

Your Donation at Work: Hurricane Laura



Photo by Pu Ying Huang

Hurricane Laura wrecked homes and sent more than 12,000 survivors into shelters in Louisiana and Texas.

Hurricane Laura arrived with a bang. “Around 3 a.m., the roof ripped off, rain came in, and then everything crashed to the floor,” says JayVon Muhammad, describing the SWLA Center for Health Services in Lake Charles, Louisiana, where she is CEO.

Muhammad waited out the storm in the clinic so she could be in the community to help after the hurricane passed. The clinic’s patients are low-income and uninsured or on Medicaid, and many couldn’t afford to evacuate. Muhammad and the SWLA staff did what they could: They transported people to evacuation centers before the hurricane, sheltered families in the undamaged part of the clinic during the storm

and immediately checked on people who had sheltered in place — delivering water and reassurance. A year earlier, Muhammad and her team learned these emergency strategies and more in AmeriCares Health Center Resiliency Bootcamp.

Half of the SWLA clinic — about 26,000 square feet — was destroyed by Hurricane Laura. Despite its own damage, the clinic helped families without power and clean drinking water. With support from AmeriCares, SWLA brought in a water tank, ice, portable toilets and showers.

Muhammad knows that the health of people in Lake Charles is threatened by more than hurricanes. “Both Hurricane Laura and COVID-19 have been really crippling for us,” she says. “You’re looking at a vulnerable community.” Every year, AmeriCares supports 1,000 safety net clinics like SWLA, providing \$220 million in medicines and supplies just last year.

“Poverty is a public health crisis,” says Muhammad. “This community was struggling before Laura and is going to be struggling after Laura. We want help with the Laura response, but we also want people to understand that we need help to be just as well as the communities that are thriving across the country. We need to be prioritized.”



Photo by Pu Ying Huang

JayVon Muhammad is CEO of a clinic damaged by the storm.

Wildfires Update: Thousands Need Help



Photo by David Royal

Wildfires across the West forced tens of thousands from their homes.

AmeriCares has committed \$2.5 million in aid for the wildfires that were raging throughout the western United States in September. AmeriCares support will include critically needed medicine and relief supplies as well as financial support for families and health care centers. The record blazes have scorched millions of acres of land, blanketed the region with hazardous smoke, displaced tens of thousands of people and led to more than 30 deaths.

“There’s an enormous need for medicine to support patients with asthma, COPD and other respiratory conditions. There is also an increased need for PPE to protect health workers and relief teams responding to the crisis,” said AmeriCares Vice President of Emergency Programs Kate Dischino. “Some health centers are caring for twice as many patients, with evacuees from nearby towns fleeing from the unrelenting fires and smoke.”

AmeriCares is preparing emergency shipments of medicine, protective gear and relief supplies for health centers and partner organizations, has offered assistance to more than 80 clinic partners and is providing cash assistance to displaced families.



From the
President and CEO

With Your Help, Care Reaches Remote El Salvador

Since her mother died earlier this year, Iris has been struggling. The 46-year-old has diabetes and lives with her daughter in remote, rural El Salvador, far from the AmeriCares clinic. For months, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, buses weren't running, and AmeriCares teams couldn't travel to Iris's village. But Iris still got the care she needs – by cell phone.

Before the pandemic, AmeriCares community health workers would visit patients, including Iris, to monitor their weight, height, blood pressure and blood sugar and share important health messages. Then, during El Salvador's strict quarantine, patients received care by phone, videos, WhatsApp messages and voice calls.

"Many of my patients are older adults who tell me that they are happy to hear me, because they perceive that there is someone watching their health, and that motivates them," says AmeriCares Community Health Worker Xiomara Solano.

In the first 60 days of the project, 14,000 patients underwent triage and consultation at the clinic, more than 11,000 patients received COVID-19



No community is too far for AmeriCares community health workers in El Salvador.

prevention and health education messages by telephone and social media, and 215 patients received mental health and psychosocial support from the clinic.

"Our expanded COVID-19 response not only focuses on early detection and isolation of suspected cases, but also prioritizes outreach to patients with underlying health conditions at increased risk for serious complications from COVID-19," said AmeriCares Director of Latin American and Caribbean Programs Dr. Gabriela Salvador.

Dear Friends,

2020 is challenging all of us, and AmeriCares continues to meet the challenge. We are responding to multiple disasters, including COVID-19, with the goal of increasing access to health care for the low-income uninsured.

I hope you and your loved ones are healthy and safe. I'm happy to say that our staff is doing well; they have adopted new safety protocols, even as they work harder than ever. In the first six months of the pandemic, with your support, the team here has delivered more than 10 million protective supplies to health workers in 20 countries. That's a huge accomplishment, and I could not be prouder.

AmeriCares is dedicated to health workers, and we have created two ways for you to meet them, virtually of course. First, visit our website to hear 12 Heroes for Health describe their challenges. The address is americares.org/HeroesForHealth. Then, please view our Heroes for Health livestream at americares.org/Airlift2020, where we take you on a virtual journey around the world to meet the people you are helping with your support.

Thank you for your commitment during this challenging time. Your support impacts so many lives.

Sincerely,

Christine Squires | *President and CEO*

COVID-19: "You Rescued Us"

AmeriCares is using every resource to reduce the spread of the virus and keep health workers safe and on the job with the protective equipment and information they need to care for their patients. To accomplish this, we are addressing access to critical supplies, access to ongoing health services and access to credible safety information, including skills training for health workers.

"You rescued us because before, we didn't have any face shields, we didn't have any goggles," says Josefina Clarivel Manzueta, RN, clinic coordinator, Neighborhood Clinic Tacoma in Washington state. "AmeriCares is helping us keep our door open and serve this bigger community, too. It's just humans helping humans to have a better life."

Between March 1 and August 31, 2020, AmeriCares provided:

10M
supplies,
including
PPE and
disinfectants

164
training
sessions

26,108
participants
with training

335
improvements,
including hand-
washing stations,
in seven countries

39,537
telehealth visits
for patients in India
and AmeriCares
Free Clinics



Photo by Almando Etienne

In Haiti, Americares COVID-19 response includes training for community health workers.

The coronavirus changed everything for health care workers: Doctors, nurses and volunteers had to work differently and face new risks, many of them unknown. From the beginning, Americares COVID-19 emergency response has focused on supporting and building the capacity of health care workers to meet this unprecedented challenge, and from the start, UBS Optimus Foundation has been a key partner.

The UBS Optimus Foundation connects its clients with inspiring entrepreneurs, new technologies and proven models that are making a measurable, long-term difference to the most serious and enduring social and environmental problems. It takes an evidence-based approach and focuses on programs that have the potential to be transformative, scalable and sustainable.

UBS also makes matching contributions to the Foundation, ensuring clients' donations will go even further. Americares is one of the Foundation's global emergency response partners.

With the support of UBS Optimus Foundation, between March 1 and August 31, Americares supported health care workers in 20 countries with PPE, training and technical assistance, financial assistance and infrastructure upgrades.

"Philanthropists know that because of our expertise, we're giving them the powerful impact they want," says Phyllis Costanza, CEO of UBS Optimus Foundation. "We are working to drive long-term social impact and systemic change."

Plan a Gift, Leave a Legacy

During a challenging year like 2020, it pays to review your financial plan. You might consider a plan that supports your favorite causes, like Americares, while maximizing your tax benefits. Consider exploring one of these popular options:

- Gifts of stock
- Donor-advised funds
- IRA gifts

Dr. John and Janet Swanson chose a charitable gift annuity with Americares that provides them with stable, guaranteed income for the rest of their lives. It's part of their strategy to give the remainder of their estate to charity after providing for their three sons. "It's time to give back," John Swanson said. "It matters to us that this philanthropic investment will ultimately help save the lives of people who lack the basic medicines they need to survive."



"Likely Be a Lifesaver"

Americares receives emails every day from medical teams using Americares donations of medicines and medical supplies on their medical missions. Here's a recent note to senior associate Mimi Bateman:

Hi Mimi,

Earlier this month, I arrived in Zambia with 550 pounds of luggage, went grocery shopping and then collected items others gave me to bring to the hospital. When I went to get on

the small Cessna airplane that would fly me to Mukinge Hospital, the pilot kept weighing my supplies as he stuffed them into the plane. He had taken out all of the back seats. When he finished there was just enough room for the two of us to climb in. My supplies had weighed 737 pounds, including the medicine and supplies from Americares. I had less than 10 pounds to spare!

I'm glad it all fit. This afternoon, I had a very sick postpartum patient with a severe infection. The antibiotic Americares provided was perfect. It will likely be a lifesaver for this young mother.

I'm so grateful to be here and to be able to travel in spite of COVID.

Blessings – Allan Sawyer, M.D.

For more information about tax-smart ways of giving to Americares, please contact Karen Malner at 203.658.9596 or Kmalner@americares.org.

Also visit americares.mylegacygift.org

Thank you!

Your Donations at Work—During Emergencies and Every Day

With your help, between July 1 and August 31, 2020, AmeriCares sent project support, medicine and medical supplies to the following countries and U.S. territories:

Afghanistan	Central African Republic	Ghana	Ivory Coast	Liberia	Peru	Uzbekistan
Armenia	Colombia	Guatemala	Jordan	Malawi	Puerto Rico	Venezuela
Bahamas	Dominica	Haiti	Kosovo	Mali	Syria	Vietnam
Bangladesh	Dominican Republic	Honduras	Kyrgyzstan	Nigeria	Tanzania	Yemen
Cambodia	El Salvador	India	Lebanon	Northern Mariana Islands	United States	Zambia

AmeriCares Emergency Response Partners

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

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Alexion | FCA Foundation | Odyssey Group Foundation | Vertex Foundation |
| AmerisourceBergen Foundation | Horizon Therapeutics | Patagonia | Voya Foundation |
| Anthem Foundation | Integra Foundation | Southwest Airlines | Xylem |
| Bose | Medtronic | Teleflex Foundation | |
| Chevron | Northrop Grumman | Dean and Denise Vanech | |
| | Novartis | | |



Louisiana

Photo by Feeding America

With Nestlé Waters North America, AmeriCares provided more than 360,000 bottles of water for survivors of Hurricane Laura in storm-affected Louisiana and Texas.



Connecticut

When COVID-19 shut down most businesses in Connecticut, AmeriCares Free Clinics switched to telehealth and contactless medication pickup. More than 3,000 appointments were held by telephone in the first six months of the pandemic.



Peru

Photo by Angela Ponce

In Peru, AmeriCares is providing surge medical support to health facilities overwhelmed by COVID-19, as well as operating mobile medical clinics in communities with high rates of infection.



When you shop at smile.amazon.com, choose AmeriCares as your charity, and Amazon will donate 0.5 percent of the price of your eligible purchase at no cost to you.



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