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.”

With Your Support, a Refugee Smiles Again

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

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 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.

“Together, We Truly Make a Difference”

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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!
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—or big way—you can.”

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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, and she will be happy to assist you. Thank you!
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  
AmerisourceBergen  
Anthem Foundation  
Bose  
Chevron  
Dean and Denise Vanech

Alexion  
AmerisourceBergen  
FCA Foundation  
Horizon Therapeutics  
Integra Foundation  
Medtronic  
Northrop Grumman  
Novartis  
Odyssey Group Foundation  
Patagonia  
Southwest Airlines  
Teleflex Foundation  
Vertex Foundation  
Voya Foundation

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.

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.

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