GOOD DEED

Hearing expert recognized for work in Africa

Dallas: Callier doctor started clinic for kids

By DAVID FLICK
Staff Writer

This year, as she has nearly every year since 1997, Jackie Clark will miss her wedding anniversary.

“My anniversary is Aug. 6, but as it happens, that is nonmalaria time in Mozambique,” she said.

Ms. Clark, a senior audiologist at the UTD Callier Center in Dallas, will be spending the time at Chicuque Hospital, eight hours from the Mozambique capital of Maputo, where she founded an audiology clinic for children.

Over the past decade, she has worked there with children with hearing problems, started up sign language classes, trained local social workers and medical professionals, and distributed hearing aids donated by American manufacturers.

In the process, she said, she often battled governmental bureaucracy and poorly trained local teachers.

For her humanitarian efforts, she was honored April 6 in Minneapolis with the American Academy of Audiology’s Humanitarian of the Year Award.

At the awards dinner, she said, she looked around and found herself surrounded by giants of the profession who were also receiving honors.

But she was not intimidated.

“I told myself that if I’m getting an award for having a good heart, I can live with that,” she said.

While health needs, including those involved with hearing, are sometimes overwhelming in a place like Africa, she said, it is worth it to make an effort.

“I’m willing to take a chance to make an impact, just see what can be done,” she said.

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In Dallas, Dr. Jackie Clark (top), a senior audiologist at the UTD Callier Center, tested Rebecca Torres’ 3-month-old baby in March, with help from assistant Barbara Ortiz.