

AmeriCares®



HUMANITARIAN LIFELINE TO THE WORLD

SPRING 2005

Tsunami Devastates South Asia



Photo by Kate Moxham

By all accounts, the morning of December 26, 2004 was a beautiful sunny day in most parts of South Asia. Fishermen cast their nets, and children played on the area's pristine beaches.

But within minutes, all vestiges of normalcy were shattered. First, the ocean

eerily receded and the water calmed. Just moments later, without warning, the water rose and the waves erupted as a massive tsunami of extraordinary power rolled over a wide swath of the Indian Ocean, causing an unprecedented toll of death and destruction. A dozen

nations – among them Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India – were struck by the tsunami which was triggered by a huge earthquake off the northern tip of the Indonesian island of Sumatra. The 9.3 quake sent massive waves across the ocean and claimed more than 154,000 lives.

Although the enormity of the event would not be measured for days, AmeriCares mobilized immediately. Within 24 hours, the organization sent a relief team to Sri Lanka, followed by an initial airlift of 30,000 pounds of medicines and medical supplies, water purification treatments and personal hygiene items.

Many of the survivors were suffering from life threatening

continued on page 2

Fighting Rotavirus In El Salvador



Photo by Hector Emmanuelli

AmeriCares responded quickly to a recent outbreak of rotavirus in El Salvador by providing medicines and medical supplies to treat more than 200,000 children infected with this deadly disease. Rotavirus is a highly infectious disease that causes severe diarrhea and vomiting which leads to dehydration. When left untreated, it can quickly cause death. Earlier this year, El Salvador was battling a serious outbreak of this disease, which killed an estimated two dozen children by mid-February and infected more than 57,500 others. The Ministry of Health estimated that there were more than 1,000 new cases being diagnosed each day.

Responding quickly to a plea from El Salvador's Ministry of Health, AmeriCares delivered 2 million packets of oral rehydration solutions for distribution to hospitals, clinics and health posts, as well as to local partner agencies. These solutions are a vital part of rehydration therapy, one of the most important treatments against rotavirus.

"Our response means that children infected with rotavirus will have a fighting chance," said Hector Emmanuelli, AmeriCares project manager. "This donation provides enough treatments to cover the next two months, which we expect is enough time to help arrest the epidemic entirely."

SPRING 2005 | www.americares.org 1

WHAT'S INSIDE...



3 Continued commitment to Sudanese

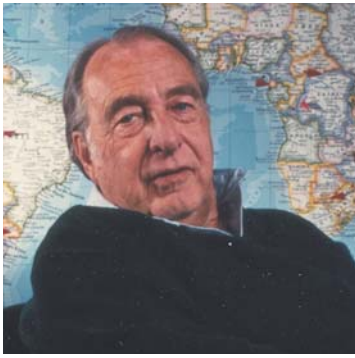


5 Bringing warmth to HomeFront



7 Reflections on Indonesia

Left photo by Ceilina de Soia; Middle photo by Chet Gordon; Right photo by Tom Turley



Tsunami

continued from page 1

injuries, including broken limbs and severe infections. Addressing these critical needs, a total of seven AmeriCares airlifts brought more than 165 tons of antibiotics, medical supplies such as sutures, surgical kits, nutritional supplements, and oral rehydration solutions to tsunami survivors in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and India. More than 1.5 million people benefited from the life-saving medicines and 2.5 million water purification treatments that AmeriCares delivered.

Long-term relief

After nearly a month of emergency efforts, the humanitarian aid focus began to shift to reconstruction. Thousands of homeless, classified as internally displaced persons, had been housed in makeshift camps throughout the region. As plans got underway for organized camps in Sri Lanka, AmeriCares stepped in to provide tents for 2,500 families. The agency also dispatched a Water Engineering Team to Sri Lanka to evaluate

long-term water needs. As a result, AmeriCares is moving ahead with eight water quality improvement projects in three districts of Sri Lanka, which will provide safe and clean water for 46,000 tsunami survivors on an ongoing basis.

Looking ahead

In Indonesia, AmeriCares learned of a critical need for malaria diagnosis and treatment. Working with MENTOR, the lead agency coordinating the malaria prevention and control campaign for the Ministry of Health, AmeriCares delivered 500,000 rapid diagnostic tests and enough medicines to treat 30,000 people. Just 10 days after

delivering these supplies, AmeriCares learned from MENTOR that 130 cases of falciparum malaria – which can be fatal – were diagnosed in a one-day campaign in Meulaboh and were receiving treatment.

In the months ahead, AmeriCares focus will be geared toward responding to immediate medical needs and helping rebuild the health care infrastructure that has been destroyed. To learn more about these efforts, log onto www.americares.org or call 1-800-486-HELP.



Photo by Chris Rowan

From the Founder

Dear Friends,
As horrifying and pervasive as the tsunami disaster is, we can feel gratitude that we were prepared and capable of instantly responding.

Emergency relief modules were in our warehouse ready for air shipment. Our team rushed to the stricken areas, and our first airlift was distributed the same week.

Meanwhile, the staff at home accelerated all their efforts and energies to secure and airlift follow-up supplies. Necessarily, this will continue as we plan for ongoing relief aid.

I welcome this letter as an opportunity to express total admiration and appreciation to Curt Welling, President and C.E.O., and all the staff for their amazing dedication and courage. You have exemplified the true meaning and purpose of AmeriCares.

Never has there been greater compassion and concern expressed by our friends like you. You have empowered us to let it be known that you care.

In gratitude,

Bob Macauley



Photo by Tom Turley



Photo by Kate Moxham

AmeriCares Continues Commitment to Sudanese Refugees

While the drama of the South Asia tsunami captured the world's attention, the humanitarian crisis in Sudan,

where a two-year-old brutal civil war has been raging in the Darfur region, continues to deteriorate. To date, some 200,000 Sudanese – mostly women and children – have left their homeland and fled across the border to neighboring Chad.

Expanding on its commitment to provide essential medicines, AmeriCares is helping to equip a hospital facility in Bahai, Chad, in a project that begins this month. This health center will provide services for the Sudanese refugee population at the Kashuni Camp.

AmeriCares is partnering on this project with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the Polish Medical Mission (PMM). AmeriCares is donating medical supplies and equipment, including 30 hospital beds, examination tables, operating room tables and lights, vital signs monitors, and a portable defibrillator. The IRC has been operational in the Bahai area since February 2004 and manages the Kashuni Camp. The PMM is providing experienced staff to start up the hospital and train local medical and administrative staff.

The hospital project is a natural evolution



Photo by Ceilina de Sola

for AmeriCares, which has been providing essential medicines to the refugees in Chad since its first airlift in May 2004. Subsequent airlifts to Chad delivered more urgently needed aid to treat diarrhea, dehydration and respiratory diseases, including antibiotics, rehydration solutions and water purification packets. In October 2004, AmeriCares flew its first relief flight directly into Darfur, Sudan, providing essential medicines to the health facilities and clinics serving the displaced Sudanese there. A second airlift into Darfur will take place in March.




From the President

Dear Friends,
It is now crystal clear: The December 26 tsunami was a disaster that was unprecedented in the magnitude of the devastation, the geographic scope and the millions of people affected. While these are sadly negative distinctions, the tsunami also resulted in one very positive event: an extra-ordinarily charitable response by the American people.

To date, AmeriCares has received more than \$35 million in gifts and pledges that will be dedicated to tsunami relief. This amount reflects an unparalleled act of giving that encompasses contributions large and small. Individuals, community groups, foundations and corporations made donations ranging from a few dollars to \$1 million, each and every gift an illustration of the profound wishes of the American people to reach out and help. We are humbled and honored by the trust our donors have shown in us by choosing AmeriCares.

We are also excited about the amount of good work that can be done with such a large amount of money. The rebuilding of health care infrastructure, the provision of safe and clean drinking water for thousands, the gift of essential medicines where they are most needed, all of these are made possible due to your compassion. We look forward to telling you more about how your gifts are making a difference in the months to come.

With sincere appreciation,


Curtis R. Welling



Published quarterly for our supporters.

AmeriCares is a nonprofit disaster relief and humanitarian aid organization which provides immediate response to emergency medical needs—and supports long-term humanitarian assistance programs—for all people around the world irrespective of race, creed or political persuasion. In the U.S. AmeriCares provides basic medical services for the uninsured, refurbishes the homes of the physically and financially disadvantaged and gives a summer camping experience to inner-city children with HIV/AIDS. Since it was established in 1982, AmeriCares has distributed more than \$4 billion in humanitarian aid to 137 countries.



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PROGRAMS AT HOME

AMERICARES FREE CLINICS



America's Silent Disaster: The Crisis of the Uninsured

Imagine if every person living in the states of California, Connecticut and New Jersey were living without health insurance.

Think of their hardships – children wouldn't start the school year on time because of an inability to get school physicals; diabetics wouldn't have access to life saving medicines, leading to serious, life-threatening complications. Think it's impossible for this to happen? Think again, because there are more than 45 million Americans living without health insurance today – a number that equals the combined populations of California, Connecticut and New Jersey.

This spring, for the second year in a row, America's health care crisis will be spotlighted during "Cover the Uninsured Week," May 1-8. Proponents of this national movement will work with individuals and communities across the country to affect change. Change is sorely needed. The lack of affordable health insurance impacts every American because those who are uninsured cost our economy \$40 billion a year in uncompensated care, which comes back to us all in the form

of increased taxes, health insurance premiums and higher medical care costs.

AmeriCares Free Clinics offers relief to uninsured patients in Fairfield County, Connecticut, who would otherwise be turned away from treatment. Since we opened our first clinic in 1994, we have delivered more than \$10 million in services to the uninsured population in our area.

While we are not a solution to the problem of the uninsured, we are doing our



Photo by Chris Rowan

part in our own community. There are another 44 million people who still need help.

To learn more about this issue, log onto www.covertheuninsured.org. We can either let millions of our neighbors live without health care, or we can do something about it.

**By Karen Gottlieb, RN, BA
Executive Director,
AmeriCares Free Clinics**

CAMP AMERIKIDS



Caring Doctor Ensures Fun Respite for Summer Campers

An estimated 20,000 children across the United States are living with HIV/AIDS.

Ten years ago, kids who were diagnosed with this illness weren't given much hope, but rapid advancements in treatment and health care services have changed that. Today,

children are among those who are living longer, more active lives with HIV/AIDS, presenting the challenge of how to support their special needs as they deal with their illness.

One of those at the forefront of meeting this challenge is Dr. Robert Bristow, medical director of Camp AmeriKids. "Dr. Rob," as he is known in the camp community, has been

involved with camp since 1996, taking on his present role over the past several years. According to Paige Granger, the camp's executive director, Dr. Bristow is largely responsible for the high professional standards of the camp's medical component.

"Dr. Rob has been an enormous asset in ensuring the success of Camp AmeriKids, by providing excellence in medical care for our campers," said Granger. "He ensures that our kids have the most professional, caring environment possible when they are away from home and he is always working to see that the program improves. Dr. Bristow, through his affiliation with Columbia University,

has made this partnership flourish," said Granger.

Camp AmeriKids has been reaching out to inner-city kids infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS since 1995, offering a traditional summer camp experience that is also a respite from the difficulties of their everyday lives. Structured yet fun activities help build self-confidence, friendships and independence for children whose lives are often too consumed by their special medical needs.

This year, Camp AmeriKids will celebrate its tenth anniversary. To find out how you can volunteer or make a contribution to Camp AmeriKids, visit www.campamerikids.org or call 1-800-486-HELP (4357).



Photo by Rebecca Leiz



Donors Warm Up to Heating Projects

Each spring, AmeriCares HomeFront tackles an estimated 100 home repair projects that revitalize the homes of people in need throughout Connecticut and parts of New York.

Dedicated professionals and other volunteers join together to install new roofs and windows, make complex electrical and plumbing repairs and construct handicap access ramps. Prior to this year, homeowners requiring heating repairs were unable to receive assistance, due to mandatory safety regulations requiring the use of licensed technicians and installers. In addition, the cost of the heating equipment and related materials are particularly expensive.

This year, help is on the way, thanks to the generosity of a new financial donor and a long-term local supporter. A \$25,000 grant from the Norbert H. Hardner Foundation has given HomeFront the means to purchase new furnaces, boilers and other heating and hot water making materials. The local supporter, Heating Oil Partners, L.P. of Darien, CT, has agreed to provide the necessary technical support, and will purchase and install the new equipment. Without their assistance, this type of work would otherwise be impossible, due to the licensing and safety code requirements.

Heating repairs are particularly valuable because heating is a crucial expense in the lives of low-income homeowners.

A recent study found that these households spent much more of their income on energy bills than middle-class families. Low-income homeowners have fewer resources to begin with, making it all but impossible for them to save enough money to repair a faulty heating unit. For example, the average annual income of HomeFront's 2004 beneficiaries was just under \$18,000, while the average cost of replacing a



The professional technicians from "This Old House" repaired a heating system in 2003. Volunteers from the Connecticut Refining Co. (now part of Heating Oil Partners, L.P.) shown in photo above helped This Old House with this project.

furnace in Connecticut is \$4,610!

"Replacing out-dated and inefficient heating units will have a real, lasting impact on the vulnerable population we serve," said HomeFront's acting executive director, Sean O'Brien. "The caring and concern expressed by our volunteers and donors helps us to provide the types of services that are most in demand. It is because of our wonderful

support network that HomeFront is able to help our deserving neighbors in need."

Heating Oil Partners and the Norbert H. Hardne Foundation are only two of the many corporations and foundations making HomeFront possible in 2005. Others include MetLife Foundation, which contributed \$20,000 for this year's efforts; JP Morgan Chase, which donated \$7,500; Ross Laboratories, a \$5,000 donor;

many local construction outfits, which are again donating professional labor to the cause, and additional companies which have given materials and supplies. In addition, a team from the television show "This Old House" will participate for the eighth year in a row.

If you would like to learn more about HomeFront 2005, call 1-800-887-HOPE (4673) or e-mail Sean O'Brien at sobrien@americares.org.

Photos by Chet Gordon

El Salvador Clinic Reaches Out



Photo by Nelson Sanchez

The 'Clínica Integral de Atención Familiar' – AmeriCares family clinic in El Salvador – kicked off 2005 with a weekend-long outreach for underserved communities in rural areas.

The idea for this program was conceived a year ago at a meeting of the "Amigos de la Clínica," an ad-hoc advisory group. One of its key proponents was registered nurse Bonnie Adams of Skaneateles, New York who, along with her husband, launched a fundraiser to help finance the program. In addition to funds, they pulled together a team of health care professionals from central New York State who were enthusiastic about helping El Salvador's rural people.

Early in February, the group arrived in El Salvador, where they teamed up with the AmeriCares staff and El Salvador's Foundation for Social Development (FUN-DESO) for a two-day health care blitz. One of the visiting physicians, Dr. Jim Boston, traveled with a team from FUNDESO to two poor communities near the San Salvador volcano, a two-hour drive from the AmeriCares clinic. There, they performed exams and made referrals for patients in need of follow-up care. At the AmeriCares clinic, the outreach was dedicated to women's health, and Nurse Adams and her fellow volunteers welcomed dozens of women who had been bused in from local villages surrounding the clinic. These patients were screened for diabetes, hypertension, cervical cancer and breast cancer.

Combined, the two groups of health care volunteers provided diagnostic and referral services to more than 500 patients in just two days.

AmeriCares Partner in Profile:

Johnson & Johnson focuses on quality of life



Photo by Chris Rowan

Thousands of people living with HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia suffer from oral thrush, an opportunistic infection that interferes with eating. Starting this month, many of them will benefit from a new treatment thanks to AmeriCares partner Johnson & Johnson, which provided a \$50,000 grant to help those suffering with this condition. The grant has been used to purchase

Tibozole®, a medicine used to treat oral thrush.

AmeriCares is donating this medicine to Project Mercy, a local partner in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian Ministry of Health, in conjunction with Project Mercy, will begin distributing more than 30,000 treatments to established health care centers throughout the country in March. Johnson & Johnson will continue

to fund the program for a three-year period, providing a total of 150,000 treatments.

Johnson & Johnson's support of AmeriCares' efforts in Ethiopia is only one example of their commitment to social responsibility. The company sponsors a number of programs that promote access to health care and emergency relief for underserved populations around the world. For example, through its partnership with AmeriCares, Johnson & Johnson products provided emergency relief in 2004 to refugees in Sudan and Chad, hurricane survivors in Grenada, Jamaica and the U.S., and those impacted by horrendous flooding in Haiti.

Now in its 16th year of collaboration with AmeriCares, Johnson & Johnson has donated more than \$53 million in products to AmeriCares, improving the quality of lives for people living in 65 countries.

Helping Save Eyesight in Mexico

AmeriCares Medical Outreach Program supplies donations to health care organizations and professionals traveling overseas for charitable medical work.

During the past year, the program supplied approximately 1,200 donations to 90 countries, valued at more than \$26 million.

The following is an account by Julia Willhite, who traveled with a medical team from the World Cataract Foundation to Mexico where the organization is working to eliminate cataract blindness in the state of Guerrero. AmeriCares has been contributing products to the World Cataract Foundation's trips for the past eight years.

"The first thing you notice is the people... They line the courtyard of the hospital, waiting in the stifling tropical heat. Some have traveled for days on foot. Others have sold their livestock or valued belongings to finance the trip. Most of them have waited a year to make the trip and are all there for the



Photo provided by World Cataract Foundation

Photo provided by World Cataract Foundation

continued on page 7

\$ Aid Delivered This Quarter

Afghanistan, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Kosovo, Liberia, Malawi, Mexico, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Zambia

AmeriCares Worker Recounts Destruction in Banda Aceh, Indonesia

“I’ve worked in many disasters, from the war in Mozambique to Hurricane Mitch in Central America, but I’ve never seen the type of devastation I saw in Banda Aceh,” says Frank Catania, AmeriCares director of international humanitarian aid.



Photo by Tom Turley

Catania traveled to Indonesia’s battered Banda Aceh area in January to work with other AmeriCares personnel, coordinating relief efforts on the ground there. Among the images that he is still recalling, nearly two months later: Splintered fishing boats, far from any dock and an occasional shoe, spoon or rag of clothing that were the only vestiges of life that littered the coastline.

Catania was part of the AmeriCares team coordinating

the distribution of 75 tons of relief supplies to local partners. These medications and water purification materials were sent to aid the thousands of people living in temporary camps, after their homes – and sometimes their family members – vanished with the sea that swept ashore on December 26.

“Everyone in Banda Aceh has been touched,” Catania explains. “Everyone knows someone who either escaped or died... it’s heartbreaking.”

Catania returned to AmeriCares after several weeks in Indonesia and is now managing AmeriCares’ long-term programs around the world. His thoughts, however, return to Banda Aceh often and he hopes to return there in a few months time, “to see the progress as relief efforts help rebuild lives for all of the tsunami survivors.”

To read additional first-hand account of AmeriCares relief efforts in the tsunami-affected countries, visit our web site at www.americares.org.

WE’RE VERY PROUD OF THE WAY WE MANAGE THE FUNDS CARING PEOPLE LIKE YOU GENEROUSLY DONATE. A copy of the latest financial statement filed by AmeriCares may be obtained by contacting AmeriCares, 88 Hamilton Ave., Stamford, CT 06902, (203) 658-9500. Some states require that special notices be included with each solicitation. If you are a resident of one of these states, you may obtain financial information or annual reports from us or directly from the state agency: in New York, Office of Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, New York 10271; in Maryland, for the cost of the copies and postage, the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401; IN NEW JERSEY, FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL BY CALLING (973) 504-6215; IN NORTH CAROLINA, A COPY OF THE LICENSE TO SOLICIT CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS AS A CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION OR SPONSOR AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CHARITABLE SOLICITATION LICENSING SECTION, NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, BY CALLING 1-888-830-4989; in Pennsylvania, residents may call the Pennsylvania Department of State at 1-800-732-0999 (in state only); for West Virginia residents, the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305; in Virginia, the State Division of Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23209; Washington State residents may obtain a copy of the last report filed with the Washington Secretary of State by calling toll free within Washington, 1-800-332-4483 (in state only); IN FLORIDA, RESIDENTS MAY CALL THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES AT 1-800-435-7352 (in state only). Our Florida Registration number is SC-00910 and since AmeriCares does not employ professional solicitors, we retain 100% of contributions and 0% is retained by such solicitors. Our license number in Michigan is 10588. STATE OF KANSAS Registration #222F593F6SC Office of Secretary of State, First Floor, Memorial Hall 120 S.W. 10th Avenue Topeka, KS 66612-1594. Copies of the filings with the authorities listed above can also be obtained by writing to AmeriCares at 88 Hamilton Ave., Stamford, CT 06902. Registration with any of the above agencies does not imply endorsement by the state.

Mexico

continued from page 6

same thing – the gift of sight.

Thirty-six volunteers have come together for a week to move one step closer to the seemingly impossible – a cataract-free state in Guerrero, Mexico. Most are ophthalmic surgeons, nurses, opticians, assistants and interns. Some, like me, are translators. The doctors walk among

the people, looking and diagnosing on the spot. Every day we have to turn away people who beg to be seen but cannot be scheduled.

At the end of the week we pack up, knowing that even though we couldn’t help everyone, we had made a significant impact. Our medical team screened an estimated

1,540 people and performed 452 surgical procedures. Our optical team dispensed 1,350 reading, prescription, and sunglasses. The experience was life-changing and emotionally draining for both patient and healer, but the value of our work was immeasurable.”

Planned Giving Benefits Donors and AmeriCares



Photo by Laurie Fogarty

There are many ways to give a gift of hope through the AmeriCares Planned Giving Program. AmeriCares can work with you and your financial advisor to design a plan that will minimize your estate taxes, give you lifetime income or enable you to pass assets to your heirs at reduced costs.

Throughout the year, AmeriCares receives donations as part of this program. Recently, Paul Johnson, Esq., presented AmeriCares with a check for \$250,000 from the estate of Eleanor Daily of Stamford, CT. Shown here with Paul Johnson is Carolyn O’Brien, senior vice president of development for AmeriCares.

To learn more about ways to make a planned gift to AmeriCares, please contact us at giving@americares.org

TSUNAMI PHOTOGALLERY

Images of AmeriCares working in the tsunami-affected countries.



At left, Celina de Sola and Tom Turley take a break to share a little laughter in Banda Aceh, Indonesia.

At right, Cassie Mannix, one of the first AmeriCares workers in Sri Lanka, shown here in the coastal town of Hambantota.



At right, Senior Vice President Carol Shattuck and volunteer Dr. Jonathan Fine, surrounded by the crew that piloted the first airlift into Sri Lanka.



At far right, Dennis Brown helps unload the second airlift in Colombo, Sri Lanka.



At left, Amy Daniels on the scene in Sri Lanka, with local partner and children.

At right, here at home, U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays (third from left) congratulated the AmeriCares warehouse team of Frank Rood, Peter Browne and Philip Tu, who worked nonstop preparing cargo for shipment.



At far left, Andrew Heyduk with partners from Abbott Laboratories in India.

At left, Emanuela Chiaranda enjoys an encounter with local children in Sri Lanka.

Photo credits (clockwise from top left): Kate Moxham; Dr. Jonathan Fine; Chris Rowan; Laurie Fogarty; Chris Rowan; AmeriCares; Chris Rowan; AmeriCares.