

She's a Nurse, Volunteer and Now, a Patient in Need



Willona is a nurse and lifelong resident of Eunice, La., who must now rely on medicine she can't afford.

In 2004, Willona became a nurse and also began volunteering at Eunice Community Health Center, a free clinic in rural Louisiana. Now, after a battle with COVID-19, the 45-year-old depends on the clinic for medicine she can't afford.

Before Willona became infected with the coronavirus in July 2022, she was nursing full-time at a local hospital and volunteering at the free clinic. "I started a program at the clinic called SWIMM — Someone Where It Matters Most," Willona says. She filled in where needed, connecting free clinic patients to specialty services — providing wound care for the elderly, for example, or delivering tetanus vaccine after a storm. The Eunice clinic provides free care to 2,500 low-income un- and underinsured people in a 60-mile radius.

But in July 2022, COVID-19 hit Willona hard: After testing positive, she awoke in her home with a dangerously low blood oxygen level and spent weeks in the hospital. Willona hasn't been able to work full-time since because of overwhelming fatigue. She also developed diabetes (most likely a result of treatments during her hospitalization) and now needs medicine, which, at \$800 a week or more, she can't afford.

Americares has supported the Eunice Community Health Center since 2005 and provides the exact medicine Willona needs. She receives it at no cost. In all, Americares has provided the health center with more than \$50 million in medicine and medical supplies. The health center is one of nearly 1,000 U.S. safety net health centers Americares supports, providing enough medicine last year to fill more than 310 million prescriptions for patients like Willona.

"Americares is always there, and we can call upon you when we need help through a hurricane or anything we're in need of. I thank you from the bottom of my heart," says the clinic's executive director, Yancy Fontenot.

Careful to conserve her limited energy, Willona still volunteers at the clinic. "I don't have free time. I'm behind on everything in life," she says. "But this is what I want to do: volunteer. It's not about time. It's about your heart. That's what makes the difference."

Willona is making progress. "My numbers are going down. That is part of the plan: to get everything back in place so it's not a lifetime thing," says Willona. "And I feel like SWIMM is coming to me now. Someone's swimming out to me."

Your Donation at Work: Bomb-proof Medicine

When the eastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv came under attack in 2022, health professionals knew they had to save lives — and medicine. Many critical medications — including cancer medicine — need to be kept cold, in a controlled environment. Rostislav Filippenko, founder of the nonprofit Mission Kharkiv, found the perfect space: a Soviet-era underground bunker underneath a supermarket. "It needed a huge amount of work to modify it for medicine storage," says Filippenko. Americares provided the funds needed to improve the space.

"The beneficiaries of the project will be the most vulnerable people who have cancer and cannot purchase medication themselves," says Filippenko. Mission Kharkiv collaborates with the Ministry of Health and the Kharkiv Health Department, and the facility may store medicines distributed by the Ministry of Health. "We estimate that at least 20,000 oncology patients from Kharkiv and the surrounding regions, including people displaced within Ukraine due to the invasion, will benefit from this project," he says.

The bunker is now safe from power outages as well as bombs. "We included an automatically run 10kW generator with a fuel reservoir for seven days of independent functioning connected to the fridge chambers and Starlink for online temperature monitoring," says Filippenko. Mission Kharkiv has already received a shipment of cancer medication that will fully stock the facility for at least a year.



This bunker is now secure storage for medicine.



From the
President and CEO

Dear Friends,

I hope you're having a wonderful summer, full of activities with those you love. If you're like me, you plan your summer vacations and family get-togethers far in advance.

At AmeriCares, we plan for everything. Readiness is in our DNA.

With your help, our warehouse is always stocked with critical medicine and relief supplies and our response team is constantly alert. Our global programs teams maintain relationships with partners worldwide, so we know what's needed — every day and when disaster strikes.

We prepare communities for emergencies as well, with plans, skills and information. We know that those with the fewest resources are affected most in disasters. That's why our Emergency Programs team worked with the Center for Climate, Health and the Global Environment at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health to create an extreme weather toolkit designed for clinics and health centers that serve our low-income uninsured neighbors. With knowledge, clinics can protect communities — even save lives — during heat waves, hurricanes and wildfires and contribute to health equity.

I'm pleased to share safety resources with you, too. Visit [americares.org/GetReadyNow](https://www.americares.org/GetReadyNow) to read and download our 5 Steps to Ready for hurricanes, heat waves and wildfires. I've shared these steps with my family and hope you do, too.

Our ability to be ready for the next crisis — and help communities worldwide prepare for disaster — is only possible because of you. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christine Squires
President and CEO

A Knock on Her Door Saved Her Life



Christine Squires met with Firoza, a patient at one of AmeriCares India's mobile health centers.

by Christine Squires, President and CEO

Sitting across from Firoza under a shade umbrella in Mumbai's Malad slum community last March, it was hard for me to believe this smiling and vibrant 40-year-old had suffered a major health crisis just weeks before. "If it weren't for AmeriCares, I wouldn't be sitting here telling you this story," Firoza told me. I knew the staff of AmeriCares India's mobile health centers care for 50,000 people a year in Mumbai's slums and visit thousands of homes to offer health screenings, but the numbers can't convey the personal impact of lifesaving care. Only Firoza herself could do that.

Firoza's life was saved, she told me, by a knock on her door. She opened it to find Insha, an AmeriCares community health worker, offering a free check-up. Firoza felt mildly ill and welcomed Insha. But Insha quickly recognized that Firoza was dangerously ill: Her blood pressure was extremely high, her face was drooping and she had other signs of stroke. Insha consulted with a colleague and convinced Firoza to go the hospital immediately. When the hospital refused to admit Firoza — an uninsured woman with a slum address — Firoza's mother called AmeriCares staff, who again advocated for their patient. After three days in the hospital, Firoza's blood pressure stabilized and, most likely, a stroke was averted.

Thanks to the regular care she receives at the mobile health center, which visits her neighborhood twice a month, Firoza is healthy, at home and at work.

Later that evening at AmeriCares India's annual staff recognition event, I met Insha and Farzana, the community assistant who had helped convince Firoza to go to the hospital and advocated for her admission. They are among 160 AmeriCares India team members who share a dedication to save lives and improve health. Meeting those team members and the patients we serve underscores the truly lifechanging work of AmeriCares — in India, and around the world.

Community health workers from AmeriCares India provide free home health screenings (left) and can receive ongoing care, including medicine, at AmeriCares mobile health centers (right).



Partner in Profile: Quest Diagnostics

When patients at AmeriCare's Free Clinics in Connecticut need lab tests, they don't have to worry about the cost, thanks to an ongoing collaboration with Quest Diagnostics. Quest has been donating lab tests to AmeriCare's Free Clinic patients since 1994, with a total value of nearly \$15 million.

Now, to improve health equity for underserved communities across the United States, AmeriCare's, Quest Diagnostics and the Quest Diagnostics Foundation are teaming up to provide no-cost diagnostic services and expanded telehealth services to 10 free and charitable clinics. Quest expects to provide more than 70,000 lab tests in all, including bloodwork to help patients manage chronic disease.

Additionally, clinics in Baltimore, Md., Chicago, Ill., Houston, Texas, and Richmond, Va., will each receive a grant from the Quest Diagnostics Foundation to implement or sustain telehealth services, increasing access to care for low-income, uninsured and underinsured patients. The effort is part of the Quest for Health Equity (Q4HE) initiative, which provides resources, funding, testing services and education to address health disparities in underserved communities across the U.S. The telehealth funding may be used to purchase equipment or subscriptions to telehealth platforms, as well as for technical support with implementation, policies and best practices. More than 11,000 patients across the four clinics are expected to benefit over the next year.



QUEST for
HEALTH
EQUITY



Patients receive quality care at AmeriCare's Free Clinics.

Q4HE will also support AmeriCare's health equity program at participating free and charitable clinic partners throughout the U.S. as well as chronic disease management and wellness programming at AmeriCare's Free Clinics.

Quest is the world's leading provider of diagnostic information services. "We seek to address health inequities by expanding access to care, reducing preventable health risks and closing gaps in both care and resources," says Senior Director and Leader, Quest for Health Equity, Michael Floyd. "Working with AmeriCare's will help so many get access to the insights they need to make important health decisions."

Because of You: Thriving at Work

In Luisiana Laguna, Philippines, where Kathleen makes and sells bibingka, a rice-cake delicacy, she hangs a colorful poster in her market stall: The poster shows proper handwashing, step by step.

Kathleen learned the steps and received the poster at an AmeriCare's workshop, and customers can see her commitment to hygiene and review the steps themselves. Last year, AmeriCare's trained more than 250 community health workers in the Philippines to spread awareness about proper hand hygiene.

Now, Kathleen follows every step, at work and at home. As a bibingka vendor, if she were to make anyone sick, it could have serious implications to her business.



Kathleen learned to properly wash her hands at an AmeriCare's community education event.

Kathleen, her husband and three children practice handwashing together, singing "happy birthday" twice to make sure they're spending the right amount of time on this important task.

Your Legacy: Giving for Health

When Macauley Legacy Society members Vivian and Wayne Day decided to include AmeriCare's in their estate plans, "We looked for efficiency, effectiveness and also compassion," says Vivian. "This is our way of giving back ... and to ensure that what we give will continue to help others," says Wayne.

August is National Make-A-Will Month! AmeriCare's is always looking ahead to ensure a sustainable, secure future as we save lives and improve the health of people affected by poverty or disaster. In August, Make-A-Will Month, we encourage you to do the same and create a legacy by creating a will.

No matter what your estate includes, everyone needs a plan. But two-thirds of Americans don't have an estate plan, and many may not have a trusted place to start. AmeriCare's offers our supporters a way to secure their future and protect what they love. With our friends at FreeWill, you can create a legal will in under 20 minutes, giving you peace of mind for years to come. Join the 560,000 people who have already used this free resource — get started today at: www.freewill.com/americares



Questions? Contact Planned Giving Director Karen Malner at (203) 658-9596 or email PlannedGiving@Americares.org.

Your Donations at Work — During Emergencies and Every Day

With your help, between March 1 and May 15, 2023, AmeriCares sent project support, medicine and medical supplies to the following countries and U.S. territories:

Afghanistan	Colombia	El Salvador	Honduras	Lebanon	Mongolia	Peru	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Tanzania	Vietnam
Angola	Costa Rica	Eswatini	India	Liberia	Namibia	Philippines	Togo	Yemen	
Armenia	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Fiji	Indonesia	Madagascar	Nepal	Poland	Türkiye	Zambia	
Bangladesh	Gambia	Ghana	Jamaica	Malawi	Nicaragua	Puerto Rico	Senegal	Uganda	Zimbabwe
Belarus	Grenada	Guatemala	Jordan	Mali	Nigeria	Romania	Sierra Leone	Ukraine	
Belize	Haiti	Kosovo	Kenya	Marshall Islands	Pakistan	Rwanda	Somalia	United States	
Cambodia	Kyrgyzstan	Mexico			Palestine	Saint Lucia	Syria	Uzbekistan	
Cape Verde					Panama		Tajikistan	Venezuela	

AmeriCares Emergency Response Partners

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

Alexion
AmerisourceBergen Foundation
Amneal
Baxter International Foundation
Catalent

Chevron
Daiichi Sankyo, Inc.
Elevance Health Foundation
Envestnet
Horizon Therapeutics

Integra Foundation
Medtronic
Northrop Grumman
Novartis
Odyssey Group Foundation
Patagonia

PVH Foundation
Teleflex Foundation
Dean and Denise Vanech
Vertex Foundation
Voya Foundation
Xylem Watermark



In Colombia, AmeriCares ten clinics provide free health care to children and adults who have fled Venezuela.



AmeriCares medicine and medical supplies were shipped to Türkiye and Syria after the devastating earthquakes in February.



At her home in Los Novillos, El Salvador, Marina receives regular care for her diabetes from AmeriCares community health workers.



At an AmeriCares partner clinic in Richmond, Va., this young mother receives prenatal vitamins, to keep her and her new baby healthy.



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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.