

## “Thank You” From a Healthy Patient



Photos courtesy of Caribbean Heart Menders

A year after repairing Raniel’s heart defect, volunteer surgeons returned to check on their young patient and found a boy transformed.

The thin lad who had sat on the sidelines was about to be a class leader at his school. And his ambitions didn’t stop there: “I’d like to be a lawyer or a judge,” the 13-year-old says.

Before his surgery, Raniel’s heart defect limited his dreams for the future — and his ability to keep up with his peers. A volunteer cardiac surgery team using donated medicines and surgical supplies from AmeriCares traveled to Kingston,



Jamaica, and successfully repaired Raniel’s heart in July 2012. A year later, he can be as active as he likes. “Things I could never do before, I can do them now,” Raniel says, “like football (soccer), athletics and cricket.”

The Caribbean Heart Menders team that operated on Raniel travels to Bustamante Hospital for Children in Kingston each year, performing surgeries with supplies and medicines from AmeriCares at no cost to patients. Raniel’s family could not afford surgery for his life-threatening condition; this volunteer team was their only option. With each visit, the team also provides staff training and follow-up care.

The surgery team that helped Raniel is just one of nearly 1,000 volunteer medical teams that use donated medicines and supplies from AmeriCares to provide charitable health care in more than 75 countries each year. In 2013, these skilled teams performed more than 40,000 surgical procedures, from simple repairs to the complex surgery that changed Raniel’s life.

Raniel has a message for his doctors and the donors who make their trips possible. “Thanks to them all and continue for the rest of the children!”

After his heart surgery, Raniel received hugs from his volunteer medical team and his mother (top). Raniel, one year later (above). Survivors of Typhoon Haiyan (right) will need medical aid for months to come.

## Crisis Update: Philippines Super Typhoon

With donations of crucial medicines, AmeriCares is responding to the powerful typhoon that ripped through the Philippines on November 8, devastating the coastline. Thousands are dead and more than 650,000 are homeless. Hospitals in the hardest hit areas were overwhelmed with injured survivors, and many health centers ran out of medicines and supplies within a day of the storm.

With ongoing support from donors, AmeriCares maintains emergency medical modules in our Amsterdam warehouse. We immediately released two modules and delivered more than \$1 million in aid, with enough medicine for 20,000 survivors, including antibiotics and wound care supplies. We gave our Filipino partner funds to locally purchase crucial relief items. Our Emergency Response team is in the Philippines, working with our Filipino partners.

“This work will continue for months to come,” says Garrett Ingoglia, vice president of emergency response. “We will use our resources to help those that need it most.”



Photo by Mark W. Dermott/AmeriCares



## From the President and CEO

Dear Friends,

I am honored to report that because of your generosity, AmeriCares has never been stronger, nor in a better position, to help many more people live healthier lives.

Our immediate shipments of aid to survivors of the destructive and deadly Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines are made possible because of your support. Our Annual Emergency Response Partners make an investment each year to ensure that we have critical emergency medicines stocked in our warehouses. And each year, more than 50,000 donors like you trust us to use their resources where they are needed most.

Your donations are saving lives today in the Philippines and for that, we are truly grateful.

While we are responding to Typhoon Haiyan, our ongoing work continues. Thanks to you, in this past year we delivered enough medicine to fill 14 million prescriptions for people in need in 91 countries.

This is the season of giving, when we express our care for others. Because of your generosity, AmeriCares is now able to help more people in more ways than ever before. I thank you for your support this past year and know that, together, we can continue our work in 2014.

With gratitude,

Curtis R. Welling  
President and CEO

## A Milestone of Health in India's Slums

Every two weeks, Ramlal gets his blood pressure checked at the AmeriCares India mobile medical clinic near his home in the slums of Mumbai. In October, the 49-year-old security guard was greeted with flowers: Ramlal's visit was the 100,000th since AmeriCares India began the mobile clinic program in January 2011.

AmeriCares India now sends four mobile medical clinics into Mumbai slum neighborhoods six days a week. Each van brings a doctor, two health workers and a pharmacy worker, and offers primary care and health education. More than 9 million people live in Mumbai's slums, which have few services.

AmeriCares India doctors diagnosed Ramlal with hypertension two years ago and provide him with medication and lifestyle counseling. "AmeriCares is doing a great service to the community," says Ramlal. "If not for AmeriCares, I would have lived with undiagnosed hypertension all my life."

With support from donors, AmeriCares plans to add more mobile medical clinics in 2014. Long lines outside the mobile clinics show the need for the quality care they provide.



## Donation Protects Newborns

Happy to have safely given birth, Marieme had one nagging concern: Would her newborn become infected with the hepatitis B virus? Marieme herself has chronic hepatitis B (HBV) and knew that she could pass the virus to her child.

Marieme's doctor at St. Christopher Iba Mar Diop Medical School in Dakar, Senegal, surprised her with good news: Her newborn could be treated with HyperHEP B® S/D (hepatitis B immune globulin [human]) during the first day of his life. AmeriCares provided the HyperHEP immune globulin, which was donated by Grifols. In Senegal, newborns of HBV-infect mothers are usually given only HBV vaccine. In addition to the HyperHEP, Marieme's baby will also receive the complete hepatitis B vaccine series. This combination of immune globulin and

vaccine is 85 to 95 percent effective in preventing both acute and chronic HBV infection - more effective than the vaccine alone. "This product will better the health of my child, as well as the quality of life for my family," says Marieme. "This gives us peace of mind that my baby will grow in good health."

Experts estimate 60 to 80 percent of people with hepatitis B were infected at birth. Left untreated, hepatitis B infection can cause liver disease that may lead to cirrhosis, liver failure or cancer. In its early stages, there are few or no symptoms.



Photo courtesy of Diouf Ndeye Coumba Ndam M.D.

Ramlal receives care for hypertension at one of AmeriCares four mobile medical clinics (top). Newborns in Dakar, Senegal (above), receive quality care thanks to donations from AmeriCares.



# Partner in Profile: OdysseyRe



OdysseyRe supports the vital work we do in all of our core programs: global medical assistance, primary care and emergency response and recovery. Since 2007, OdysseyRe has donated nearly \$4 million in funding to support the AmeriCares Free Clinics in Connecticut, AmeriCares India, international disaster relief, and medical aid deliveries to clinics serving people in need in the U.S. and around the world.

The leading worldwide underwriter of property and casualty reinsurance and specialty insurance recently reaffirmed its support with a five-year, \$2 million commitment that includes funding to expand our work in the U.S. with the opening of our fourth free clinic in Connecticut. OdysseyRe also became an Annual Emergency Response Partner in 2013, providing consistent, reliable support that allows our experts to respond to disasters, conduct needs assessments, pre-position relief supplies in disaster-prone areas and stock emergency medicines in AmeriCares warehouses all over the globe.

“OdysseyRe is remarkable in that it supports every facet of our work,” says AmeriCares Vice President of Institutional Relations Diana Maguire. “During major emergencies their employees are also quick to lend a hand, answering phones or helping in our warehouse. We couldn’t ask for a better partner.”

## Voices from the Field: Intensive Care

*AmeriCares Senior Associate Dmitriy Popov travels throughout Eurasia to meet with local health partners and learn more about their needs. Recently, Dmitriy visited the Tashkent Regional Branch of the Republican Scientific Center for Emergency Medicine in Chirchik, Uzbekistan.*

Chirchik is about 20 miles north of the capital city of Tashkent. The hospital here is typical for Uzbekistan — patients receive care and basic medicines for free, but must pay for any sophisticated medicines, which are in short supply and can be expensive. AmeriCares has been donating medicines to Uzbekistan since 1997.

On my last visit, I met a patient who was memorable for his gratitude: This gentleman had been in his orchard picking cherries for his grandchildren when the bench he was standing on gave way. His daughter called an ambulance; he was rushed to the hospital and had surgery for internal injuries. Luckily for him and other surgery patients that day, the hospital had received a shipment of IV fluids from AmeriCares. These fluids are crucial during and after surgery. His daughter, a nurse, was relieved the needed medicines were available and at no cost. With a proper fluid balance, this Chirchik grandfather will likely recover faster. Last year, AmeriCares sent nearly 3 million units of medical supplies to Uzbekistan, including this IV solution. Meeting this patient and his daughter, I was reminded how important each donation is.



# Make the Most of Your Giving

Your gift to others can be tax-smart, especially if you make it by the end of the year.

**Give securities:** If you choose to donate appreciated securities you have owned for more than one year, you can avoid capital gains taxes and take a deduction for the entire fair market value.

**Make a tax-free gift through your IRA:** Transfer funds from your individual retirement account and receive important tax savings.

**Donate a vehicle:** If you have a car, boat, motorcycle or RV you no longer use, consider donating it to AmeriCares and take a deduction. Learn more at [americares.org/cars](http://americares.org/cars) or call 855.970.4483.

**Establish a charitable gift annuity:** A gift annuity with AmeriCares will provide you with guaranteed payments at favorable rates for your lifetime.



**“The purpose of life is a life of purpose, and AmeriCares is part of that purpose for me.”**

—Mary Thielemier, AmeriCares donor

### Contact us for details.

[mmiller@americares.org](mailto:mmiller@americares.org)

203.658.9634

[americares.org/giftplanning](http://americares.org/giftplanning)

*This information is not intended as legal or tax advice.*

Our Annual Emergency Response Partners ensure that we can immediately purchase relief supplies wherever disaster strikes, as we did for the Typhoon Haiyan disaster in the Philippines (top). Recovering from surgery, this grandfather in Uzbekistan receives IV fluids donated by AmeriCares (above).



## Your Donations at Work in 66 Countries

With your help, between July 1 and Sept. 30, AmeriCares sent medicines and medical supplies to the following countries:

Afghanistan	Democratic Republic of Congo	Fiji	Jordan	Myanmar	Philippines	Syria
Argentina	Congo	Ghana	Kenya	Nepal	Poland	Tanzania
Armenia	Costa Rica	Guatemala	Lebanon	Nicaragua	Romania	Thailand
Belize	Dominican Republic	Guyana	Liberia	Nigeria	Russia	Togo
Bolivia	Ecuador	Haiti	Macedonia	North Korea	Rwanda	Tunisia
Cambodia	El Salvador	Honduras	Malawi	Pakistan	Senegal	Uganda
Central African Republic	Eritrea	India	Mali	Palestinian Territories	Sierra Leone	United States
China	Ethiopia	Indonesia	Mauritania	Panama	Somalia	Uzbekistan
Colombia		Jamaica	Mexico	Paraguay	South Sudan	Vietnam
		Japan	Moldova	Peru	St. Vincent	Zambia



### Honduras

Photo courtesy of Light of the World Charities

**Honduras:** Dr. Michael Lustgarten meets with one of the 379 patients his medical team saw last year at Centro Medico San Benito Jose in Comayagua, Honduras. AmeriCares donated medicines and supplies, enabling the team to perform 120 free surgeries for patients in need.

**United States:** A high school student receives a school physical at the Bob Macauley AmeriCares Free Clinic of Norwalk, one of the nearly 800 low-income uninsured patients who received free care there last year.



### United States



### Philippines

Photo by Matt McDermott/AmeriCares

**Philippines:** Survivors of Typhoon Haiyan line up in Guiuan, Eastern Samar, the Philippines. More than 4.4 million people have been displaced by the massive storm.

**Haiti:** Remicilia depends on AmeriCares partner Real Hope for Haiti to monitor her blood pressure near her home in Cazale. AmeriCares continues to strengthen health care systems in Haiti, which were devastated by the 2010 earthquake there.



### Haiti

Photo by Matt McDermott/AmeriCares


# AmeriCares

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

88 Hamilton Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902  
203.658.9500 | 1.800.486.HELP | [americares.org](http://americares.org)  
Editor: Kathy Kukula, [editor@americares.org](mailto:editor@americares.org)

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