

AmeriCares®



FALL 2011

Helping Earthquake Survivors in Japan

Two months after the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan, Dr. Honami Yoshida was still finding families with newborns living in cars and pregnant women and elderly survivors in evacuation centers in desperate need of medical care. With AmeriCares support, the obstetrician and her team from the Tokyo-based Primary Care Association provided the most vulnerable survivors with much-needed medical attention.

Her group is just one of a dozen local Japanese relief organizations AmeriCares is supporting in the wake of the March 11 disaster. AmeriCares recently opened a field office in Japan and, to date, has delivered more than \$1 million in grants and aid.

“As survivors move from shelters into transitional housing, we are shifting from providing emergency relief supplies to restoring health services and helping survivors cope with trauma – caring for the body and the heart,” said AmeriCares VP of Emergency Response Ella Gudwin. “Many families have lived in the same towns for generations, and

continued on page 2



AmeriCares is helping Dr. Honami Yoshida and other medical professionals care for the most vulnerable earthquake survivors

Emergency Aid for Somalia Famine



The devastating drought and famine in the Horn of Africa has forced tens of thousands to flee their homes in Somalia, walking across the desert for days in search of food and water

AmeriCares immediately rushed emergency medical aid for the thousands of starving and malnourished children and adults in Somalia this summer as the number of deaths in some parts of the embattled African nation reached famine proportions. We were among the first relief groups to send aid directly into Mogadishu, a dangerous place for aid organizations, but one of the neediest, with over 100,000 refugees in need of food, clean water and medical attention at the height of the crisis.

AmeriCares first aid shipment contained enough basic medicines and supplies for health clinics and mobile medical teams to treat 15,000 patients. Additional shipments followed for Somalia and neighboring Kenya, where the refugee camps have been overflowing with desperate Somali families.

“One out of every three people in Somalia is suffering from acute malnutrition, which weakens their immune systems and increases their risk of contracting disease,” said AmeriCares SVP of Global Programs Christoph Gorder. “By delivering antibiotics that fight infections, nutritional supplements and basic medicines and supplies, AmeriCares is saving countless lives.”

Donations to the Africa Disaster Relief Fund will support our lifesaving efforts in Somalia and the surrounding region.



Many of those arriving at overcrowded refugee camps are in dire need of medical assistance including babies and young children especially at risk



From the President & CEO

Dear Friends,

First the tragic Japan tsunami and earthquake destroyed entire towns and claimed thousands of lives in an instant. Then a series of deadly tornadoes tore through the United States, flattening homes and leveling communities from the Midwest to New England. And just when it seemed it could not get any worse, our focus shifted to the famine in Somalia.

Disasters have been relentless in recent months – both man-made and acts of nature. Thanks to your generous support, we had the resources to swiftly respond to all of these emergencies and more with lifesaving medicines and relief supplies. Meanwhile, we continued our ongoing work delivering medical aid overseas and here in the U.S., supporting volunteer doctors providing charitable care and operating our health clinics in Connecticut and El Salvador.

It is only because of you that we can deliver critically needed aid for the headline-making disasters, as well as the daily emergencies in the developing world that often go unnoticed. Together, we are restoring health and saving lives.

With sincere appreciation,

Curtis R. Welling

Improving Nutrition for Children in Vietnam

While life is much better for many Vietnamese children today than it was just two decades ago, one-third of children under age 5 are stunted as a result of chronic malnutrition, and about 20 percent of all children are underweight and malnourished.

That's why AmeriCares, Abbott, the Abbott Fund and the Giao Diem Humanitarian Foundation run a preschool-based nutrition program in Vietnam for children under age 5 who are not yet part of government-sponsored school lunch plans. The program, which began in 2005 with 372 children, has since grown to include 3,200 preschoolers in some of the most remote and impoverished areas of the country. Twice a day, students are served peanut-fortified soy milk prepared daily by preschool staff. Each child's height, weight and iron levels are monitored throughout the year.



Children in the program receive nutritious soy milk twice a day

When the program started, 40 percent of participating children were malnourished. Today, the initiative has successfully cut that rate to 16 percent.

After three years in the program, 5-year-old Mi Tien has shown impressive height and weight gains, and her parents report she is more energetic and active. Mi was the first in her family of rural rice farmers in Quang Tri province to benefit from the nutrition program. After seeing Mi's achievements, her parents enrolled her 3-year-old brother.

"The soy milk is delicious, and when I drink both cups, I feel full and good," she said.

During the rainy season, when soy milk production is limited, participants receive Abbott's pediatric nutritional supplement PediaSure® to help maintain their nutritional and health gains.

Japan continued from page 1

starting over will take an emotional toll on top of the trauma they have already suffered."

AmeriCares is funding programs that support the mental well-being of survivors, including training to help teachers, parents, and relief workers identify signs of distress and depression.



Photo by Ramona Bajema/AmeriCares

An AmeriCares relief worker surveys the damage in Ishinomaki

We are also funding vehicles to transport counselors providing mental health services in schools and shelters in the hardest-hit regions.

To ensure the availability of medical and dental care in the new, temporary communities the government is building for survivors, AmeriCares is constructing and equipping clinics. And for families whose homes are still standing but are uninhabitable due to tsunami sludge and debris, AmeriCares is supporting volunteer teams assisting the clean up.

Our emergency response experts will be working in Japan for up to three years, helping survivors recover as they rebuild their communities and their lives.

AmeriCares Japan relief work focuses on:

- Restoring and expanding health care services;
- Supporting mental health and counseling services; and
- Assisting evacuee resettlement.

HERE AT HOME



Over \$2 Million in Aid for U.S. Disasters

AmeriCares responded to the deadly tornadoes, wildfires and massive floods that wreaked havoc all across the United States in recent months with medical aid, clean water and personal hygiene products for survivors.

Within days of the May 22 tornado in Joplin, Missouri that killed more than 150 people and destroyed 6,000 homes – one of the deadliest on record in the U.S. – we delivered medicines and supplies for chronically ill survivors, along with vaccines to protect survivors from contracting tetanus while salvaging their belongings from the rubble.

And in Smithville, Miss., where a tornado in late April ripped the roof off a free clinic, AmeriCares funded a temporary structure and delivered medicines and supplies to allow it to continue operating while the facility is rebuilt.

In the first six months of 2011, AmeriCares delivered over \$2 million in aid for disaster survivors in 11 states.



Photo by Debbi Morello

AmeriCares distributed tetanus shots and bottled water for relief workers clearing the rubble after the Joplin tornado in May

In addition to responding to emergencies, AmeriCares supports more than 300 U.S. health clinics with regular deliveries of medicines and medical supplies.

★ *Planned Giving* Investing in Saving Lives

For more than a decade, Dr. John Swanson, an acclaimed engineer and successful entrepreneur, has been a strong AmeriCares supporter. He has always been impressed with our efficiency and the “return on investment” – our ability to deliver \$35,000 worth of aid for every \$1,000 donated.



Photo courtesy of John Swanson

John and Janet Swanson established a gift annuity with AmeriCares

For more information about gift annuities, bequests or other planned gifts, contact Malaine Miller at (203) 658-9634 or mmiller@AmeriCares.org

When he and his wife, Janet, thought about what they wanted their legacy to be, AmeriCares was an early choice. The Swansons recently established a charitable gift annuity with AmeriCares that provides them with stable, guaranteed income for the rest of their lives.

“It matters to us that this philanthropic investment will ultimately help save the lives of people who lack the basic medicines they need to survive,” John Swanson said.

It’s part of their strategy to give the remainder of their estate to charity, after providing for their three sons.

“It’s time to give back,” John Swanson said. “Our children have all that they need, and you can’t take it with you.”

Partner in Profile: Bristol-Myers Squibb

About 2 million health care workers worldwide are stuck by needles or experience accidents on the job involving dangerous hospital waste every year. In an effort to reduce their risk of contracting life-threatening diseases, the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, through its Delivering Hope program that focuses on Hepatitis B and C in Asia, recently awarded a \$144,500 grant to AmeriCares India to launch a health worker safety program at Jagjivan Ram Railway Hospital in Mumbai. The three-year campaign aims to reduce the rate of needle stick injuries through increased awareness, improved safety supplies and techniques, and by strengthening standard operating procedures at the 330-bed specialty care hospital.

“Training in safe medical practices and protecting against highly infectious diseases like Hepatitis B and HIV are critical to safeguarding the health of medical workers,” said Dr. Purvish Parikh, VP and managing director of AmeriCares India. “Our goal is to achieve a 90 percent improvement in Hepatitis B vaccinations, a reduction in needle stick injuries and, based upon our findings, develop standard training modules and procedures that will be shared with other hospitals.”

The health worker safety program is just one of the ways the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation and Bristol-Myers Squibb, a global biopharmaceutical company, has supported AmeriCares since 1986. The company has a long history with all of AmeriCares major programs, from disaster response and ongoing medical aid deliveries to supporting volunteer doctors traveling overseas to provide charitable care. Over the years, Bristol-Myers Squibb has donated \$287 million in medicines to AmeriCares for people in need in 119 countries.



PHOTO GALLERY

Welcome to a kaleidoscope view of AmeriCares moments around the world



Above: Margarite, age 3, pictured with her grandmother, receives treatment for a kidney infection at a children's hospital AmeriCares supports in Managua, Nicaragua

Below: Nurse Mary Crittenden examines 2-year-old patient Alexia at the Ubi Caritas Clinic in Beaumont, Texas, which receives donated medicines and medical supplies from AmeriCares U.S. Medical Assistance Program



Above top right: A mother and child in Peru wait to be examined by a medical brigade supported by AmeriCares

Above: Flood survivors in Pakistan carry home relief supplies from AmeriCares

Photo credits (clockwise from top left): Lily Bower/AmeriCares; Lily Bower/AmeriCares; Riaz Khalil/AmeriCares; David Snyder

Places Receiving AmeriCares Aid Last Quarter

Afghanistan • Armenia • Bangladesh • Belize • Bolivia • Brazil
 Cambodia • Cameroon • Chile • China • Colombia • Congo Republic
 Costa Rica • Dominican Republic • Ecuador • El Salvador • Eritrea
 Ethiopia • Ghana • Guatemala • Guyana • Haiti • Honduras • India
 Iraq • Jamaica • Japan • Kenya • Laos • Lebanon • Liberia • Libya
 Malawi • Mali • Mexico • Mongolia • Mozambique • Nepal
 Nicaragua • Nigeria • North Korea • Pakistan • Palestinian Territories
 Panama • Papua New Guinea • Paraguay • Peru • Philippines
 Poland • Romania • Russia • Sierra Leone • St. Vincent and
 the Grenadines • Sudan • Tanzania • Togo • Trinidad • Tunisia
 Uganda • United States • Uzbekistan • Vietnam • Zambia

Connect with Us:  

AmeriCares
 ★★★★★

AmeriCares is a nonprofit global health and disaster relief organization which delivers medicines, medical supplies and aid to people in crisis around the world and across the United States.

88 Hamilton Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902
 Phone: (203) 658-9500 or 1-800-486-HELP

www.AmeriCares.org

Editor: Donna Porstner

E-mail: editor@AmeriCares.org

