The Dahan Family Foundation has made a $250,000 challenge grant to MediSend International.

Elisabeth and Rene Dahan are challenging the organization to raise $250,000 that will translate into $500,000 when the goal is reached. The money will support MediSend’s mission to ensure quality health care in underserved communities around the world.

Dallas-based MediSend was founded in 1990 by Dr. Martin Lazar, a neurosurgeon, to provide U.S. medical and surgical equipment and supplies to the world’s poorest communities.

Since 2007, the organization has also trained biomedical equipment repair technicians for the hospitals and clinics they serve. MediSend’s approach ensures that health care providers not only receive supplies and equipment but also that the equipment will be properly installed, maintained and repaired.

MediSend is also home to the Gen. Richard B. Myers Veterans Biomedical Equipment Technology Program, which trains returning U.S. veterans as biomedical equipment repair technicians.

Other MediSend sponsors include Strasburger & Price, Chevron, Texas Children’s Hospital, British Petroleum, Touchstone Imaging, Hawn Foundation, Dr. Woodrow and Susan Gandy, Hillcrest Foundation, T-Systems, Exxon Mobil Corp., Dr. Rob and Jo Langdon, Gabriela and Nick Hallack, Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon and Perkins+Will.

To learn more, visit Medisend.org.

JFK commemoration

Southern Methodist University is planning two free public forums to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the JFK assassination. Reservations are required.

The first forum, on Thursday, is “A Look at the Oswald Photo at 50.” The photograph of Jack Ruby shooting Lee Harvey Oswald will be discussed by a panel featuring Hugh Aynsworth, author of November 22, 1963: Witness to History; Bob Jackson, the Dallas Times Herald photographer who took the photograph; and Jim Leavelle, the former homicide detective who was escorting Oswald as he was shot.
Carolyn Barta, SMU’s Meadows Foundation Distinguished Teaching Professor, will moderate the session, which is 3 to 4 p.m. at O’Donnell Auditorium, Room 2130, in the Owen Arts Center at 6100 Hillcrest Ave. To register, call 214-768-2775.

On Nov. 15, a forum on “Covering a Crisis: News Footage of the JFK Assassination From the William Jones Film and Video Collection” will be at 7 p.m. in O’Donnell Auditorium. For tickets, call 214-768-2787.