

AmeriCares®



WINTER 2012



U.S. Disaster Grants Awarded

AmeriCares is helping disaster survivors across the United States rebound from massive flooding and devastating tornado damage with over \$500,000 in disaster recovery grants.

Grants of up to \$100,000 were awarded for health-related recovery projects with an emphasis on medical care for the uninsured, mental health, psychosocial support services and case management, as well as disaster preparedness.

A \$90,000 grant has allowed three school districts in upstate New York to hire a shared counselor/social worker to help students and their families overcome the trauma suffered as a result of tropical storms Irene and Lee last summer. In Schoharie Village, flood damage left 80 percent of the buildings condemned – including many students' homes and the businesses where their parents worked. Months after the storm, many students in the Cobleskill-Richmondville, Middleburgh and Schoharie school districts are living with friends and relatives or in temporary housing because their homes are uninhabitable.

"The sheer force of the floodwaters ripped homes off their foundations," said AmeriCares relief worker Garrett Ingoglia, who recently visited the area to assess the damage. "It will take months before some of the boarded-up

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Somalia Famine Relief Continues



Photo by Mohamed Sheik Nur

A mother and her young children in Somalia receive nutritional supplements from AmeriCares

As the Somalia famine claims tens of thousands of lives, and outbreaks of cholera, typhoid fever and measles exacerbate one of the worst humanitarian crises in decades, AmeriCares continues to deliver aid for refugees weakened by malnutrition.

After the United Nations declared emergency-level famine conditions across much of the Horn of Africa in July, AmeriCares launched a large-scale relief effort beginning with medical aid to treat 15,000 severely malnourished patients in Mogadishu. Nine more aid shipments followed for Somalia and neighboring Kenya and Ethiopia, where the refugee camps are overflowing with desperate Somali families.

To date, we have delivered over 179,000 treatments of medicines, enough nutritional supplements to provide 8,600 people a daily supplemental feeding for one month, and enough water purification supplies to give 34,000 people two months of safe drinking water.

"More than half of the children under age 5 arriving at refugee camps in Kenya are acutely or severely malnourished, which weakens their immune systems," said AmeriCares Vice President of Emergency Response Ella Gudwin. "We are ensuring they have access to lifesaving medical services, as well as nutritional supplements, dramatically increasing their chances of survival."



Photo by Mohamed Sheik Nur

Famine refugees weakened by malnutrition wait for aid



From the President & CEO

Dear Friends,

It is difficult to believe two years have passed since the devastating Haiti earthquake. With a dedicated team in Port-au-Prince focused on restoring health care services, we are working just as hard today as we were in 2010 to deliver aid for survivors. To date, we have supported 409 trips for volunteer medical teams treating the injured, replenished depleted supplies in dozens of hospitals, and have become one of the primary suppliers of medicines to fight the raging cholera epidemic that's claimed thousands of lives.

More than 8,000 miles away in Japan, we are funding the construction of dental clinics and supporting mental health and counseling programs for earthquake and tsunami survivors. At the same time, we continue to deliver nutritional supplements and medical aid for the famine in Africa and smaller emergencies that don't make the nightly news. Here at home, we recently launched an ambitious disaster recovery grant program to assist communities across the U.S. still cleaning up damage from recent hurricanes and tornadoes.

Our programs and aid deliveries are fueled by the invaluable assistance we receive from special friends like you. Your generous support and commitment make it all possible.

With sincere appreciation,


Curtis R. Welling

Partner in Profile: Purdue Pharma

In its 25 years as an AmeriCares partner, Purdue Pharma has helped to improve health and save lives in 92 countries. In addition to donating cash and medicines for disasters in Haiti, Chile, Myanmar, Japan and elsewhere, it also helps sustain ongoing aid programs that bring care and medicines to the underserved every day.

One of the programs Purdue Pharma supports is AmeriCares emergency pharmacy, a stock of medical supplies that's ready to ship at a moment's notice when disaster strikes. Purdue Pharma consistently fulfills AmeriCares requests to stock our emergency pharmacy with much-needed products such as Betadine, an antiseptic solution which helps treat and prevent deadly infections. Because of supporters like Purdue Pharma, AmeriCares medical aid arrives quickly during emergencies, saving more lives in crisis conditions.

"We are pleased to support AmeriCares efforts to provide health care services and aid the victims of disasters here and around the world," said Russ Gasdia, vice president of sales and marketing at Purdue. "Their work has been of vital importance in helping to alleviate suffering around the world."

Since 1986, Purdue Pharma has donated over \$115 million in cash and products to AmeriCares, demonstrating its longstanding commitment to improved health worldwide.

"Purdue Pharma is an ideal partner," said Geoff Kneisel, AmeriCares vice president of corporate relations. "It supports AmeriCares in every aspect of our work, donating product in times of emergency and throughout the year, and providing cash grants to support our relief efforts here at home in the U.S. and overseas."



AmeriCares emergency pharmacy allows us to respond quickly to disasters

Photo by Matthew McDermott



Voices from the Field: Peru

Medical Brigade Provides Care for the Poor

Lily Bower, AmeriCares associate for Latin America & Caribbean Partnerships, shares her thoughts and impressions from Yungas, Peru where she attended a medical brigade supported by AmeriCares. Medical brigades are teams of medical professionals who spend a day, or several days at a time, providing care to patients in underserved communities.

Yungas is only two hours outside the capital, but it is a completely separate world. Most residents here are too poor to access health services in Lima and often talk about the city like it's another country. The medical brigades AmeriCares supports lessen this distance by bringing in skilled volunteer doctors to treat patients on weekends from sunrise until sunset.



Lily Bower



Photo by Lily Bower

Mothers bring their children to see the doctors AmeriCares supports in Peru

The brigade I attended was set up in a local school. The chairs and desks were pushed to the corners of the classrooms so they could be used as exam rooms and the large, concrete courtyard in the center of the school served as the waiting room and registration area. When I arrived, there was already a long line of patients waiting and a makeshift pharmacy set up in a dim storeroom. In a single day, 500 patients received treatment, including a young mother of three with a severely malnourished 4-month-old. The doctors discovered the baby's cleft palate was preventing him from receiving the nutrition he needs from breastfeeding. A few days later, one of the volunteers returned with specialized infant formula for the baby, and the nearest medical clinic arranged to provide follow-up care for the sick infant.

Volunteers run more than two dozen of these one-day health clinics each year, crisscrossing the country from the Amazons to the Andes and the frigid, southern border with Bolivia. I am proud to be part of an organization supporting their efforts with donations of medicines and medical supplies. Together we are restoring health and saving lives.

U.S. Recovery

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businesses can reopen and years before some students can return to their homes.”

A women’s clinic in Joplin, Missouri, received a \$40,000 grant to help meet the surge in demand for care after one of the worst tornadoes in U.S. history forced many health facilities to discontinue operations. And in South Dakota, we awarded \$29,000 to an organization providing outreach and case management services to 1,000 families displaced by Missouri River flooding.



Thad Leach surveys the vacant lot in Joplin, Mo. that was his home before it was leveled by a tornado

New Web Site Launched for U.S. Free Clinics

AmeriCares and the GE Foundation have launched an innovative online resource guide for the 1,200 free clinics serving the growing number of uninsured Americans. Freeclinicstoday.org contains practical how-to guides for clinic administrators interested in better managing volunteers, organizing on-site pharmacies and improving the delivery of health services. It links to AmeriCares U.S. Access ordering system that allows free clinic administrators to request donations of medicines and supplies.

Free Clinics Today is part of AmeriCares expanding domestic work, which includes ongoing medical assistance to 400 free clinics, nonprofit pharmacies and community health centers nationwide. AmeriCares created the site with a generous grant from the GE Foundation, which supports programs increasing access to care for underserved populations in the U.S. through its Developing Health™ program.

Haiti Ambulance Saves Mothers and Babies

An ambulance from AmeriCares saved the lives of more than 70 expectant mothers in Haiti in its first six months of operation. The Haitian Health Foundation purchased the emergency vehicle with funding from AmeriCares in hopes of reducing infant and child mortality in remote villages.

“At least half the women and children who received our services would have had tragic outcomes if not for the AmeriCares ambulance,” said Jeremiah Lowney, president of the Haitian Health Foundation. “Their lives were saved because they quickly received proper medical care.”

A pregnant 16-year-old an hour away from the nearest hospital when it came time for her to give birth was among the first to benefit. After 30 hours of painful labor, her family called for the ambulance. When it arrived, the young woman was put on IV antibiotics and rushed to the hospital just in time. Although her baby boy was not breathing at first, the doctor managed to revive him and placed him into pediatric care. Eight days later, the healthy mother and her newborn returned home.

The ambulance project is just one of the ways AmeriCares is restoring health care services in Haiti in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake.



The AmeriCares ambulance transports an expectant mother to the hospital in Haiti

Dental Clinics Open for Earthquake and Tsunami Survivors in Japan

We recently funded the construction of two dental clinics in Japan to restore access to care in a town devastated by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami. The clinics opened this fall in Minamisanriku, where more than half the population and 95 percent of the infrastructure were washed away by 50-foot tsunami waves. All six of the dental care facilities in the coastal town were destroyed, leaving 10,000 survivors without treatment.

AmeriCares awarded a \$400,000 grant to build both clinics, which are staffed by local dentists. The Shizugawa clinic is run by a husband and wife who lost their home and dental practice in the tsunami. Afterward, they lived in their car for three weeks with little food and no heat as snow blanketed the region. They feared having to relocate to find employment, but now can stay and continue to provide care for their fellow survivors.

“We are bringing back oral care, as well restoring crucial jobs,” said Ramona Bajema, AmeriCares senior Japan program manager. “This is an integral part of the rebuilding process for a community that lost everything.”

The clinics are just one way AmeriCares is aiding survivors of the dual disasters. Our emergency response experts were en route to the impact zone within hours of the emergency and immediately began delivering emergency relief supplies to evacuations centers. An airlift of medical aid followed. As the displaced began moving into temporary homes, our focus shifted to supporting medical care including mental health and counseling. We plan to stay in Japan for up to three years, revitalizing and expanding health services for survivors.



Dentists began treating patients in the fall

PHOTO GALLERY

Welcome to a kaleidoscope view of AmeriCares moments around the world



Above top left: The AmeriCares field hospital at the Kambioos refugee camp in Kenya

Above top right: A flood survivor in Pakistan receives relief supplies from AmeriCares

Middle right: A father meets his newborn baby girl at Afshar Hospital in southern Kabul, Afghanistan, which receives donated medicines and supplies from AmeriCares



Above: Boston Red Sox Manager Bobby Valentine gives a high five to a young patient at an AmeriCares-supported program for pediatric cancer patients in the Dominican Republic while AmeriCares President and CEO Curt Welling looks on

Right: Baby Naomi, age 6 months, recovers from surgery at Hospital de Emergencias Pediátricas in Lima, Peru which AmeriCares supports with medicines and supplies



Photo credits (clockwise from top left): Chris Mosio; Riaz Khalil/AmeriCares; David Snyder; Nicholas Gill; Helen Klisser During

Places Receiving AmeriCares Aid Last Quarter

Afghanistan • Armenia • Bangladesh • Belize • Bolivia • Cambodia
 Central African Republic • Chile • China • Colombia • Congo
 Dominican Republic • Ecuador • Egypt • El Salvador • Ethiopia
 Fiji • Ghana • Guatemala • Guyana • Haiti • Honduras • India
 Ivory Coast • Jamaica • Japan • Kenya • Lebanon • Libya
 Malawi • Mali • Mexico • Mongolia • Morocco • Mozambique
 Myanmar • Nepal • Nicaragua • Niger • Nigeria • North Korea
 Pakistan • Palestinian Territories • Panama • Papua New Guinea
 Paraguay • Peru • Philippines • Poland • Romania • Rwanda
 Senegal • Sierra Leone • Somalia • Swaziland • Tanzania
 Thailand • Uganda • United States • Uzbekistan • Venezuela
 Vietnam • Zambia • Zimbabwe

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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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