

## “We Would Not Be Opening Today if It Weren’t for You”



Clinic Executive Director Sue Hook surveys damage to her clinic and Cape Coral community after Hurricane Ian swept through in September.

**“Other than the edifice being intact because it’s cinderblock, our clinic is gone,” says Sue Hook, executive director of Samaritan Health and Wellness Center in Cape Coral, Florida, after Hurricane Ian devastated the area in September.**

Millions of people evacuated before the deadly hurricane struck, but when they returned, survivors saw how many homes and businesses were lost. “Most people are very on edge. They’re anxious; they’re depressed,” says Hook.

Americares deployed an emergency response team and contacted health centers to learn what they needed to provide care to their low-income, uninsured patients, many of whom had nowhere to go after the storm and were living in damaged homes.

Within two weeks, Americares had provided shipments of relief supplies and emergency funding to a dozen local organizations valued at more than \$500,000. Samaritan Health and Wellness Center received emergency funds to begin repairs.

Clinics also needed help with staffing, either because they were seeing an increase in patients or because their own staff had been affected by the storm. Americares emergency funding covered surge staffing.

In October, Americares also deployed disaster mental health specialists to a behavioral health center in Punta Gorda to help staff and patients cope with stress and trauma. They provided over 230 consultations and continued to provide remote mental health support in the following weeks.

“Americares works year-round to prepare health centers for disasters like Hurricane Ian,” says Mariel Fonteyn, Americares director of U.S. emergency response. “We understand the health needs of uninsured, low-income patients, and we know how to help clinics open quickly after a storm. Survivors need health care immediately, and Americares is a partner to these community health centers.”

At the Virginia B. Andes Volunteer Community Clinic in Port Charlotte, CEO Suzanne Roberts was assessing damage when her phone rang with a call from Americares staff offering emergency funding and supplies. “When I got that call, I did shed tears,” Roberts says. “We would not be opening today if it weren’t for you.”

## “Do Not Lose Hope”

In Tanzania, Christina has undergone 10 surgeries to repair a debilitating injury she suffered during childbirth, known as fistula, but she’s never given up. One reason is that Christina’s family supported her through every step. Another: Americares partnership with Bugando Medical Center in Mwanza, Tanzania, which ensures Christina and others receive surgery, pre- and post-operative care and counseling at no cost.

Christina is one of 1,500 women who have received life-changing surgery because of this partnership. Dr. Elieza Chibwe, a fistula surgeon at Bugando Medical Center, says, “Americares is our core partner for the fistula program here. They have been providing food, the medical equipment, sutures, drugs. Without donors, there is no fistula ward. Our patients can’t afford it.”

Christina knows all too well how women can suffer from fistula. Due to obstructed labor, Christina gave birth to a stillborn and was left with an injury so severe she lost control of her bladder, leading to shame, social isolation and ongoing health problems. But Christina has support – from her family, the medical center and Americares. “I would like to advise mums with fistula not to lose hope even though it is a huge problem,” Christina says. “You’ll get treated even 10 times, but eventually you’ll recover. Do not lose hope.”



After suffering an injury giving birth, Christina received free surgery thanks to Americares.



From the **President and CEO**

**Welcome to 2023!**

I have so many hopes for the new year, and I imagine you do too.

Here's one: Working together, we can make health care more accessible for millions of people. I know we can, because for more than 40 years, AmeriCares has been doing just that. In 2022, we provided programs to improve health in 87 countries – after disasters and during the ongoing crisis of poverty around the world.

Among other challenges, last year brought war, hurricanes and heat waves – each disaster requiring a specialized response, unique to the health threat and the community affected. Whether it's a cyclone in the Philippines or a hurricane in Florida, our response is rapid and informed by the unique needs in the affected community. AmeriCares is truly global, and our response experts often live where they work; they listen and respond with experience and compassion.

AmeriCares remains efficient, effective and smart. That's how we earn top ratings year after year from rating agencies including Charity Navigator and the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance.

Whatever 2023 brings, I know that together, we can save lives and improve health. Thank you for your support. It makes a difference in the lives of millions.

Thank you,

Christine Squires  
*President and CEO*

## Hurricane Fiona: Solar Energy Sustains Health Care in Puerto Rico

In September, after Hurricane Fiona battered Puerto Rico with wind and rain, Wendy Morales made sure her family was safe. Then, as administrator of Migrant Health Center in Yauco, Puerto Rico, she turned her attention to the community's health needs.

One issue that Morales didn't have to worry about: electrical power. While Fiona knocked out power to much of the island, including Yauco, Migrant Health Center had electricity for essential equipment, thanks to a solar power system AmeriCares had installed in 2018.

During the week the community was without power, Migrant Health Center operated entirely by solar energy and was open for the 7,000 patients it serves. "This has been an excellent donation because it gives us the opportunity to continue services and preserve refrigerated medicines and vaccines," says Morales. "I've been in the clinic industry for 11 years, and it was the first time a nonprofit came forward to give us a donation like that."

Generators are useful, to a point. "We live on an island, and everything comes by sea. If the barges cannot bring gas [for generators], we worry about how long we will have a fuel supply," says Morales.



Clinic Administrator Wendy Morales and her staff relied on a solar power system provided by AmeriCares to keep medicine safe and cold after Hurricane Fiona damaged Puerto Rico's power system.

With AmeriCares support, Morales and her team are prepared for climate emergencies and able to focus on their patients.

In response to Hurricane Fiona, AmeriCares Puerto Rico also provided partners across the island with medicine and relief supplies, including insulin and hygiene kits, psychosocial support, and funding for excess costs caused by the hurricane, such as costs for fuel during the power outage.

## 2022 Results: Medicine for Millions

Last year, AmeriCares provided health centers and partners around the world with enough medicine to fill more than 14.7 million prescriptions – all of it provided for free, for people affected by poverty or disaster. "We estimate that through medicine alone, we reached 3 million people last year," says AmeriCares Interim Senior Vice President and Chief Program Officer Julie Varughese, M.D.

Nearly all medicine comes through AmeriCares global distribution center, which managed nearly 6,000 shipments last year. Every shipment, from huge pallets weighing tons to small cartons, has been offered to and accepted by partners screened by AmeriCares medical staff to make sure the medicines are needed and can be properly handled and prescribed.

This is just part of achieving medicine security, says Varughese, when everyone, everywhere, has the medicine they need to lead a full, healthy life. "Medicine must be acceptable, available, affordable and accessible," says Varughese. "Strong partnerships and understanding the local context – whether that's in Missouri or Malawi – ensure AmeriCares medicines reach people most in need."

### 2022 Results\*

**14.7M**

prescriptions

**87**

countries reached by all programs

\*Fiscal year 2022: July 2021 through June 2022

## Partner in Profile: Pfizer



In too many places around the world, there is still an urgent need for COVID-19 testing and treatment. “In places where people haven’t had access to COVID-19 vaccines and boosters, it’s critical that health facilities have what they need to test for and treat COVID-19,” says Americares Interim Senior Vice President and Chief Program Officer Julie Varughese, M.D. Americares and Pfizer are members of the COVID Treatment QuickStart Consortium, a group of funders and experts collaborating to bring rapid testing and antiviral therapies to low- and middle-income countries. Together, the consortium is creating equitable access to quality, affordable treatment that protects the health of communities most at risk. Pfizer is launching the project with a donation of 100,000 course treatments of Paxlovid, a medicine used to treat mild to moderate COVID-19 in adults and children over age 12. Americares will use its expertise to deliver the medicine to 10 countries, coordinating with their ministries of health. The COVID Treatment QuickStart Consortium supports governments in 10 countries: Ghana, Kenya, Laos, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

“Greater access to COVID-19 testing and treatments will help bring an end to the pandemic for everyone, everywhere,” says Caroline Roan, Senior Vice President,



From the Americares global distribution center, Pfizer’s Paxlovid treatment for COVID-19 will be distributed to 10 countries across Africa and southeast Asia.

Global Health and Social Impact, and Chief Sustainability Officer for Pfizer. “We are committed to working with the global health community to address barriers to access and are proud to partner with Americares and others to provide our oral treatment and financial support to further the objectives of the consortium.”

Pfizer, a biopharmaceutical company, has partnered with Americares for 35 years, reaching 118 countries with financial support and donations of medicine.

## Your Support Reaches New Mothers in Ukraine

The war has affected everyone in Ukraine, but the health effects on pregnant women are stark: Since the beginning of the war, a regional hospital in western Ukraine has seen a significant increase in premature births, from 3.56 percent of all births before the war to 13 percent in the first months after the war began in February 2022.

By September 2022, Americares had provided 45 tons of medicine and medical supplies to partner CultureLab for distribution to health facilities in Ukraine. The shipments included medicine and medical supplies needed for safe childbirth, including intravenous fluids, infant formula, vitamins for pregnant and nursing mothers, and hygiene products.

“Since the beginning of the war, we have had about 1,500 births in our maternity hospital. We also provided assistance to 470 women who were forced to relocate from the places where hostilities are taking place. With the help of the donation, we



Americares shipments of medicine and medical supplies help fill shortages at health facilities across Ukraine.

were able to provide formula for feeding 400 children ... [whose] parents could not afford to buy formula,” said Bohdan Hrytsyshyn, M.D., a doctor at a regional hospital in western Ukraine. “The donation helped provide medical care to our patients and their newborns.”

## Leave a Legacy

To learn about the legacy of J. Fred Weintz Jr., you need only look at two things: the organizations he supported and his family. Weintz was a longtime supporter of Americares, and after his death in August 2022, his family has continued that legacy.

Weintz had a long career in finance after serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps during WWII and earning degrees from Stanford University and Harvard Business School, both of which he supported the rest of his life. A Connecticut resident, he was an early advocate for Americares, with gifts for both general support and specific projects, including disaster preparedness.

When Eric, one of the four Weintz children, was seeking early-career experience, his father suggested a job at Americares. Eric saw firsthand the impact of resources such as medicine and relief supplies and proceeded to become a board-certified emergency physician; Eric is now a member of Americares Bay Area Leadership Council.

“My father was a giant of a man with a kind heart, glass-half-full mentality, and can-do attitude,” says Eric. “I have never met anyone with a moral compass or ethical standard that was set higher in every respect.”

Weintz ensured his legacy in many ways and included Americares in his estate plans. His children and grandchildren continue his legacy as well, as they share their own good works and great memories of him.



Eric and J. Fred Weintz Jr.

# Your Donations at Work – During Emergencies and Every Day

With your help, between August 1 and November 1, 2022, AmeriCares sent project support, medicine and medical supplies to the following countries and U.S. territories:

Afghanistan	Central African Republic	El Salvador	Guyana	Laos	Nepal	Panama	and the	Uganda
Armenia	Colombia	Eritrea	Haiti	Lebanon	Netherlands	Peru	Grenadines	Ukraine
Bangladesh	Cote d'Ivoire	Eswatini	Honduras	Liberia	Nicaragua	Philippines	Sierra Leone	United States
Belarus	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Ethiopia	India	Malawi	Niger	Poland	Slovakia	Uzbekistan
Belize	Dominican Republic	Fiji	Indonesia	Mali	Nigeria	Puerto Rico	South Africa	Venezuela
Bolivia	Ecuador	Gambia	Jamaica	Mauritania	Northern Mariana Islands	Rwanda	Sri Lanka	Vietnam
Brazil	Egypt	Ghana	Jordan	Mexico	Pakistan	Saint Lucia	Tajikistan	Yemen
Cambodia		Greece	Kenya	Morocco		Saint Vincent	Tanzania	Zambia
Cameroon		Guatemala	Kosovo	Namibia			Togo	

## AmeriCares Emergency Response Partners

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

Alexion	Catalent	Northrop Grumman	Teleflex Foundation
AmerisourceBergen Foundation	Chevron	Novartis	Dean and Denise Vanech
Amneal	Envestnet	Odyssey Group Foundation	Vertex Foundation
Anthem Foundation	Horizon Therapeutics	Patagonia	Voya Foundation
Baxter International Foundation	Integra Foundation	PVH Foundation	Xylem Watermark
	Medtronic		



For thousands of people in Mumbai's slum neighborhoods, AmeriCares mobile health centers are a dependable source of quality health care, medicine and information.



When floods from heavy rain covered nearly two-thirds of Pakistan, AmeriCares delivered medicine and relief supplies for displaced people.



**Honduras**

In Honduras, AmeriCares provided nutritional supplements for more than 10,000 mothers and children at risk of malnutrition.



**United States**

AmeriCares Free Clinics in Connecticut are at the heart of a caring community, providing quality health services to nearly 2,000 uninsured people each year.



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