

# AmeriCares®

SPRING/SUMMER 2011

## Responding to Dual Disasters in Japan

AmeriCares relief efforts are underway in the aftermath of the worst natural disaster in Japan's history.

A record 9.0-magnitude earthquake struck 230 miles northeast of Tokyo on March 11, unleashing a deadly tsunami that caused catastrophic destruction. The 50-foot wave, traveling with frightening speed and power, wiped out entire communities in its path, leaving 28,000 people dead or missing and hundreds of thousands of survivors homeless.

AmeriCares began mobilizing within hours of the dual disasters, dispatching relief workers to Tokyo and Sendai – the largest city in the impact zone – to assess the health needs of survivors.

AmeriCares swiftly responded with an emergency airlift carrying over \$525,000 worth of medical aid for Tohoku University Hospital in Sendai. Our relief workers on the ground helped unload over 4,000 cases of aid including antibiotics, IV solutions, wound dressings, sutures, anesthesia, pain relievers and other medical supplies. The aid replenished the hospital's depleted stocks and helped prevent shortages at nearby health facilities and evacuation centers.

The air shipment followed a delivery of several tons of bottled water and critically needed hygiene products for evacuees living in shelters in Miyagi prefecture.



Photo by Paula Bronstein/Getty Images

**AmeriCares delivered relief supplies for thousands of homeless families living in evacuation centers in the aftermath of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami**

“From the moment our relief workers arrived in the disaster zone, we were meeting the immediate health needs of thousands of families living in shelters,” said AmeriCares President and CEO Curt Welling. “Looking ahead, we stand ready to help Japan with the long-term health needs of survivors – many of whom are elderly and require ongoing medical

attention for complex health conditions.”

AmeriCares has provided humanitarian assistance to millions affected by natural disasters and man-made crises for nearly 30 years, including the 1995 Kobe earthquake in Japan. Our emergency response work often lasts years beyond the initial crisis as we rebuild hospitals and health clinics and restore health services.



Photos by AmeriCares



**AmeriCares aid included several tons of bottled water, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, diapers and other hygiene products**



### From the President & CEO

Dear Friends,

We know from almost 30 years of experience in disaster response that large-scale disasters can overwhelm even the most prepared countries – much like Hurricane Katrina stretched the vast resources of the United States. So when we first received word of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, AmeriCares swiftly dispatched a team of relief workers to assess the health needs of survivors. Within days, we were delivering hygiene products for evacuees living in shelters and airlifting medical aid to hospitals in the impact zone.

At the same time, our expert staff was responding to emergencies in Libya and Pakistan and delivering shipments to the 60-plus countries we support on an ongoing basis.

Emergencies of the enormity we have seen in Japan require a long-term commitment to help the impacted communities rebuild. Thanks to your compassion and generosity, we have the resources to help Japan rebuild its health care services, just as we did in Sri Lanka and Indonesia after the 2004 tsunami and we have been doing in Haiti since the 2010 earthquake.

It's only because of your unwavering support that we can deliver lifesaving aid – both for the immediate crisis and throughout the rebuilding process.

With sincere appreciation,

  
Curtis R. Welling

## Voices from the Field: Uganda Medical Outreach Program Aids Children's Hospital

*Dr. Mary Coleman and volunteers from Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland recently returned from a medical mission in Uganda supported by AmeriCares Medical Outreach Program. Here the California pediatrician shares her thoughts and impressions from her work at Holy Innocents Children's Hospital.*

A 5-day-old infant arrived at our hospital weakened from anemia and a deadly septic bacterial infection that ravaged his tiny body. A traditional healer removed his baby teeth in an attempt to slow his rapid breathing, but it caused massive hemorrhaging and he was losing blood quickly. We immediately started him on antibiotics from AmeriCares to cure the infection and gave him a blood transfusion. In just a few days he was healthy enough to return home.

Such a speedy recovery is almost unheard of here, where hospitals routinely run out of medicines and supplies for months at a time, and patients often succumb to illnesses that are far less serious. In Uganda, one out of every seven children dies before his fifth birthday. And with rampant malnutrition and limited health care, even the children who make it to adulthood won't live beyond their 50s.

**AmeriCares Medical Outreach Program provided \$62 million worth of medicines and supplies for medical trips to 71 countries last year**

The Ugandan doctors and nurses do the best they can with what they have, but supplies are limited and hospitals are short staffed. Even at Holy Innocents, a charity hospital funded by donors in the U.S., parents sleep by their children's beds because there's not enough staff to feed them or change and wash their clothes. There are no diapers and most babies only have the clothes on their backs.



Photos by Cassie Mammix/AmeriCares



**Most of the young patients the volunteers treated were hospitalized for serious infections and respiratory problems**



Photo by Elizabeth Schaub/Children's Hospital Oakland

**The team of volunteers saved the 5-day-old baby boy (pictured above) with antibiotics from AmeriCares**

Our medical volunteers were well stocked for this trip, arriving with seven duffel bags of pediatric medicines and supplies donated by AmeriCares. Previously, the hospital staff had been cutting some adult-sized medications into pediatric doses. With the medicines we brought, and our highly skilled volunteers' expertise, we saved the lives of seven newborns in eight days.

As we prepare for our next trip to Uganda, I am thankful AmeriCares is there to provide us with antibiotics, pain relievers, syringes and other medical supplies. We couldn't provide such a high level of care without them.

## Emergency Aid for Libya Refugee Crisis

AmeriCares recently airlifted more than \$1.5 million in medical aid for thousands of refugees fleeing the political violence in Libya. AmeriCares rushed enough antibiotics, pain relievers, wound care supplies and medicines to treat 15,000 patients in the early days of the conflict. Additional shipments of critically needed medical aid followed for hospitals and clinics running low on supplies in eastern Benghazi.

Escalating violence in the late winter and early spring sent more than 400,000 people fleeing the country, leading to a refugee crisis along the Egyptian and Tunisian borders. AmeriCares medical assistance aided evacuees stranded in transit camps on the Egyptian border as well as civilians and displaced families receiving medical care in Libya.

## Partner in Profile: ORACLE®

During an emergency, every minute counts, so it's essential that AmeriCares has the capability to send aid on a moment's notice. Oracle, the world's most complete, open, and integrated business software and hardware systems company, recently donated products and services, along with a generous cash grant, to ensure we have the technology required to send aid whenever it's needed, wherever it's needed.

The database and project management systems donated by Oracle will allow AmeriCares to more efficiently process incoming product donations from over 150 companies, update inventory in our three warehouses and rapidly build aid shipments to more than 90 countries. The addition of Oracle's Primavera Enterprise Project Portfolio Management Solutions will help streamline the delivery process and reduce costs, increasing AmeriCares capacity to reach people in need. AmeriCares sends more than 2,300 aid shipments annually, both overseas and here in the United States where AmeriCares supports medical clinics that serve poor and uninsured families.

Oracle's gift, valued at nearly \$900,000, is just one of the ways the company is supporting AmeriCares. When a devastating earthquake rocked Haiti last year, Oracle employees reached into their own pockets to assist the relief efforts. The company then matched the donations, together raising more than \$700,000 for earthquake survivors.

"Oracle supports AmeriCares at every level, providing products and services, as well as financial gifts," said AmeriCares Vice President of Institutional Relations Diana Maguire. "We're restoring health and saving lives every day because of great partners like Oracle."



Donations from Oracle employees support AmeriCares ongoing medical aid deliveries for Haiti earthquake survivors

Photo by Natalia Todoros



## Donation Helps Uninsured in the U.S.

AmeriCares and AstraZeneca are helping clinics across the United States treat chronically ill patients suffering from cardiovascular diseases, complications from diabetes and other serious health conditions.

The pharmaceutical company recently donated \$5 million in prescription medications to AmeriCares Domestic Medical Assistance Program, which provides medicines and medical supplies to health clinics nationwide. The medicines were delivered to more than 100 clinics treating the uninsured and underinsured in 38 states.

At Health Access Inc., a free clinic that serves low-income, uninsured residents in West Virginia, Executive Director Jim Harris said one of the patients who benefited was a 54-year-old man who tried unsuccessfully to control his acid reflux with over-the-counter medicines for many years.

"He ate antacids like they were candy but always the heartburn would return," Harris said, explaining the patient was recently diagnosed with chronic gastro esophageal reflux disease, known as GERD. "He now reports that he is finally without the heartburn that never seemed to go away."

Since 2003, AstraZeneca has donated more than \$63 million worth of essential medicines to AmeriCares helping to restore health and hope to countless people in need.



Health Access in West Virginia was one of more than 100 health clinics to receive medicines from AmeriCares and AstraZeneca

Photo by Matthew McDermott

## Flu Shots Keep Americans Healthy

AmeriCares teamed up with Walgreens and Duane Reade pharmacies to help keep Americans in need healthy this past winter with discounted flu shots.

More than 6,000 uninsured and underinsured Americans received vouchers for \$10 flu vaccines redeemable at their nearest Walgreens or Duane Reade store – a \$20 savings off the retail price. The vouchers were distributed through the clinics AmeriCares supports nationwide with regular deliveries of medicines and medical supplies.

Since many of the patients who benefited must take time off from work without pay when they are ill, the affordable flu shots allowed them to stay healthy this winter, protecting both their health and their income. It's just one way AmeriCares is helping make health care more accessible and affordable for the millions of Americans without adequate health insurance.

# PHOTO GALLERY

Welcome to a kaleidoscope view of AmeriCares moments around the world



Left: AmeriCares relief worker Kristen Kelly with children in the Chaco region of Paraguay we support with regular deliveries of medicines

Right: AmeriCares relief worker Ella Gudwin comforts a crying infant at the Louis Turcanu Emergency Hospital for Children in Timisoara, Romania

Center Left: AmeriCares relief worker Riaz Khalil distributes quilts, jackets, cooking stoves and fuel to families displaced by flooding in Pakistan



Center Right: Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski hosts of MSNBC's "Morning Joe" with media mogul Arianna Huffington and AmeriCares President and CEO Curt Welling at a New York City fundraiser for AmeriCares

Bottom Left: AmeriCares relief worker Brian Hoyer visits with a young patient at a cholera treatment center in Haiti

Bottom Right: Mothers and babies in Armenia waiting to receive infant formula donated by AmeriCares



Photo credits (clockwise from top left): Tom Roane/National Cancer Coalition; Hannah Taylor/AmeriCares; Chris Rowan/AmeriCares; Hannah Taylor/AmeriCares; Nadia Todres; AmeriCares

## Places Receiving AmeriCares Aid Last Quarter

Afghanistan • Argentina • Armenia • Bangladesh • Belize  
 Bolivia • Cambodia • Chile • China • Colombia • Costa Rica  
 Democratic Republic of the Congo • Dominican Republic  
 Ecuador • El Salvador • Eritrea • Ethiopia • Gambia • Ghana  
 Grenada • Guatemala • Haiti • Honduras • India • Indonesia • Iraq  
 Ivory Coast • Jamaica • Japan • Kenya • Lebanon • Liberia • Libya  
 Malawi • Mali • Mexico • Moldova • Mongolia • Morocco • Nepal  
 Nicaragua • Niger • Nigeria • North Korea • Pakistan  
 Palestinian Territories • Panama • Paraguay • Peru • Philippines  
 Romania • Rwanda • Senegal • Solomon Islands • South Africa  
 St. Lucia • St. Vincent • Sudan • Tanzania • Togo • 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.

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