

AmeriCares®



SPRING/SUMMER 2010

Restoring Health and Hope in Haiti

\$50 million in aid committed to help rebuild Haiti's health care system

AmeriCares emergency response experts were on the ground distributing medicines and supplies to hospitals and makeshift health clinics treating the injured within days of Haiti's devastating, 7.0-magnitude earthquake.

Many of the health care facilities in Haiti were damaged beyond use or destroyed by the Jan. 12 earthquake that claimed more than 200,000 lives, leaving doctors and nurses without the tools needed to care for thousands of injured survivors. In response, AmeriCares has committed \$50 million in aid to help rebuild Haiti's health care system.

"Doctors in Haiti had little to work with before, but after the earthquake they had nothing – no pain medicines for patients with broken bones and no anesthesia for patients who needed surgery," said Rachel Granger, who is overseeing the AmeriCares response in Port-au-Prince.

The first AmeriCares emergency airlift arrived Jan. 17 carrying over \$6 million worth of medical aid including antibiotics to fight infections, wound care supplies and pain medicines. Additional deliveries of medical aid, bottled water, baby food, and other critical relief supplies followed. Within the first two weeks of the disaster, AmeriCares had filled empty hospital shelves with \$12.5 million in medicines and supplies.



Photo by AmeriCares/Tom Turley

One of the beneficiaries of AmeriCares medical aid was Mary Therese Bellefleur, a young patient at Centre Hospitalier du

Above: The boy on the right, nicknamed Jean Pierre by a nurse, was found alone in the rubble and rushed by helicopter to a hospital AmeriCares supports

Right: AmeriCares distributed medical aid to more than 60 hospitals and makeshift clinics treating survivors



Photo by AmeriCares/Carol Shattuck



Photo by Matthew McDermott

A mother and child who survived the earthquake roam the streets of Carrefour in search of food, water and shelter

Sacré-Coeur in Port-au-Prince. She was still in pain from the weight of her home crashing down on her when AmeriCares relief workers met her 11 days after the earthquake.

"I knelt down by her side to hold her hand, and she looked me in the eye. I could feel her pain," said AmeriCares Chief of Staff Carol Shattuck, who accompanied the first airlift. "I was grateful AmeriCares was delivering medicines that would provide her some comfort."

As the rainy season approached and the threat of waterborne diseases intensified, AmeriCares followed with deliveries of medicines to treat diarrheal diseases along with oral rehydration salts and antibiotics to treat respiratory infections.

AmeriCares Medical Director Dr. Frank Bia, who went to Haiti in February to assess the medical needs, found an insatiable demand for antibiotics and wound care supplies. AmeriCares is meeting these needs with ongoing deliveries of medical aid.

As the recovery efforts shift to rebuilding, AmeriCares plans to repair hospitals and health clinics damaged by the earthquake and establish training and education programs for local health care workers.

"We know from experience that it's going to take years to repair the damage from a disaster of this magnitude, and we are committed to assisting that effort to restore health and hope for thousands of Haitian families," said AmeriCares President & CEO Curt Welling.

AmeriCares has been delivering medicines and supplies to Haiti since 1984.



From the Founder

For Our Caring Friends,

Aren't we fortunate to have such an immediate way of expressing empathy for the Haitian people via AmeriCares quick, effective response? Our desperately needed medications, water and medical aid were instantly en route to Port-au-Prince, the site of unbelievable devastation. You were part of that response and your long-term participation will be needed as we help Haiti recover in the years ahead.

Just think of the huge number of amputations and what that means for individuals, especially children, to recover. Think of the thousands who no longer have even makeshift housing, no plot of land to farm, no way to eke out a living. Already the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti has been almost destroyed.

May AmeriCares count on you and your compassion to support our sustained effort in Haiti and help us prepare for unforeseen future disasters?

With great admiration, I commend our staff and our partners for their tireless, fearless efforts – all done with total dedication. Amidst the horrors of such a calamity, may we find hope and solace knowing in our hearts that we are continuing such intensive efforts to deliver relief.

Everlasting gratitude,

Bob Macauley

Medical Outreach Program Volunteers Rush to Haiti

In a nightclub serving as a makeshift clinic, Dr. Patricia Jorquera tended to dehydrated, malnourished newborns orphaned by the earthquake and adults pulled from the rubble with lacerations and deep, infected wounds.

A 12-year-old girl she examined was physically unharmed but traumatized from witnessing her parents perish in the earthquake. The child, now the sole provider and caretaker for her 4-year-old sister, was inconsolable.

with more than \$8 million worth of antibiotics, wound care supplies, orthopedic products and other critically needed medical aid in the aftermath of the earthquake.

Dr. Betsy Fine, a family physician from Tacoma, Washington, volunteering with a team of paramedics from New York City, said hand carrying \$60,000 worth of medicines and supplies from AmeriCares allowed her team to begin treating survivors as soon as they landed.

“We were equipped and ready to go the moment we arrived,” Dr. Fine said. “Some of the other medical teams had to wait for their supplies.”

Her team, NYC Medics, got to work right away, searching refugee camps for those in need of medical care. They made splints for survivors who had broken bones and dispensed medicines from AmeriCares for patients with diabetes and high blood pressure. Some of the survivors were initially treated

at hospitals for infected wounds and fractures, but had received no follow-up care.

Many volunteer doctors working in Haiti were pleasantly surprised by how quickly survivors' wounds healed. Dr. Jorquera was astonished at the speed that one woman with an infected leg, red and swollen from the knee down, began to heal.

“With the antibiotics we gave her, there was dramatic improvement in 24 hours,” Dr. Jorquera said. “The internal wounds, I think, are going to be harder to heal.”



Photo courtesy of Olivia Nicastro

Dr. Betsy Fine treats an infant suffering from pneumonia with antibiotics from AmeriCares

“The saddest part wasn't what I saw, it was the stories I heard,” said Dr. Jorquera, a pediatrician from Connecticut who spent seven days working with a team of medical volunteers in Carrefour, a suburb of Port-au-Prince.

Dr. Jorquera's group was one of more than 90 medical teams treating survivors with medicines and supplies donated by the AmeriCares Medical Outreach Program. The program provided volunteer medical professionals from all over the United States

AmeriCares Aiding Earthquake Survivors in Chile

AmeriCares recently rushed medical aid and an emergency response team to Chile to assist survivors of the country's worst earthquake in 50 years. An 8.8-magnitude earthquake struck near Chile's second largest city, Concepción, on February 27 claiming hundreds of lives and leaving millions of survivors homeless.

With earthquake damage forcing the temporary closure of the international airport in Santiago, AmeriCares worked with partners in Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia and Colombia to speed the delivery of relief supplies to survivors. As of press time, AmeriCares was preparing an emergency shipment of medical aid, personal hygiene items and medical supplies.

AmeriCares has delivered over \$16 million in aid to Chile since 1989.



AmeriCares staff photo

AmeriCares relief workers Michelle Jackson and Dr. Nancy Melgar meet with officials in Chile to assess the health needs after the earthquake

Partner in Profile: Covidien



Shortly before the deadly earthquake struck Haiti, a shipment of Thermazene™ antibiotic cream and wound care supplies arrived at AmeriCares headquarters. The donation – just one of the many Covidien has made to AmeriCares in recent years – couldn't have come at a better time. Within days, the topical antibiotic, which prevents severe infections in burns and open wounds, was in the hands of doctors and nurses treating earthquake survivors in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

"Thermazene™ was one of the most highly sought after antibiotics in the aftermath of the Haiti earthquake because so many patients suffered burns and lacerations as

well as traumatic injuries," said AmeriCares Medical Director Dr. Frank Bia. "By preventing serious infections in patients, AmeriCares, with the support of Covidien's products, reduced the need for long-term antibiotic therapy and surgery."

Covidien is a leading global health care products company that manufactures, distributes and services a diverse range of industry-leading product lines in three segments: Medical Devices, Pharmaceuticals and Medical Supplies. AmeriCares relies on donor companies like Covidien to pre-position medicines and supplies in our warehouses so we can respond at a moment's notice when disasters strike. Over the past 20 years, Covidien has supported AmeriCares health programs around the world with much needed product donations ranging from assorted wound care supplies and sutures to pharmaceuticals and respiratory and monitoring devices.

In addition to disaster relief, Covidien has extended our partnership to include support of a new, lifesaving dialysis program AmeriCares is launching for patients with acute kidney failure in Cambodia. Covidien has generously donated a two-year supply of catheters for the program.

Over the years Covidien, formerly known as Tyco Healthcare, and its affiliated brands Kendall, U.S. Surgical, Mallinckrodt and Valleylab, have donated over \$150 million in medical products to AmeriCares.



Parents look on in despair as their young child is treated for burns at Hôpital Sacré Coeur in Milot, Haiti, which received medicines and supplies from AmeriCares

Doubling Medical Aid to U.S. Clinics

AmeriCares is doubling its medical aid to free clinics and nonprofit health centers across the United States to help more struggling American families attain high-quality, affordable health care and prevent avoidable hospitalizations and emergency room visits.

AmeriCares donates prescription medications for patients with asthma, diabetes and other chronic conditions, as well as over-the-counter allergy medicines, cough and cold remedies and medical supplies to nonprofit health clinics throughout the U.S.

In 2009, the AmeriCares Domestic Medical Assistance Program delivered \$20 million worth of medicines and medical supplies to 160 health clinics serving the uninsured and underinsured in 30 states. AmeriCares plans to expand the program over the next two years to deliver \$40 million

worth of medical aid annually to 260 health care facilities in all 50 states. The expansion, announced at the 2009 Clinton Global Initiative, is made possible by a \$650,000 grant from the GE Foundation and the support of dozens of pharmaceutical companies that donate products for the program.

By increasing the resources of nonprofit medical centers, AmeriCares will enable more uninsured and underinsured Americans to receive high-quality, low-cost treatment.

"As I go around the country visiting the clinics AmeriCares supports, it's frustrating to see patients walking out with prescriptions they can't afford to fill," said Morgan White, who oversees AmeriCares Domestic Medical Assistance Program. "By delivering more medicines directly to the clinics, AmeriCares will ensure



Dr. Susan Prouty examines a patient at The Clinic in Phoenixville, Pa., one of the clinics supported by AmeriCares

patients get the comprehensive care they need."

AmeriCares plans to broaden the support it provides to U.S. clinics at the same time, offering needs assessments, product surveys, best practices research and suggestions for stretching limited resources.



From the President & CEO

Dear Friends,

As one Haitian pediatrician lamented to one of our relief workers in the early days after the earthquake, "Haiti will now have a generation of amputees, both physical and emotional."

The survivors have a lifetime of rebuilding and recovering ahead of them, but they won't have to face it on their own. Thanks to your generous support, AmeriCares has committed \$50 million in aid to help rebuild Haiti's health care system.

We know from past disasters, including the 2004 Southeast Asia tsunami and Hurricane Katrina, the need for our medical assistance will not diminish in the months and years ahead. That's why AmeriCares is committed to a long-term, comprehensive response in Haiti that will improve health, rebuild damaged hospitals, train health care workers and prevent the spread of disease.

The world's attention is on Haiti now, but once the spotlight fades there will still be rubble to remove, villages to rebuild and orphans in need of medical care. AmeriCares has been working in Haiti since 1984 and, with your continued help, we'll be there for years to come restoring health and saving lives.

With sincere appreciation,

Curtis R. Welling

PHOTO GALLERY

Welcome to a kaleidoscope view of AmeriCares moments around the world.



Above: The dramatic rescue of a boy named Kiki from the rubble in Port-au-Prince – a photo seen around the world – captured by AmeriCares photographer Matthew McDermott

Left: A boy receives nutritional supplements after a drought in Bihar, India



Photo credits (clockwise from top left): AmeriCares India staff photo; Matthew McDermott; AmeriCares staff photo; AmeriCares/Tom Turley; Kishan Samarasinghe



Above: AmeriCares relief worker Ramani Perera tours a new hospital wing AmeriCares built for tsunami survivors in Sri Lanka

Middle Right: AmeriCares SVP of Global Program Operations, Elizabeth Furst Frank, with local children in a squatter community in Cambodia

Lower Right: AmeriCares Medical Director, Dr. Frank Bia, examines a 10-year-old girl with an earthquake injury at the General Hospital in Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Places Receiving AmeriCares Aid Last Quarter

Afghanistan • Albania • Armenia • Bahamas • Belize • Bhutan
 Bolivia • Brazil • Burkina Faso • Cambodia • Cape Verde
 Central African Republic • Chad • China • Colombia • Costa Rica
 Dominican Republic • Ecuador • El Salvador • Eritrea • Ethiopia
 Ghana • Guatemala • Guyana • Haiti • Honduras • India • Indonesia
 Iraq • Ivory Coast • Jamaica • Kenya • Kosovo • Laos • Lebanon
 Liberia • Malawi • Mali • Mexico • Micronesia • Moldova • Nicaragua
 Nigeria • North Korea • Pakistan • Palestinian territories • Panama
 Peru • Philippines • Romania • Russia • Rwanda • Samoa • Senegal
 Sierra Leone • Tanzania • Uganda • United States • Uzbekistan
 Vietnam • Zambia • Zimbabwe



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

