

AmeriCares®



SPRING/SUMMER 2009

Fighting Cholera in Zimbabwe



Photo courtesy of PSI

A PŪR demonstration in Zimbabwe

In the midst of political and economic collapse, Zimbabwe is facing yet another crisis: Africa's worst cholera outbreak in 15 years.

More than 90,000 people have been infected and over 4,000 have died since the outbreak began in August, and as the rainy season approaches the threat intensifies. Patients with the most severe infections lie on makeshift cots in constant pain from violent abdominal cramping.

With limited medical resources and dismal sanitation, Zimbabweans have almost no protection against the disease, which is spread by exposure to unsanitary water. Without treatment, cholera patients experience severe diarrhea and can die of dehydration.

AmeriCares is working to deliver urgently needed medicines and relief supplies. To ensure families have access to clean water, AmeriCares and Procter & Gamble recently delivered more than

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Uninsured Patients Pack U.S. Clinics



Photo by Matthew McDermott

A patient is examined at a West Virginia clinic AmeriCares supports with donations of medicines and supplies

It seems like every time you turn on the television or open a newspaper there's more bad news about the economy. As more and more Americans lose their jobs and health benefits, they are turning to nonprofit health clinics for care.

New patients are flocking to these clinics all across

the U.S., and AmeriCares is supplying critically needed medicines and supplies to meet the demand. Over the past two years we've provided \$36 million worth of medical assistance to more than 150 clinics and community health centers serving the uninsured and underinsured.

Our work is helping

patients like Linda Smith, a 59-year-old retiree raising two grandchildren, who is battling a variety of health problems, and Valerie Joyner, 37, a dollar store clerk earning \$6.55 an hour who needs \$700 worth of diabetes medicines each month.

Like many Americans without health insurance, Linda and Valerie rely on these clinics, which are free or charge nominal fees, for their medical care. West Virginia Health Right in the heart of Appalachia, where Linda is a patient, relies on donations from AmeriCares to meet the needs of its growing patient population. New patients are coming in at a rate of about 50 each week – almost all newly unemployed – said Executive Director Patricia Holmes White.

Over the past two years, AmeriCares has provided

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Emergency Airlift for Darfur Refugees

AmeriCares recently delivered \$1.4 million worth of lifesaving medicines and medical supplies to Chad for Sudanese families crossing the border in search of food, medicine and safety.

The expulsion of humanitarian aid organizations from the Darfur region of Sudan in early March abruptly cut off more than half of the aid for the region, where more than 2 million people rely on food and medicines from aid programs for survival. In spite of the difficult circumstances, AmeriCares

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Photo by Matthew McDermott

The emergency airlift aided Darfur refugees living in Chad



From the Founder

To All AmeriCares Partners,
None of us – neither you nor I – ever expected the mission of AmeriCares to be easy. Facing the suffering and delivering desperately needed aid always demands our deep compassion, intense effort and ongoing support. Let us stay resolved in our purpose and not be diminished during this economic downturn. That’s why we must call upon you, our friends, to continue your help.

Over the past 27-plus years, our outreach has greatly widened and the number of lives saved has multiplied into the millions. Naturally, our responsibilities have increased accordingly. Many more shipments of medical supplies will be necessary to save precious human lives. Of course we are experiencing difficulties at home, too. Our community programs will require much more support as needs grow. What an obligation we share now that AmeriCares has become a major supplier of critical aid, both here in the U.S. and around the world!

In the midst of uncertain times, let us not forget those in jeopardy. May we always be able to honor our commitments. As Dr. Albert Schweitzer said, “You must give some time to your fellow man... For remember, you don’t live in a world all your own. Your brothers are here, too.”

In hope and gratitude,

Bob Macauley



James Reed
AmeriCares Free Clinic, Bridgeport, Connecticut



Jean Cozzens
Rhode Island Free Clinic
Providence, Rhode Island



Lewis Taylor
West Virginia Health Right Clinic
Charleston, West Virginia

Faces of the

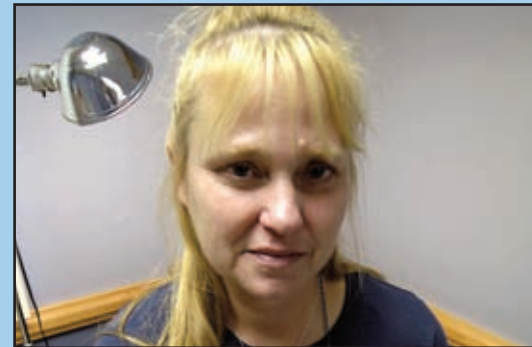
They suffer from diabetes, asthma and heart disease. They are the working poor struggling to make ends meet. They live in small towns and big cities in 35 states. These are the faces of the uninsured with deliveries of medicines to health clinics in rural areas all across the country.

From our home state of Connecticut to Kentucky, in between, AmeriCares is working to keep the uninsured healthy. Our organization has delivered \$36 million in medicines serving our low-income patients.

Patients of these AmeriCares-supported clinics receive care for chronic illnesses, vaccinations and pre-emptive care all free or for a nominal fee. The average family income is less than \$44,100 a year. Many travel several hours to these clinics, many would have to rely on hospital care.

In Connecticut, AmeriCares operates 10 free clinics. The clinics, which are run with the help of volunteers, provide \$3.7 million in free care, including diagnostic tests and prescriptions.

In addition, AmeriCares Patient Assistance programs help fill prescriptions for cancer, hepatitis, diabetes and other chronic conditions. Last year alone, our Patient Assistance program provided prescription drugs for Americans with chronic conditions.



Carla Lewis
Health Access, Inc.
Clarksburg, West Virginia

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Health Right with \$2.5 million in lifesaving medications – including many expensive brand-name drugs the clinic cannot afford to purchase.

“Without these donations the patients we serve would be forced to go without, putting their lives in grave danger,” White said. “Putting their lives in jeopardy because they cannot afford a life-sustaining medication is not an option we should ever have to consider. Thanks to AmeriCares we don’t have to make that choice.”

In addition to our commitment to Americans across the country, AmeriCares is equally committed to neighbors in our own backyard. Since 1994 we have been operating free clinics for the uninsured in Connecticut. All three clinic locations have been bustling since the economy began to falter in the late summer and early fall. Patient visits increased 21 percent from 2007 to 2008.

Dina Valenti, who runs the AmeriCares Free Clinic in Danbury, Conn., said her clinic has seen a steady influx of new patients who have recently lost jobs, or are self-employed, and can no longer afford doctor visits.

“We’re seeing six, seven, eight new patients each clinic session, whereas before, we could go days without seeing a new patient,” Valenti said. “Almost every day we are seeing patients who have been delaying care and ignoring symptoms because they fear they can’t afford treatment.”

It’s unclear when the economy will recover. No matter how long it takes, AmeriCares will be there to help the uninsured in Connecticut and across the nation stay healthy.

e Uninsured

art problems. They are the unemployed and meet. They come from rural areas, suburban the men and women AmeriCares is assisting ics serving the uninsured and underinsured United States.

entucky, West Virginia, Alaska and points Americans healthy. Over the past two years, worth of lifesaving medicines to U.S. clinics me neighbors in need.

inics receive preventive care, treatment for loyment physicals that help them get jobs – family of four served by these facilities earns ral hours to get the care they need. Without spital emergency rooms for their health care.

s three free clinics for the uninsured. help of 400 volunteers, provide nearly ostic testing and specialty care, annually.

Program helps U.S. residents in all 50 states abetes and other life-threatening diseases.

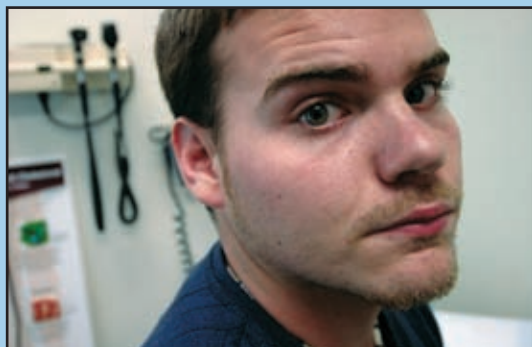
Program helped deliver nearly 190,000 ho cannot afford their medications.



Cirley Damasceno
AmeriCares Free Clinic, Danbury, Connecticut



Parker Tallman
AmeriCares Free Clinic
Danbury, Connecticut



Anthony Young
West Virginia Health Right Clinic
Charleston, West Virginia



Martha Lavieri
Rhode Island Free Clinic
Providence, Rhode Island

Top left photo by Chris Rowan; all other photos by Matthew McDermott



From the President & CEO

Dear Friends,

AmeriCares is best known for its international work: responding to the deadly cholera outbreak in Zimbabwe, our deliveries of essential medicines to cyclone-ravaged Myanmar and our Darfur airlifts. Nonetheless, we are equally committed to those in need here at home.

As more Americans fall victim to the global economic crisis, losing their jobs and their health insurance, AmeriCares is ramping up its work with the uninsured in the U.S. We have increased the volume of medicines we send to health clinics that serve the uninsured and underinsured in 35 states. Closer to home, we have expanded one of our free clinics in Connecticut.

Recently, I had the pleasure of meeting with donors in Florida and California and their enthusiasm reaffirmed the strong support AmeriCares has from coast to coast. In these challenging times I am inspired by supporters with such a steadfast belief in our mission. With your help we will make it through this difficult time and make lives a little healthier and happier along the way – both around the world and around the corner.

With sincere appreciation,

Curtis R. Welling

Donate Your Frequent Flier Miles



Here at AmeriCares we take great pride in our ability to respond quickly in times of disaster. But transporting our emergency response experts to the scene can be costly – especially when travel plans are made on a moment's notice. That's why we depend on supporters like you to donate frequent flier miles. Every United Airlines, Continental Airlines and Northwest Airlines mile donated allows us to allocate more resources to sending lifesaving medicines and supplies to people suffering here at home and around the globe.

To learn more about donating miles, visit these websites or call the numbers listed below:

United Mileage Plus
Charity Miles Program
www.united.com
(800) 421-4655

Continental OnePass
Frequent Flyer Program
www.continental.com
(713) 952-1630

Northwest
AirCares Program
www.nwa.com
(800) 327-2881

Partner in Profile: sanofi-aventis U.S.

Several years ago, a neurosurgeon supported by AmeriCares Medical Outreach Program removed a brain tumor from an 8-year-old girl in Honduras. Unfortunately, because of how the tumor was positioned, Marcela had permanent endocrine dysfunction that left her unable to control her urine.

But thanks to the medicine Marcela received from AmeriCares and sanofi-aventis U.S., today she's a healthy, happy teenager leading a normal life. The desmopressin acetate she received, known as DDAVP, is a synthetic hormone that keeps the problem in check. It's a life-changing prescription medication that her family of modest means could never afford to purchase.

Marcela's inspiring story is just one example of how AmeriCares and sanofi-aventis U.S. partner to improve lives all over the globe. Since 1999 sanofi-aventis U.S. (formed by the merger of Sanofi Synthelabo and Aventis) has donated \$94.5 million worth of medicines and supplies to AmeriCares for people in need worldwide – including \$10 million worth of DDAVP. The company's product donations have reached recipients in 75 countries including Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe and Liberia.

When massive flooding recently cut off access to food and medicines in Haiti, sanofi-aventis U.S. was swift to respond to an appeal for donations. The company shipped \$42,000 worth of its Lasix tablets, which are used to treat high blood pressure and kidney problems, directly to Miami where AmeriCares was preparing an emergency airlift for the more than 800,000 people affected.

"Lasix is one of the most highly sought-after medicines in the aftermath of emergencies, and sanofi-aventis U.S. goes above and beyond to ensure it gets into the hands of those who need it most," said Randy Weiss of AmeriCares Corporate Relations Department. "We're able to improve the lives of so many of the world's most vulnerable people because of partners like sanofi-aventis U.S."

Photo courtesy of Fundación Juan Felipe Gómez Escobar



A clinic in Colombia uses thermometers donated by sanofi-aventis U.S.

★ Planned Giving: Inventing a Legacy

Robert Wade Sibole was an inventor at heart. His grandfather worked for Thomas Edison and tinkering was in his blood. He spent many years perfecting a tool that repairs the threads on damaged bolts, and he was determined to make it a success.

But by the early 1980s boxes of his unsold inventions were piling up in his Maryland home. He was middle-aged and almost destitute, getting by on money his family sent and food neighbors brought over. It wasn't until he sold one of his gadgets to the military in the early 1990s that his business took off.

"First he repaid everyone he owed with interest," said his friend and business partner Steve Braun. "Then he began giving his money away to charity, mostly anonymously."

Sibole helped babies born with cleft palates, built a playground for neighborhood children and began donating to AmeriCares – sometimes sending as many as six checks a month.

"He was a very compassionate person who knew what it was like to be down and out, and when he wasn't, he felt a sense of obligation to help those less fortunate," Braun said.

When Sibole died in 2008 he left most of his estate to charity, including a generous bequest to AmeriCares.

"He's a good example of what a person ought to be in this world," said his brother, Ted Sibole. *For information about planned giving contact Barbara de Courrèges at (203) 658-9595 or bdecourreges@AmeriCares.org*



Photo courtesy of the Sibole family

Robert Wade Sibole left a generous bequest to AmeriCares in his will

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continues to work in Darfur and Chad, providing medicines and medical supplies for families living in refugee camps.

The emergency airlift contained medicines for people suffering from injuries, infections, diarrhea and chronic diseases. Prenatal vitamins that prevent birth defects and complications during childbirth were also included. A partner organization distributed the aid to clinics and hospitals in Chad serving refugees.

"Millions of innocent people are relying on us for their survival," said Curt Welling, AmeriCares President & CEO, who has led the delivery of aid since visiting the region in 2004. "Protecting Darfur's most vulnerable people is at the very heart of humanitarian aid and the mission of AmeriCares."

Since 2004, AmeriCares has completed 11 airlifts to Darfur, delivering more than \$6 million in aid. During the same period, AmeriCares delivered over \$4 million worth of medicines and supplies to Chad.

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1 million packets of PÜR™ Purifier of Water to Zimbabwe. PÜR is a powder that when mixed with even the filthiest water, removes pollutants, viruses and bacteria – including bacteria that cause cholera. The PÜR, along with Purell® hand sanitizer donated by Johnson & Johnson Consumer Products Company, is expected to stem the spread of the disease.

AmeriCares also delivered IV fluids and solutions that help patients recover from serious dehydration. Baxter and BD donated IV solutions and supplies needed to administer IV drips from their local facilities in India. Abbott generously donated Pedialyte® to rehydrate the youngest victims of the epidemic. Children are at high risk for cholera, and, sadly, it is often most deadly for them. Children infected with cholera can become so dehydrated that their little bodies cannot even produce tears.

AmeriCares also delivered antibiotics and medicines used to treat cholera symptoms such as diarrhea, cramping and pain.

Since 1997, AmeriCares has delivered more than \$25 million in aid to the people of Zimbabwe.

AmeriCares®

AmeriCares is a nonprofit international disaster relief and humanitarian aid organization which delivers medicines, medical supplies and aid to people in crisis around the world.

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