

Protecting Health When Disaster Strikes



Pakistan 2005

Photo by Matthew McDermott

Lives change in an instant when disaster strikes. Homes, businesses and hospitals can disappear. In the aftermath, survivors are often without the basic medicines and supplies they need to stay healthy.

After 30 years of delivering aid to approximately 300 disasters of every type and scope, AmeriCares has the medical and logistical expertise to save lives in the most dire situations. Our worldwide network of close to 3,000 clinics and hospitals can quickly tell us what survivors need.

In hours, our medical staff can assess the situation and customize a response with exactly the medicines and supplies in demand at the disaster site. We now pre-position emergency supplies in disaster-prone areas, so they can be distributed quickly when seasonal storms cause tornadoes, floods and landslides.

Survivors in recovering communities in Japan, Haiti, Missouri, Mississippi and many other areas continue to benefit from our ongoing aid as they rebuild their lives.



Missouri 2011

Photo by Debbi Morello

Top: AmeriCares rushed more than \$8 million worth of medicines and life-saving medical supplies to survivors of the magnitude 7.6 earthquake in Pakistan in October 2005. Above: After receiving tetanus vaccines from AmeriCares, residents of Joplin, Mo. could safely begin cleaning debris left by tornadoes.

Smart Response

Our Emergency Response and Recovery team sent aid to protect survivors' health after these disasters in 2011 and 2012*.

Civil Strife: Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria (refugees in Turkey and Jordan)

Droughts: Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, United States (Oklahoma)

Earthquakes and Tsunamis: India, Japan, Turkey (through a volunteer doctor)

Epidemics: Haiti (cholera), India (encephalitis), Somalia (cholera), United States (Washington — whooping cough)

Hurricanes, Storms and Floods: Cambodia, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Japan, Nicaragua, North Korea, Pakistan, Philippines, United States (Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia), Thailand, Vietnam

Tornadoes: United States (Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia)

Wildfires: United States (Colorado, Texas)

*through July 31, 2012



From the President and CEO

Dear Friends,

In this newsletter, we look at how our organization has evolved over 30 years to help more people live longer, healthier lives.

With your help, in the past decade we swiftly responded to Hurricane Katrina, the Southeast Asia tsunami, floods in Pakistan, the earthquake in Haiti, and the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. No matter how remote, we were among the first to arrive after these and other disasters — and we are still helping people in each of those places, and in so many more.

Because of your commitment, we are poised to act right now. If a mother in Haiti is sickened with cholera tonight, her life can be saved with medicines we delivered in advance of the rainy season. If a child living in the slums of Mumbai wakes up with a fever tomorrow, he can see a doctor at an AmeriCares mobile clinic. If there is a hurricane in the southern United States next week, clinics there will be prepared — thanks to our supplies and training.

I hope you are inspired and proud of the work you help make possible. Please join in our commitment to meet the needs of more people, in more places, in the next 30 years.

With sincerest gratitude,

Curtis R. Welling
President and CEO

Prepared: Ahead of an Epidemic

When 40-year-old Haitian farmer Marcel Fontilus saw posters and heard community educators talk about cholera, he was dismissive at first. “I thought cholera was a political strategy,” he says. Then last May, Marcel began to experience symptoms of the potentially deadly diarrheal disease. He recalled the messages he’d seen and heard and quickly made his way to a cholera treatment clinic. AmeriCares supported every step in Marcel’s recovery — the posters, community educators and a well-supplied clinic.

In 30 years, AmeriCares has battled cholera many times, not only in Haiti, but also in Chad, Iraq, Kenya, Somalia and Zimbabwe. The highly contagious disease thrives in unsanitary conditions, especially after disasters, floods or heavy rains. The World Health Organization estimates that there are between 3 million and 5 million cases of cholera a year, resulting in 100,000 to 120,000 deaths. In Haiti, our medicines and supplies have saved thousands of lives since an epidemic began following the 2010 earthquake.



Photo by Lauren Camp/AmeriCares

Cholera recovery in Bangladesh

Worldwide, we are working with the International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icDDR, b) on training and readiness. Where cholera is a threat, we are training health care workers to provide the most effective care. We can also launch a response to a cholera outbreak in 72 hours — dispatching a pre-positioned kit with enough medicines and critical supplies to treat 15,000 people.

Marcel wasn’t aware of our preparation for his outbreak — only that help was there when he needed it. But others are taking note. “This is increasingly the future of disaster

management,” Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tina Rosenberg wrote about AmeriCares efforts in the April 7, 2012 New York Times. “Pre-positioning to get what’s needed to where it’s needed earlier.”

“The supplies were a huge help to our fight against cholera. I will always remember what AmeriCares did to help us—before anyone even knew that cholera was coming.”

— Lorelle G. Moise RN, Director, Real Hope for Haiti Clinic

Ready Now

Because preparedness is so critical to an effective response, AmeriCares is planning — and acting — ahead of hurricanes, floods and storms. We’re pre-positioning medicines, shelter supplies and household kits that protect health when disaster strikes. Our training teaches first responders how to react in many kinds of emergencies.

Emergency supplies in place: Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Philippines, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, United States

Disaster training: Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Somalia, United States

Building a Generation of Health



Photo by Gautam Singh

More than 2,500 people a month receive regular medical care from our mobile medical clinics in India.

At just 9 years of age, Lina* has a health history that could spell disaster in El Salvador — it includes hepatitis, dengue fever and malnutrition. Left untreated, any one of those conditions could have made Lina sick for years, perhaps even her entire life. But in 2003, the year she was born, AmeriCares opened a clinic in Lina's hometown of Santiago de Maria. One of nearly 50,000 people who have received care there, Lina has overcome every health challenge and is now a thriving, growing girl who can focus on school and family life.



Contributed Photo

El Salvador clinic patient Lina

For hundreds of thousands of people worldwide like Lina, AmeriCares has helped to create a foundation of health by providing a dependable source of primary care. Thirty years ago, AmeriCares committed to a relief shipment of \$50,000 in aid to Poland. Now, each month, we deliver more than 500 times that — an average this year of \$25 million a month, including enough medicine to treat 1 million people suffering range of conditions, from malaria to measles to malnutrition. Our aid currently goes to more than 90 countries a year where our local partners guarantee that the medicines are used correctly and provided to patients at no cost.

“In too many places around the world, a lack of medicines causes health disasters every day,” says AmeriCares President and CEO Curt Welling. “With our expertise and donations, we can build health care capacity and create lasting change.”

*name changed



Photo by Tammy Allen/AmeriCares

Preventing malnutrition: In Vietnam, we deliver vitamins and locally-grown soymilk to preschoolers.

Here at Home: Help Every Day



Photo courtesy of GNO Immunization Network

In New Orleans, our aid included vaccines.

When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast in 2005, more than 1 million people were left homeless in one surge of floodwater. Hundreds of health care clinics, pharmacies and doctors' offices were ruined. To help fill this sudden need, AmeriCares delivered \$4 million worth of medicines and supplies in just the first month after the hurricane. When the floodwaters receded, AmeriCares stayed, delivering more than \$12 million in aid to the region in the next seven years.

After Hurricane Katrina, AmeriCares continued to expand our support of nonprofit health clinics in the U.S. — we now work nationwide every day to ensure that safety net clinics have the medicines, supplies and equipment they need. In one recent 12-month period, we sent more than \$24 million of medical aid to 355 clinics where uninsured and underinsured people can go for medical care. With routine care, patients make fewer costly trips to the emergency room.

In our 30th year, AmeriCares is a leader in knowledge about and support of our nation's nonprofit health clinics. After a groundbreaking nationwide survey of nonprofit clinics in 2011, we helped create U.S. Access, a website that allows clinics to request medicines online. Staff can expect shipment of critically needed medicines in just five days.

For more information, visit americares.org/wherewework/united-states/

A Volunteer Delivers 5,000 Smiles

Twenty years ago, Iliana's parents were hoping for just one thing: That their baby daughter would not have to live with a cleft lip and palate. The split in her lip and the roof of her mouth made talking and eating difficult and could have resulted in a lifetime of ill health. In their hometown of Guayaquil, Ecuador, corrective surgery was hard to come by — and expensive.

But Iliana was lucky: Dr. Usama Hamdan, president of the Global Smile Foundation, brought his team of doctors and specialists to Guayaquil. Volunteering their time and working with medicines donated by AmeriCares, the medical team performed the corrective facial surgery that gave Iliana the warm, beautiful smile she wears so confidently today.

Since 1991, AmeriCares Medical Outreach Program has supported more than 40 trips by Dr. Hamdan and his medical teams, supplying them with anesthesia, antibiotics and other supplies needed to successfully operate on approximately 5,000 cleft lip and palate patients in nine countries.

Dr. Hamdan's trip to Guayaquil is just one of close to 6,000



Iliana before surgery (above), and 20 years after.



Photo courtesy of Global Smiles

volunteer medical trips to 106 countries that AmeriCares Medical Outreach Program has outfitted in just the last five years. In that time, AmeriCares has given doctors more than \$200 million worth of medicines, supplies and equipment to help with everything from primary care to life-saving surgeries.

Partner in Profile: GlaxoSmithKline

Historically, for every \$100 donated, AmeriCares has delivered up to \$2,500 in medical care to people who need it — a powerful efficiency we've achieved in part because pharmaceutical companies donate millions of dollars worth of medicines to AmeriCares every year.



AmeriCares President and CEO Curt Welling presents the Power of Partnership award to GlaxoSmithKline's Joseph Kucharski.

Since 1989, GlaxoSmithKline has been a leading donor, supplying crucial drugs, including antibiotics and vaccines, valued at more than \$168 million for people in need in 120 countries, including the U.S. Their remarkable Produce to Give program allows AmeriCares to select \$4 million worth of the most critically needed health care products each year for people in need in the developing world. Last summer, AmeriCares acknowledged GSK's ongoing generosity by presenting them with the annual Power of Partnership award during an industry meeting.

"By offering our medical experts a choice of medicines, GSK meets some of the most pressing health needs in the world and helps us make a profound difference in the lives of those who need assistance most," says AmeriCares President and CEO Curt Welling.



Photo by Lauren Camp/AmeriCares

GSK's antibiotic ointment makes skin infection less of a risk for this young leprosy patient in the Philippines.

The company's product donations also support AmeriCares Emergency Pharmacy, a stock of pre-positioned medicines and supplies ready to be immediately deployed after a disaster. GSK employees have a long history of volunteering with AmeriCares in the U.S. and India through PULSE, the company's three-to-six-month immersion volunteer program.


AmeriCares

AmeriCares is a nonprofit global health and disaster relief organization that delivers medicines, medical supplies and aid to people in crisis around the world and across the United States.

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