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."

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"

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

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

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

With Your Support, a Refugee Smiles Again

Volunteer doctors provided free dental care 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.

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*names changed for privacy
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!

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**From the President and CEO**

**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.

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.

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**Your Donation Sends Doctors Around the World**

**By Tricia Gordon, Director, Americares Medical Outreach**
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 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.”

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.”

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.

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  
Azerbaijan  
Bahrain  
Bangladesh  
Barbados  
Belgium  
Belgium  
Belgium  
Brazil  
Brunei  
Cameroon  
Canada  
Central African Republic  
Chad  
Chile  
China  
Colombia  
Comoros  
Costa Rica  
Cote d’Ivoire  
Cuba  
Cyprus  
Democratic Republic of the Congo  
Dominica  
Dominican Republic  
Ecuador  
Egypt  
El Salvador  
Equatorial Guinea  
Eritrea  
Estonia  
Ethiopia  
Fiji  
Finland  
France  
French Guiana  
Gabon  
Gambia  
Georgia  
Germany  
Ghana  
Greece  
Greece  
Greece  
Guatemala  
Guinea  
Guinea-Bissau  
Haiti  
Honduras  
Hungary  
Iceland  
India  
Indonesia  
Iran  
Iraq  
Ireland  
Israel  
Italy  
Jamaica  
Japan  
Jersey  
Jordan  
Kazakhstan  
Kenya  
Kuwait  
Kyrgyzstan  
Laos  
Lebanon  
Lesotho  
Liberia  
Libya  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Macedonia  
Madagascar  
Malawi  
Malaysia  
Maldives  
Mali  
Malta  
Mauritania  
Mauritius  
Mexico  
Micronesia  
Moldova  
Monaco  
Mongolia  
Morocco  
Mozambique  
Myanmar  
Namibia  
Nauru  
Nepal  
Netherlands  
Netherlands  
Netherlands  
Netherlands  
Netherlands  
New Zealand  
Nicaragua  
Niger  
Nigeria  
North Macedonia  
Norway  
Oman  
Pakistan  
Panama  
Papua New Guinea  
Paraguay  
Peru  
Philippines  
Poland  
Portugal  
Qatar  
Romania  
Russia  
Rwanda  
St. Vincent Island  
Sao Tome and Principe  
Saudi Arabia  
Senegal  
Seychelles  
Sierra Leone  
Singapore  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Somalia  
Somalia  
Somalia  
South Africa  
South Korea  
Spain  
Sri Lanka  
Sudan  
Suriname  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Syria  
Taiwan  
Tajikistan  
Tanzania  
Thailand  
Togo  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Tunisia  
Turkey  
Turkmenistan  
Ukraine  
Uganda  
Ukraine  
United Arab Emirates  
United Kingdom  
United States  
Uruguay  
Uzbekistan  
Vanuatu  
Venezuela  
Vietnam  
Yemen  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

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.

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

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.

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.

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