

## They Had to Run, Leaving Everything Behind



Displaced from their home, this family's stress was eased by Americares health services — and the rescue of their dog, Rocky.

**“My nerves were shattered!” says Lisbeth, a farmer whose family fled armed conflict in Venezuela and found themselves living in a refugee tent camp across the border in Colombia. “This situation overwhelmed me.”**

Lisbeth is one of more than 5,000 Venezuelans who have escaped violence in rural Apure, Venezuela, where armed groups threaten and attack civilians. When bombs exploded near their farm in April 2021, Lisbeth and her family ran from their home, hid in a forest, then crossed the river to Colombia, leaving everything behind — including their dog, Rocky, who disappeared during the bombing.



Americares mental health specialist Sara Rodriguez counsels patients.

The family is now one of thousands living in camps and shelters in Arauquita, Colombia, where Americares mobile health centers provide refugees with free health services, including primary and mental health care.

“In patients, I see fear and sadness, anguish for relatives left behind, and uncertainty and hopelessness due to lack of control,” says Americares mental health specialist Sara Rodriguez. Rodriguez and the medical team integrate mental health into primary care and educate everyone about COVID-19. Americares also operates nine clinics in other areas in Colombia where Venezuelans are settling, managing more than 400,000 patient visits since 2018. The clinics are operated in coordination with the Colombian Ministry of Health and Social Protection and made possible with the generous support of the United States Agency for International Development and USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance.

The stress of displacement took its toll on Lisbeth and her family, and the loss of their dog made things worse. Lisbeth re-crossed the border twice to search for Rocky, crying with joy when he leapt into her arms at an animal shelter. “Having him back helps me feel lighter, and I see my children radiate with happiness,” Lisbeth told Rodriguez. “Rocky gives me strength to continue.”

Lisbeth, her husband and children all receive health care from Americares mobile health team. “For us, Americares help is invaluable, especially during this adversity we are experiencing,” says Lisbeth.

**“It is a huge value to us!”**

Before she could start her new job at a deli, Ana\* needed a COVID-19 vaccine. Yet she and her husband were unsure how to access the vaccine registration system in Connecticut. So, when their health care provider, Americares Free Clinics, called to offer vaccination slots offered by their town’s department of health, the couple eagerly signed up to receive two doses of COVID-19 vaccine. “It is a huge value to us emotionally, financially, health-wise — everything!” says Ana.

Americares Free Clinics worked closely with their hospital partners and departments of health in the four towns where the clinics are located to gain access to the vaccine for their patients. The partners made slots available just for low-income, uninsured people. Americares Free Clinics staff called hundreds of patients to schedule and confirm their appointments.

\*name changed



Ana and her husband, Matteo, received COVID-19 vaccines from Americares Free Clinics.



From the  
**President and CEO**

Dear Friends,

I'm happy to report that I am fully vaccinated against COVID-19, as is my husband. We are so grateful. For us, the pandemic has shifted to a new phase where our risk of becoming severely ill from COVID-19 is low. We still take precautions, of course, and I hope you are safe, too. But for billions of people around the world, the risks continue, and there is no end in sight.

The pandemic has highlighted a huge divide: Some people can access health resources, including vaccines, while others encounter barriers. Certain groups are also more likely to recover from COVID-19. The differences have to do with health equity, that is, fair access to the healthiest life possible.

The goal of health equity underpins Americares mission to save lives and improve health for people affected by poverty or disaster. Age, disability status, preferred language, race or socioeconomic status should not influence health outcomes, including the services a person can access — in an emergency, pandemic or every day.

Americares programs build the capacity of local health centers around the world to increase access to quality health care for people in marginalized communities — and that includes access to the COVID-19 vaccine.

The health of each of us affects the health of all of us: The rapid spread of COVID-19 proved that. Let's work together, so everyone can live a healthy life.

Thank you.

Christine Squires  
*President and CEO*

## Because of You: Critical Equipment Reaches Hospitals in India



During the second wave of COVID-19, Americares mobile health centers in India pivoted between in-person care and telehealth.

When a second wave of COVID-19 hit India in April 2021, doubling India's pandemic death toll, Americares increased its support for health centers and communities, providing critical supplies and equipment, training for health workers, and telehealth and public education for the community. "The support Americares is providing is so vital, so timely," says Americares India Managing Director Shripad Desai. "We must ensure that the support that we are extending to the health care facilities and hospitals continues."

Americares immediately donated an additional 1.2 million units of personal protective equipment for health workers, bringing the total since the pandemic began to 6.6 million, including masks and gloves. "Americares is ensuring that the frontline health care workers have continuous access to PPE," says Desai. To expand capacity, Americares also established and equipped two intensive care units and provided eight oxygen plants, 3,500 oxygen concentrators and 350 oxygen cylinders, reaching more than 100 hospitals in 16 states and union territories.

For the 54,000 patients of Americares seven mobile health centers, the India team continued to provide care — in-person, where possible, as well as telehealth, and including medicine delivery. Community education for adults and students includes safety practices and vaccine information.

India is one of 34 countries where Americares is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. By mid-May 2021, Americares had provided more than 15 million supplies to 613 partner organizations, as well as caring for patients in our own clinics in Colombia, Connecticut, El Salvador and India. To help local health centers meet the demands of the pandemic, Americares has also hosted 508 training sessions, including mental health training designed to equip health workers with the tools to manage their own stress and anxiety.

### Americares Worldwide COVID-19 Response

**15M** protective supplies

**613** local partners

**508** training sessions for health workers

**34** countries

### Our Worldwide Goals

- Strengthen health facilities
- Protect health workers
- Protect communities



Critical equipment reaches hospitals in India.

## Partner in Profile: MathWorks



Hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, floods, wildfires: Each year, AmeriCares responds to an average of 30 disasters, in the U.S. and around the world. Where poverty and neglect make every day a health emergency, AmeriCares provides medicine, supplies and programs that help build quality care in local health centers, reaching an average of 90 countries every year. AmeriCares partner MathWorks knows how urgent and unpredictable both types of disasters can be and generously supports all of AmeriCares programs.

MathWorks is the leading developer of mathematical computing software for engineers and scientists worldwide, with innovative products that include MATLAB and Simulink, used by the automotive, aerospace, electronics and other industries, and as educational and research tools at leading universities. Founded in 1984, MathWorks employs more than 5,000 people in 16 countries, with headquarters in Natick, Mass. “A cornerstone of our Social Mission is to support our global communities, particularly during times of crisis,” says MathWorks



When resources reach health centers, lives improve.

Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Jeanne O’Keefe. “We chose to partner with AmeriCares based on its history of impactful response to disasters and other human health emergencies, most recently the coronavirus pandemic. Through AmeriCares, we know our financial support will go to health care organizations who are effecting positive outcomes in their communities.”

## Your Donation at Work: Honduras Hurricane Recovery

Don Eli already had to travel for health care, but after Hurricanes Eta and Iota devastated northern Honduras in November 2020, accessing care for his diabetes became almost impossible. Heavy rains from the two Category 4 hurricanes triggered deadly mudslides, washed out roads and bridges and left an estimated \$10 billion in damage. More than 100 people died in Honduras alone.

AmeriCares responded immediately, with shipments of medicine and medical supplies, including protective equipment to guard against COVID-19 transmission, to partners in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. In Honduras, AmeriCares is also collaborating with local partners to repair and improve two storm-damaged health centers in the hard-hit Santa Barbara Department — including the clinic closest to Don Eli’s rural home, the Dr. Jerónimo Suazo Alcerro Maternal and Child Clinic and Integrated Health Center in San Jose de Colinas.

“I grew up here and don’t remember anything like Iota and Eta,” says Dr. Saydi Paredes, health coordinator at the clinic. After the storms, “we were without electricity and drinking water. We knew that crops were going to be lost, that jobs would



When their clinic in Honduras closed after a hurricane, staff made house calls to ensure continuity of care.

be lost, and rebuilding was going to be difficult.” The community was already dealing with the global pandemic. AmeriCares is strengthening the clinic, restoring electricity, replacing roofing and repairing a lavatory building swept away by winds.

Until the rehabilitated clinic reopened, Dr. Paredes and her staff made house calls to patients, including Don Eli. “He is a person I have known since I was little,” says Dr. Paredes. “He has always been a very active person in the community, always concerned that the community would be served, in education and health, including access to drinking water and electricity.” Now, with AmeriCares help, Dr. Paredes and her staff have the resources to return the favor and ensure that the community can care for Don Eli.

## To Make the World a Better Place

Soon after Dean Maglaris was introduced to AmeriCares at a United Nations event in 2004, he met founder Bob Macauley. “Bob was a force of nature with an exuberant passion to help those in need, anywhere, anytime and against all odds,” says Maglaris. Maglaris, who had enjoyed a successful career in marketing and business development in pharmaceuticals, saw a synergy and accepted Macauley’s invitation to join AmeriCares board of directors. “There comes a point in your life when you begin looking for ways to give back, to make the world a better place,” says Maglaris.

Maglaris believed that the AmeriCares model was the best of all nonprofits for transforming lives around the world and felt it was imperative AmeriCares embark on a path of growth and greatly scaled-up operations. He had a conviction that AmeriCares needed to formalize its structure and business practices in order to grow, while staying true to the Macauley legacy. “I recognized early on that, because of Bob’s vision, there should be no limit on the amount of good AmeriCares provides, so we needed to build to respond,” he says. As lead director and then chairman of the board, Maglaris partnered with two CEOs to evolve the organization. “Now the organization has a much larger global footprint and a structure suited to transforming the lives of millions in the future. That was a major accomplishment, and it was exhilarating to be part of it. That’s what I’m most proud of.”

After 14 years on the board, Maglaris stepped down in 2018 and continues to support AmeriCares as a member of AmeriCares emeritus board. “The people working at AmeriCares continue to extol, espouse and represent the values that the Macauleys established,” says Maglaris. “It’s heartwarming to see that their values are so much alive.”

# Your Donations at Work — During Emergencies and Every Day

With your help, between March 1, 2021, and May 31, 2021, AmeriCares sent project support, medicine and medical supplies to the following countries and U.S. territories:

Afghanistan	Central African Republic	El Salvador	Honduras	Kyrgyzstan	Mozambique	Islands	Romania	Tanzania	Yemen
Armenia	Colombia	Fiji	India	Lebanon	Myanmar	Pakistan	Rwanda	United States	Zambia
Benin	Costa Rica	Gambia	Indonesia	Liberia	Nicaragua	Palestine	Sierra Leone	Uzbekistan	
Burkina Faso	Cote d'Ivoire	Ghana	Jamaica	Malawi	Nigeria	Peru	Somalia	Venezuela	
Cambodia	Dominica	Guatemala	Kenya	Mali	Northern Mariana	Philippines	South Sudan	Vietnam	
Cameroon	Dominican Republic	Haiti	Kosovo	Mexico		Puerto Rico	Syria		

## AmeriCares Emergency Response Partners

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

<b>Alexion</b>	<b>Horizon Therapeutics</b>	<b>Odyssey Group Foundation</b>	<b>Dean and Denise Vanech</b>
<b>AmerisourceBergen Foundation</b>	<b>Integra Foundation</b>	<b>Patagonia</b>	<b>Vertex Foundation</b>
<b>Anthem Foundation</b>	<b>Medtronic</b>	<b>PVH Foundation</b>	<b>Voya</b>
<b>Chevron</b>	<b>Northrop Grumman</b>	<b>Southwest Airlines</b>	
<b>FCA Foundation</b>	<b>Novartis</b>	<b>Teleflex Foundation</b>	



**Philippines**

After a volcanic eruption in the Philippines last year, AmeriCares provided hygiene kits for displaced families.



**United States**

AmeriCares support for Berkeley Free Clinic in California made clean, safe water available to people affected by homelessness in the Bay Area.



**Global**

COVID-19 supplies continue to flow from AmeriCares global distribution center to health centers across the United States and around the world.



**Honduras**

This young couple is awaiting the arrival of their first child in rural Honduras. Learn more about their story on October 2 at [americares.org/Airlift2021](https://americares.org/Airlift2021).



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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