

## “Together, We Truly Make a Difference”



Photos by Community Health Partnership- Honduras

When an infection threatened this 6-year-old's life, a volunteer medical team provided critical treatment.

More than anything, 6-year-old Alejandra wanted to go to school near her home in Honduras. But an infection on her foot made walking impossible. Even worse, the infection threatened her life.

Alejandra\* was born with clubfoot, a congenital birth defect that caused her foot to be twisted severely. As a result, Alejandra always walked on the tender outside of her foot. Eventually, the skin near her ankle wore away, leading to a life-threatening infection.

Alejandra's family was not sure she'd survive—until a volunteer medical team supported by Americares intervened.

In partnership with a local health center, the team from Community Health Partnership-Honduras was making home visits to patients unable to travel. A local health advocate told the team about Alejandra, an orphan who lives with her grandmother and great-grandmother. The medical team traveled to Alejandra's home and treated her infection, using the medicine and medical supplies—including antibiotics—provided by Americares, at no cost to the family. Alejandra began recovering immediately.

Even better, the visiting doctors told Alejandra and her family that when her foot healed, she could have corrective surgery.

“[Americares] generous donations are so critical to our success,” says Community Health Partnership-Honduras Founder and Director Jennifer Smith. “Together, we truly make a difference.”

Americares supports hundreds of teams like Community Health Partnership-Honduras with critical medicine and medical supplies—last year, enough medicine for 1.2 million prescriptions, like the antibiotics used to treat Alejandra's foot. In total, Americares provided volunteer doctors with more than \$67 million in medical products last year, helping them care for 840,000 patients in 82 countries. The teams also provide training on safe surgery (see story, page 2).

“Americares Medical Outreach supports care that can be truly life-changing,” says Julie Varughese, MD, Americares chief medical officer. “These medical professionals bring quality health services and medicine to communities where even basic health services are often limited.”

Just a few months after Community Health Partnership-Honduras treated her infection, Alejandra received corrective surgery. Now, learning to walk again, she can look forward to a healthy future.



Volunteer doctors told Alejandra and her family that she could have corrective surgery on her clubfoot.

\*names changed for privacy

## With Your Support, a Refugee Smiles Again



Photo courtesy of Akbik Hamman, MD

Volunteer doctors provided free dental services to Syrian refugees in Jordan.

When Fatima\* came to the clinic, she didn't smile. She had fled violence in her homeland of Syria and, now a refugee living in Jordan, was ashamed of her infected teeth. Even worse, her mouth pain made eating and drinking difficult.

“Often, the dental needs of refugees are not seen as a priority,” says Akbik Hamman, MD, a doctor in Americares Medical Outreach network who brought a volunteer medical team to the patient's adopted hometown in Jordan. In the last five years, Hamman and his team have taken nine trips to Jordan to provide free medical care for Syrian refugees. On this trip, Americares provided local anesthetic, antibiotics, toothbrushes, toothpaste and more.

Other volunteer medical teams have treated Syrian refugees in Greece, Lebanon and Turkey using critical supplies donated by Americares. In all, in the last seven years, Americares has provided \$4.8 million worth of support for medical teams seeking to help refugees who have fled Syria.

An exam showed that Fatima had numerous cavities and abscesses, which Hamman's team treated successfully. “The team was able to restore her smile and alleviate her pain,” Hamman says. “This alone was priceless.”



From the  
**President  
and CEO**

# Your Donation Sends Doctors Around the World

By Tricia Gordon, Director, AmeriCares Medical Outreach

Dear Friends,

Your commitment makes all of our achievements possible. AmeriCares programs to save lives and improve health are only possible because of your desire to make a difference in the world.

The stories in the pages of this newsletter are just one proof of that. Throughout the year, our staff also tracks and monitors all of our health programs worldwide to measure AmeriCares impact on the lives of people affected by poverty or disaster. Here's what they're reporting for 2019:

### 43 emergencies in 24 countries:

AmeriCares emergency response teams were working constantly where disaster and crisis cut access to health care—from Syria to the Bahamas.

**11,000 health workers trained:** To make sustainable improvements, AmeriCares invests in people, with the training health workers need to stay safe, informed and on the job.

**2 million people reached by medicine alone:** Every prescription from AmeriCares changes a life immediately and provides hope for the future.

This year, I had the privilege of meeting patients helped by AmeriCares in Colombia, India, the United States and Uzbekistan—speaking different languages, but all asking me to do the same thing: thank the generous people who make AmeriCares possible. That is you.

Thank you! And all the best to you and your family in 2020.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Nyenhuis  
*President and CEO*

P.S.: We're grateful that AmeriCares earns your trust—and Charity Navigator's highest four-star rating!



Volunteer surgical teams work side by side with local staff to provide free surgeries. These toddlers are recovering from life-changing operations to correct cleft lips and palates.

I heard the baby's loud cry and smiled. In this hospital in urban San Salvador, El Salvador, a hearty cry meant that another tiny patient was out of surgery and recovery and wanted her mother—now! I don't often travel for my job as director of AmeriCares Medical Outreach, but it's good to see firsthand how my team's efforts make a difference.

The baby was quickly soothed, and soon the mother herself was weeping. She was looking at her baby's face and could see that the cleft lip that had made feeding a struggle was now repaired by precise and delicate surgery. A nurse checked the oxygen monitor clipped to the baby's finger and, seeing that all was well, removed it, signaling that the baby was recovering.

So much that made this surgery possible—the anesthetic, sutures, antibiotics, the monitor—was donated by AmeriCares Medical Outreach to this team that traveled from the U.S. to provide surgeries to families in need. Just last year, AmeriCares helped equip more than 1,000 volunteer medical teams who traveled to 82 countries and performed 43,000 surgeries—all for free, just like the baby's lip repair I had seen.

The oxygen monitors, called pulse oximeters, can be critical during surgery when a patient is under anesthesia. By providing both the monitors and training, AmeriCares is making lasting, sustainable improvements at the hospitals and clinics Medical Outreach teams partner with. Since 2015 AmeriCares has donated more than 2,900 pulse oximeters and supported the training of more than 5,000 local health workers in this and other safe surgery practices. The visiting teams also train local staff to use World Health Organization safe surgery checklists. All of these resources are available at no cost to volunteer teams on the AmeriCares Medical Outreach website.



A pulse oximeter

The volunteer medical teams work side by side with local staff, taking on tough cases, showing the latest techniques and bringing quality medicine, while local health workers demonstrate their hands-on skills and knowledge, critical in these low-resource settings. Seventy-five percent of teams return to the same host facility year after year. A new initiative seeks to improve the host facilities, so teams and local staff can accomplish more together.

That baby's healthy cry? It means AmeriCares strategy to strengthen local health centers is working and makes my job fulfilling every day.

In western Kenya, a 7-year-old boy struggled to talk and eat—even breathe—because of a growth that blocked his airway. Fortunately, a volunteer medical team arrived and operated on the child, successfully clearing his airway. During the surgery, the medical team used anesthetic donated by Baxter International and provided by AmeriCares Medical Outreach.

Targeted product donations are built into Baxter's corporate responsibility strategy. Twice a year, Baxter manufactures products specifically for donation. With a steady, year-round supply of Baxter's critically needed medicine and medical supplies, AmeriCares and other partners can provide sustained support for underserved communities around the world.

AmeriCares has provided Baxter products to communities in need since 1987—after emergencies, including earthquakes and hurricanes, and during ongoing crises, such as the fight against cholera in Somalia, where Baxter fluids are critical. Since the partnership began, AmeriCares has provided Baxter products valued at nearly \$260 million to 118 countries.

Baxter also supports AmeriCares with financial support for specific projects, including a new AmeriCares

## Baxter



Baxter fluids were airlifted to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria devastated the island in 2017.

warehouse in India, rebuilding multiple health centers in Nepal, the launch of a nutrition program for free clinic patients at risk of diabetes in the U.S. and more.

"Our products have helped families in poverty, as well as survivors of natural disasters by arming doctors, volunteers and health centers with the resources they need to care for patients," says Verónica Arroyave, executive director of the Baxter International Foundation. "We're grateful to work with partners like AmeriCares as we continue to prioritize the ways in which Baxter Gives Back."

Photo by Alejandro Granadillo

# Plan a Gift, Leave a Legacy

**Tom and Bettie Deen believe steadfastly in philanthropy's importance.**

It's a belief they inherited from their parents—and one they're demonstrating for their children and grandchildren.

"We were taught, and we saw in real-life models, the importance of giving back," says Tom. Both Tom's and Bettie's mothers included nonprofit organizations in their estate plans. "Hopefully, we've carried this on to our children and grandchildren," Tom says.



Tom and Bettie see charitable giving as an answer to a great need—especially during disasters when survivors are vulnerable. Charitable giving, Tom and Bettie say, is imperative for those who enjoy privilege.

"You'll watch horror happening to innocent people that have done nothing to deserve it," says Bettie. "It's unseemly not to participate in helping them, in whatever small way—or big way—you can."

Tom and Bettie have chosen to include AmeriCares in their estate plans. And, after a successful career as a transportation executive, Tom knows the value of a well-researched plan.

"We had a duty to at least give back part of what we've received," says Tom. "Our conscience would not permit us to do anything but that."

### To learn more about

your options, please contact Karen Malner directly at **203-658-9500** or by email at [plannedgiving@americares.org](mailto:plannedgiving@americares.org), and she will be happy to assist you. Thank you!

## Volunteer Medical Teams' Most-Requested Items

- Antibiotics
- Anesthetic
- Sutures
- Syringes
- Gastrointestinal medicine
- Cardiovascular medicine
- Hygiene supplies
- Eyeglasses



When qualified volunteer medical teams need medicine and supplies for their charitable trips, they log on to AmeriCares Medical Outreach website and order straight from inventory. On the website, teams also access and share experiences, best practices and insights.

# Your Donations at Work—During Emergencies and Every Day

With your help, between September 1 and November 30, 2019, AmeriCares provided project support, medicine and medical supplies to the following countries and U.S. territories:

Afghanistan	Cameroon	Ecuador	Haiti	Kyrgyzstan	Mozambique	Panama	Somalia	Turkey
Armenia	Colombia	Egypt	Honduras	Laos	Myanmar	Peru	South Sudan	Uganda
Bahamas	Costa Rica	El Salvador	India	Lebanon	Nepal	Philippines	St. Lucia	United States
Bangladesh	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Ethiopia	Indonesia	Liberia	Nicaragua	Puerto Rico	St. Vincent Island	U.S. Virgin Islands
Belarus	Fiji	Ghana	Ivory Coast	Mali	Niger	Romania	Syria	Uzbekistan
Belize	Dominica	Guatemala	Jamaica	Malawi	Nigeria	Rwanda	Tanzania	Vietnam
Brazil	Dominican Republic	Guyana	Jordan	Marshall Islands	Palau	Senegal	Thailand	Yemen
Cambodia			Kenya	Mexico	Palestinian Territories	Sierra Leone	Togo	Zambia

## AmeriCares Emergency Response Partners

These organizations and individuals support AmeriCares year-round readiness for global emergencies.

Alexion  
 AmerisourceBergen Foundation  
 Anthem Foundation  
 Bose  
 Chevron  
 Dean and Denise Vanech

FCA Foundation  
 Horizon Therapeutics  
 Integra Foundation  
 Medtronic  
 Northrop Grumman  
 Novartis

Odyssey Group Foundation  
 Patagonia  
 Southwest Airlines  
 Teleflex Foundation  
 Vertex Foundation  
 Voya Foundation



Tanzania

Photo by Nana Kofi Acquah

To improve health for patients—and ensure health workers stay safe—AmeriCares brings training and support to health centers around the world, including one near this man's home in Tanzania, where AmeriCares has trained and vaccinated thousands of health care providers.

Two years ago, the AmeriCares-supported Stephen F. Austin Community Health Network mobile clinic helped DeWayne get back on his feet after Hurricane Harvey destroyed his home and medicines. Today, DeWayne is healthy and stable—and credits the quality care he received at the clinic with his recovery.



Texas

Photo by Annie Mulligan



India

Photo by William Vasquez

AmeriCares India school health program reaches 22,000 children in 79 schools across Mumbai each year. Students learn healthy habits such as handwashing, so they can return to their communities armed with knowledge to bring positive change.



Bahamas

Photo by Jemps Civil

Since Hurricane Dorian struck the Bahamas in September, AmeriCares has been on the ground, helping survivors by providing medical and mental health consultations. AmeriCares is also providing mental health and psychosocial training for health workers, to ensure they can meet the needs of patients.



88 Hamilton Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902  
 203.658.9500 | 1.800.486.HELP | [americares.org](http://americares.org)  
 Editor: Kathy Kukula, [editor@americares.org](mailto:editor@americares.org)

Connect with us



@americares

AmeriCares is a health-focused relief and development organization that responds to people affected by poverty or disaster with life-changing health programs, medicine and medical supplies.



Health is on the Way is a trademark of Tandigm Health, LLC.