

“We have the confidence of our patients because of what you provide”



Every visit to the dentist now requires layers of protective gear to guard against COVID-19.

The masks and gloves dentist Dr. Gita Patel wears when treating patients do more than block the virus. “Patients see we are working to keep them safe,” she says. People are more likely to return for important routine health care when they trust their providers, she says. Much of the protective gear Dr. Patel uses is provided by Americares.

“We have the confidence of our patients because of what you provide,” says VCare Program Director Dr. Maqsood Ahmed. The four VCare clinics in Texas care for 35,000 patients a year – all are low-income and receive care at a low-cost flat fee. “We cannot achieve this level without Americares support,” says Dr. Ahmed.

Because VCare is an Americares partner, staff can order donations of needed medicine and supplies directly from Americares inventory, which are provided to patients at no cost. VCare was awarded a flash grant to help fill gaps – including the purchase of more supplies, such as the sanitizers needed to clean rooms between patients. Even with cash in hand, critical supplies are often sold out: When VCare could not find gloves in November, Americares stepped in with an emergency shipment of 20,000.

In all, Americares has provided more than 11 million safety and sanitizing supplies to 547 partners like VCare worldwide since early February, when the pandemic began.

For Dr. Patel and her husband, a doctor caring for COVID-19 patients at a nearby hospital, guarding against the coronavirus is part of their routine, at work and at home. They take every precaution. “The first thing we do when we get home is shower,” says Dr. Patel. “Then, every night, we pray for the health and well-being of the whole world.”



Dr. Patel takes every precaution when caring for patients, herself and her family.

With Your Help, a Mother Recovers from COVID-19



This family is together again after battling COVID-19.

When Eva* began to experience symptoms of COVID-19 last spring, she feared for herself and her two young sons. Eva stopped working as a house cleaner so she would not infect others, and she knew it would be weeks, if not longer, before she could earn her hourly wage again.

“In this moment, I was sad. People were saying they were dying,” Eva says. “I said, ‘I have two sons here. I can’t go.’”

Eva immediately called the Boehringer Ingelheim Americares Free Clinic in Danbury, Conn., where she’d been a patient for years. Clinic staff provided medicine to ease her symptoms, education resources and an isolation kit, with masks and disinfectants – all at no cost. Eva sent her sons to stay with a friend to protect them and endured the symptoms, having telehealth appointments with her doctor at the Americares clinic.

Eva is one of 2,519 patients who receive care at Americares four free clinics in Connecticut. Clinic staff continued to provide care during the pandemic: Eva’s appointments were among more than 5,000 telehealth appointments clinic staff managed in 2020.

“The clinic has always helped me,” says Eva. “They’re my angels.”

*name changed



From the
President and CEO

Dear Friends,

As we begin 2021, I want to wish you and your loved ones health and well-being in the new year. The pandemic has touched so many lives; I hope there are better days ahead for all of us.

During this challenging time, your generosity means the world to me, my colleagues at AmeriCares and the people we help here in the United States and around the globe.

AmeriCares has committed every resource to battle the pandemic. With your support, we've sent more than 11 million protective supplies, including gloves, masks and gowns, to health workers battling the pandemic in 26 countries. Thank you.

Here in the U.S., we've provided medicine, supplies and emergency flash grants to protect health workers and ensure that low-income patients can get the health care they need. Thank you.

And, during the pandemic, AmeriCares continues to provide health programs, medicine and medical supplies that are the foundation of health care around the world. Because of your support, clinics can provide prenatal care, treatment for diabetes and heart disease and other medical services – all for people who struggle to access care because of poverty or disaster. In all, last year we sent medicine and medical supplies to 83 countries – saving lives, changing lives and creating healthy futures.

Please know that your generosity and commitment are making a difference to millions of people.

Sincerely,

Christine Squires | *President and CEO*

Your Donation at Work: Aid Reaches Storm Survivors in Central America, the Philippines and U.S.



In the Philippines, families lived amongst wreckage after Typhoon Goni in November 2020.

AmeriCares emergency aid, medicine and supplies, including COVID-19 safety gear, reached survivors after Hurricanes Eta and Iota devastated Central America and Typhoons Goni and Vamco caused widespread damage in the Philippines in November. This is in addition to aid for clinics in the United States after Hurricanes Laura, Sally and Delta hit the Gulf Coast in September and October. In all, AmeriCares responded to eight major storms in the six-month 2020 hurricane season.

Colombia, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras were hit hard by powerful Category 4 hurricanes just two weeks apart, causing devastating floods. In Honduras alone, more than 4 million people were affected. AmeriCares provided funding directly to local partners

to quickly provide hygiene and COVID-19 supplies to shelters and medicine and medical supplies to damaged health centers. “We not only provided masks to survivors,” says said Raúl Pineda, AmeriCares Latin America emergency response coordinator, “but we showed families how to use them, as masks often aren’t worn routinely.” AmeriCares also provided shipments of medicine and medical supplies to partners in the region.

In the Philippines, after millions of people were evacuated or displaced by Typhoons Goni and Vamco, AmeriCares distributed hygiene kits, protective gear, bottled water and water purification tablets to survivors. AmeriCares is also providing medical supplies and equipment for damaged health centers, and emergency response teams promoted hygiene, which can be challenging for families living in the midst of storm damage.



AmeriCares brought relief supplies to typhoon survivors in the Philippines.



AmeriCares shared information about hygiene with typhoon survivors.



Americares sent shipments of COVID-19 safety supplies to partners in 49 U.S. states.

When Americares shipments of masks arrive, entire communities breathe easier. “Americares is helping us keep our door open,” says Josefina Clarivel Manzueta, RN, of Neighborhood Clinic Tacoma, which received an emergency COVID-19 shipment of masks from Americares in May 2020. Longtime Americares partner Medtronic Foundation played a critical role: In spring 2020, the Medtronic Foundation helped provide more than 1.4 million protective masks for frontline health workers in the U.S.

“We are thrilled to turn our gratitude into action – so the courageous frontline workers who deliver critical services have what they need to stay safe when they serve others,” said Paurvi Bhatt, president of the Medtronic Foundation. “Over the years, we’ve become trusted partners with Americares, responding to disasters. In this pandemic, our close collaboration helped us get critical PPE to those in need quickly, so they can stay safe as they care for patients with COVID-19.”

Medtronic and the Medtronic Foundation have supported Americares since 1986, including emergency responses in more than 60 countries. The Medtronic Foundation is also an Americares Emergency Response Partner, pledging year-round support in advance of emergencies and enabling quick responses to disasters, including 2020 Hurricanes Laura, Eta and Iota. Health programs across Americares benefit from Medtronic’s partnership, such as Americares Free Clinics chronic disease programs and disaster risk reduction activities in the Philippines.

Medtronic is the world’s largest standalone medical technology company, developing innovations and breakthrough medical technologies used along the entire continuum of care. The Medtronic Foundation partners to improve health for underserved populations, as well as supports communities where Medtronic employees live and give.

You Did It: Water Flows in Pestel, Haiti



In remote western Haiti, Pestel is hours away from another town or city. To improve health services in the region, Americares is strengthening the health center in Pestel, providing equipment, an ambulance, facility upgrades and staffing and training. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, Americares is also making hand-washing available to everyone by installing dozens of hand-washing stations in the community and promoting their use with public messaging.

The combination is powerful, says Dr. Waly Turin, Americares project officer in Haiti. “We’ve seen that when we do outreach in the community around COVID-19, if we do not have the actual tools to promote the message we are trying to get across, it is almost as if we are doing nothing,” says Dr. Turin. “The hand-washing stations help so much.” Dr. Turin believes that the hand-washing stations have reduced the spread of COVID-19 in Pestel.

Gifts That Save Lives

Supporting Americares makes sense to Frances Helbling. “The money you donate doesn’t go to waste; administrative costs are very low. They’re worth every penny,” she says.

Helbling is confident about donating to Americares. As part of her job as a community affairs associate at health care company Baxter International, Helbling researched and recommended Americares as an organization her colleagues should support. During that time, Helbling became friends with staff at Americares and volunteered at Camp AmeriKids (now the Elm Project, a separate nonprofit) and even traveled to Honduras as part of an Americares airlift.

“I saw Americares work firsthand,” says Helbling, who is now retired. “We visited hospitals and clinics, and everyone was so grateful.” Helbling is now a monthly sustainer, a method of giving that “makes sense to me,” she says.

Helbling immigrated to the U.S. from Montreal as a young child, speaking only French. She received help with language and cultural skills at an afterschool program. “I remember there were people helping me get through tough times,” she says. “It stayed with me. It formed me. I’m going to pay it forward.”



For more information about becoming an Americares monthly sustainer, please visit [americares.org](https://www.americares.org).

Thank you!

Your Donations at Work—During Emergencies and Every Day

With your help, between September 1 and November 15, 2020, AmeriCares sent project support, medicine and medical supplies to the following countries and U.S. territories:

Afghanistan	Bolivia	Dominica	Guatemala	Jamaica	Mali	Peru	United States
Armenia	Cambodia	Dominican Republic	Haiti	Kyrgyzstan	Nicaragua	Philippines	Uzbekistan
Bahamas	Cameroon	El Salvador	Honduras	Lebanon	Nigeria	Romania	Vietnam
Bangladesh	Central African Republic	Ghana	India	Liberia	Pakistan	Sierra Leone	Yemen
Belarus	Colombia	Ivory Coast		Malawi	Palestinian Territories	Somalia	Zambia

AmeriCares Emergency Response Partners

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

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



United States

Last year, dedicated staff at AmeriCares global distribution center in Stamford, Conn., safely managed 8,740 shipments containing more than 25 million medical supplies and enough medicine for 10.3 million prescriptions.



Colombia

When she had COVID-19 while pregnant, this young mother found care at one of AmeriCares 10 clinics in Colombia. Now, she and her baby are healthy. The clinics provide no-cost care to refugees and migrants from Venezuela.



Peru

After many clinics that serve people living in extreme poverty in Peru were shut down during spring of 2020, many families went months without health care. This mother and her son can now find care at a mobile clinic, thanks to AmeriCares support.

Photo by Angela Ponce



Malawi

AmeriCares is improving health facilities in communities near two of Malawi's national parks. Work goes on, safely, including public health education about hand-washing during the pandemic.

Photo by Thoko Chikori



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