies to serve the children of Iraq. Iraqi children have one of the highest mortality rates in the world, she said, and, as someone who sincerely loves children, her heart goes out to them.

"I feel it is our obligation to help these children," she said. "We are all in this endeavor called 'Life' together."



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Lindsey's project is called Friends for Iraqi Children. Financial donations may be made through the St. Johnsbury Academy's Web site at [www.stjohnsburyacademy.org](http://www.stjohnsburyacademy.org). Supplies such as drapes, gauze, bandages, rubber gloves, or other basic medical or surgical supplies may be brought directly to the Mobile Medical facility.

Representing the country of Italy was Giuseppe Gola and Serena Ugolini, both from the Italian Foreign Affairs Office. Representatives from the offices of U.S. Sens. Patrick Leahy and Bernie Sanders, and U.S. Rep. Peter Welch, also spoke at the ceremony.

Mobile Medical, which introduced the world's first Mobile Surgery Unit, has constructed ambulatory surgical, eye care, military hospital, and burn units that have been delivered all over the United States and to Saudi Arabia, Armenia and Kuwait.

For more information about Mobile Medical's products and mission, visit [www.mobile-medical.com](http://www.mobile-medical.com).

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