

Relief After a Deadly Storm

Kentucky



Photo by Alex Ostasiewicz

“It felt like it was trying to suction us up, then everything started crashing around us,”

says Elizabeth Kingsboro, describing the night when a tornado lifted her trailer home off its foundation and dropped it in a nearby field in Magoffin County, Kentucky. Elizabeth was pinned and injured; her husband freed himself and ran for help. “It was just a nightmare,” she says. AmeriCares relief workers met Elizabeth as she sorted through the wreckage from her wheelchair with her husband and neighbors.

This tiny community was just one of scores hit by tornadoes in late February and early March. Throughout the South and Midwest, twisters killed 52 people. Hundreds of families lost their homes and many more were living without power or services. AmeriCares staff responded immediately, with first aid, cleaning and hygiene items and 128,000 bottles of water—all essential for families living in homes without

power. “Without the bottled water coming in, people would die,” says emergency responder Sherry Buresh, who was distributing the humanitarian aid supplied by AmeriCares. “It’s that essential.”

Our staff traveled to eastern Kentucky to survey the damage and help survivors. We offered emergency medicines and vaccines to more than 120 clinics and partners throughout the Midwest and will continue to monitor needs.

“You didn’t have to stop, but you did,” says neighbor Harlan Rowe, as he accepted supplies from an AmeriCares worker. “And I appreciate that.”

Mississippi Update

When an EF-5 tornado ripped through Smithville, Miss., in April 2011, it destroyed houses and schools and tore the roof off of Access Family Health Services, a nonprofit clinic that provides primary care for 10,000 uninsured and underinsured people. AmeriCares quickly delivered a supply of medicines. Now, a year later, AmeriCares has provided Access with a total of \$57,000 for rebuilding and we continue to supply the clinic with free medicines.

AmeriCares aid to the clinic was just part of the nearly \$3 million in emergency aid we delivered in response to the U.S. storms in 2011.



Photo by Alex Ostasiewicz

Above, our staff surveys damage. Right, we help Elizabeth Kingsboro with emergency supplies. For more, including video, visit americares.org/kentuckyvideo



From the President & CEO

Dear Friends,

Whether we are delivering supplies to people who have survived natural disasters, or prescription medicines to towns such as Smithville (see cover story), our aid shipments here at home keep increasing. In only two years, we've tripled the number of U.S. clinics receiving AmeriCares medicines and medical supplies and we plan to add another 150 clinics to our network over the next two years.

At the same time, we deliver aid to dozens of countries where health care providers struggle to treat patients without the most basic medicines and supplies.

During a recent trip to Africa, I cradled in my arms some of the malnourished children in our new One Child One World nutrition program in Ghana. There is nothing more inspiring than meeting the recipients of our aid face-to-face, whether we are helping a single mother in Texas or an orphaned child halfway around the world.

Each time I meet the people whose lives we've saved or made healthier, it reminds me how grateful I am that AmeriCares has such loyal supporters. It is only because of your generosity that we can continue to make a difference, one life at a time.

With sincere appreciation,


Curtis R. Welling

For Africa, Long-Lasting Aid

When Kofi* was brought to the New Life Orphanage in Ghana at age 1, he was severely malnourished and could not walk or talk. Kofi is one of an estimated 43 million children in Africa orphaned because of their parents' struggles with HIV/AIDS, civil conflict or poverty.



Photo by Phil Farnsworth

With the support of a generous donation from John and Mary Brock (pictured above), AmeriCares has launched One Child One World, a program that supplies 30 orphanages across Ghana with nutritional supplements to help children like Kofi. Already, 1,500 children are benefiting—including Kofi, who has caught up with his peers and is doing well in school.

One Child One World is just one AmeriCares program in Africa that the \$3 million Brock family gift is supporting. The donation increases medical shipments to a network of hospitals and clinics in more than 30 countries across Sub-Saharan Africa. It also supports AmeriCares neonatal survival program in Ghana, a program to prevent the transmission of HIV from mothers to infants in Malawi and a health worker training and safety initiative in Tanzania. These programs are saving lives today and each is also a model that can be used in other countries. The Brock's gift is a three-year commitment, crafted to support such ongoing, expandable programs.

"You can't be intimidated by the vast needs of the developing world," says John Brock, chairman and CEO of Coca Cola Enterprises. John and his wife Mary, co-owner of the Atlanta Dream WNBA team, recently visited AmeriCares programs in Ghana, Malawi and Tanzania. "We can make a difference by giving health care providers the right resources, training and medical expertise," Brock says. "We're empowering them to improve the lives of thousands of patients."

**name changed*



Photo by Lauren Camp/AmeriCares

Giving to the Future

No one knows when the next disaster will strike. But donors who have made planned gifts to AmeriCares know they will be helping survivors.

"By supporting AmeriCares, I'm not just giving to those in need," says Lila Coleman who, with her late husband Harry, made a planned gift to AmeriCares. "I'm teaching my children and grandchildren the value of making the world a better place."

To learn more, visit americares.org/giftplanning

Partner in Profile: GE Foundation



Hundreds of thousands of low-income and uninsured Americans rely on free medical clinics for treatment of diabetes, hypertension and other chronic health problems. And those free clinics increasingly depend on AmeriCares for medicines, thanks to ongoing support from the GE Foundation.

The GE Foundation first partnered with AmeriCares U.S. Medical Assistance Program in 2010, when we were supporting 139 safety net clinics with donated medicines and supplies. With help from GE, the number of free clinics receiving aid grew to 400 and now, with a recent \$700,000 grant from the GE Foundation, 550 clinics across the U.S. will benefit. These clinics are a crucial source of primary care, helping patients avoid costly trips to the emergency room. “Thanks to the GE Foundation, we are putting more medicines in the hands of Americans suffering from chronic illnesses,” says AmeriCares President and CEO Curt Welling.

The GE Foundation and AmeriCares have worked to strengthen the clinics in many ways: In 2010, the GE Foundation sponsored an AmeriCares survey of free clinics; in 2011, the GE Foundation helped us launch freeclinicstoday.org, where clinic staff can easily order donated drugs and access other services. GE also provides technological expertise and marketing resources. The efforts are all part of GE’s Developing Health program that helps drive GE’s “healthymagination” initiative, a commitment to help change the world’s approach to health care by lowering costs, touching more lives and improving quality.

GE is a longtime donor to AmeriCares. The GE Foundation has supported AmeriCares international aid deliveries, including partnering to build a field hospital in Angol, Chile, in 2010 after an 8.8 magnitude earthquake destroyed an important regional hospital. Two years later, the 50-bed field hospital continues to serve the area. Since the GE Foundation began supporting AmeriCares in 1989, the Fairfield, Conn.-based foundation has donated \$3.2 million for AmeriCares aid programs worldwide.

Here at Home: Safe from Whooping Cough



A highly successful vaccination campaign has prevented more than 100,000 people throughout the U.S. from exposing infants to deadly pertussis. Children infected with the virus, also known as whooping cough, make a whooping sound as they struggle to breathe.

Through the Give Immunity Fight Transmission or G.I.F.T. program, sanofi pasteur donates one dose of their Tdap vaccine to AmeriCares for every 100 doses physicians purchase. AmeriCares delivers the vaccine—more than 117, 000 doses so far—to 400 clinics across the United States serving the uninsured and underinsured.

By vaccinating adults against the highly contagious disease, the program protects infants in the vulnerable period before they complete their immunizations. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, half the babies under age 1 who contract pertussis require hospitalization. Of these, one in five will get pneumonia and one in 100 will die. Family members who receive the Tdap vaccine are significantly less likely to spread the disease to babies, preventing such tragic outcomes.

“We are extremely grateful in these hard times to be able to help, thanks to AmeriCares and sanofi pasteur,” said Amie Tidrington, immunization clinic coordinator for Skagit County.

For more on this program, visit americares.org

Your Airline Miles Move Us

When you donate your airline miles to AmeriCares, you put our staff where they can make the biggest difference—at the site of disasters and places where we deliver ongoing aid. For three decades, we’ve kept expenses low by using air miles from generous donors.

Both United and Delta have donation pages online. Check with your airline to see if your frequent flier miles can be donated. Or contact Liz Sheridan at 203-658-9652 or lsheridan@americares.org



Our Work Around the World



Guatemala

Photo by Kristen Kelly



Haiti

Photo by Matt McDermott

Guatemala: Weighing in is part of a routine check-up at the Asociacion de Damas de Ciudad Peronia in Mixco, Guatemala, supported by AmeriCares with donations of medicines and nutritional products.

Haiti: Tracy, age 9, shows off her vaccination record. AmeriCares brings health care to her neighborhood in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. To learn more about our work in Haiti since the 2010 earthquake, visit americares.org/Haiti

Japan: Mashing soybeans to make miso is a healing activity for survivors of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan. To learn more about our work in Japan, visit americares.org/Japan

Sri Lanka: Anudh, age 6, can't walk but he can play on the new playground AmeriCares built for the disabled at the Lady Ridgeway pediatric hospital in Sri Lanka, part of our rebuilding efforts after the 2004 tsunami.



Sri Lanka

Photo by Kishan Samarasinghe



Japan

Photo by Alex Ostrander

Places Receiving Aid Last Quarter: Afghanistan, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Chad, China, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kosovo, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Palestinian Territories, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, United States, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Zambia


AmeriCares

AmeriCares is a nonprofit global health and disaster relief organization that delivers medicines, medical supplies and aid to people in crisis around the world and across the United States.

88 Hamilton Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902
203.658.9500 | 1.800.486.HELP | americares.org
Editor: Kathy Kukula, editor@americares.org

Connect with Us:

 Like us on Facebook
facebook.com/americares

 Follow us on Twitter
twitter.com/americares

