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Anthony Edwards' return to 'ER' benefits hospital

November 11, 2008

Dr. Mark Greene died six years ago on ER. But the good that he did lives on - on television and in real life.

Anthony Edwards reprises the character in a flashback at 10 p.m. Thursday on NBC, and Greene's return will help build a 250-bed hospital in Africa. The hospital is the cornerstone of the Shoe4Africa charity.

Edwards didn't want pay for his guest shot. Instead, Warner Bros. donated \$125,000 to the hospital. Steven Spielberg matched that money, and ER executive producer John Wells kicked in \$50,000.

"You're given a great gift when you have success as an actor," said Edwards, 46. "And the only way to pass it on is if it's something you genuinely care about. That's what people pick up on. So I've been lucky that way."

ER, one of television's greatest hits, is in its 15th and final season. Edwards said his appearance is a thank-you to the audience.

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