

## To Stop Ebola, Support Health Workers



### West Africa

**“To be honest, staff were petrified in July,” says the director of JFK Hospital in Monrovia, Liberia.**

But with support from AmeriCares, says Dr. Wvannie Scott-McDonald, “the staff are protected. They know symptoms of Ebola, have aprons for protection and know how to call a doctor when needed.”

By November, the outbreak had infected 13,000 and killed 4,800 people, including more than 300 health workers.

To save lives and contain the Ebola outbreak, AmeriCares is continuing our comprehensive response to the crisis, providing safety supplies, medicines and



support for frontline health workers battling Ebola in West Africa.

Seven months into the crisis, AmeriCares had delivered more than 3 million relief supplies, including 14 shipments of safety gear such as full-body protective suits to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the three hardest-hit countries.

Working in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), AmeriCares is providing everything necessary to keep health workers safe at three Ebola treatment units in Liberia — including thousands of gloves, goggles, suits and masks.

AmeriCares is also helping restart and strengthen local hospitals and clinics overwhelmed by the epidemic so they can treat patients struggling with other health conditions, such as malaria, typhoid and complications from childbirth. We are also supporting local health education programs, including providing 500 hand washing stations in Liberia.

“The Ebola crisis highlights the need to support frontline health workers all over the world,” says AmeriCares Vice President of Emergency Response Garrett Ingoglia. “We will help contain this Ebola outbreak, restore basic health services and prepare health workers for future epidemics.”

A burial team removes the body of a suspected Ebola victim in Liberia to prevent spread of the virus (top). To better understand the needs in Ebola treatment units, an AmeriCares staff member undergoes safety training in Liberia (above). AmeriCares has been working to restore and expand health services in the Philippines, allowing Dr. Jen Mateo to help her neighbors (right).

## Your Donations Help a Country Recover

One year after Typhoon Haiyan killed more than 6,000 people in the Philippines and left millions homeless, AmeriCares has restored access to health care for close to 2 million people. Working alongside local partners, AmeriCares is supporting the repair of 74 health clinics damaged or destroyed by the storm, with plans to repair dozens more. Our relief also includes medicine, enough for 1 million prescriptions, to help people injured in the storm or suffering from chronic diseases. In all, AmeriCares has provided \$21 million in humanitarian aid.

Now, we are preparing communities for the next typhoon with training for community leaders and health officials. AmeriCares is also ensuring that 2 million Filipinos have access to mental health care by teaching more than 2,300 community health workers to recognize signs of mental illness.

“Before, we were afraid because a patient might be violent,” says Filipino nurse Evelyn Cabanero, who underwent training. “Now we are not afraid. We talk to them, make eye contact and build rapport.”

***Video: Meet a Filipino doctor and hear her story of survival: [americares.org/typhoondoctor](http://americares.org/typhoondoctor)***



## From the President and CEO



Dear Friends,

When I speak with our staff in Liberia, I hear stories of health workers and patients struggling against the deadly tide of Ebola in West Africa. The numbers of infected and dead are disheartening, but from our staff and other reports I know that lives can — and are — being saved.

AmeriCares continues our robust response, sending crucial safety gear that protects health workers (page 1) while we begin plans to help restart and strengthen West Africa's fragile, damaged health systems.

We could not do this work without your support. I am uplifted by the response of our donors to this crisis.

Together, we are working toward a time in West Africa when one infected patient does not result in a regional outbreak.

I am confident of this because with your ongoing support AmeriCares has helped create lasting change after other disasters: In Haiti, where we gave community health workers the resources to battle cholera; in Peru, where we provided medicines and health education to stop the legacy of diabetes in a rural town; and in the Philippines, where we have rebuilt and improved clinics after last year's typhoon (page 1).

We know how to create sustainable health improvements in neglected, vulnerable communities and with your help, AmeriCares will do more in the coming year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MJN".

Michael J. Nyenhuis,  
President and CEO

## Thanks to You — a Happy Boy, a Grateful Grandmother

When 3-year-old Alain\* fainted from pain during daycare, his grandmother took him to a private hospital near their home in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, where doctors told the seamstress that her grandson needed emergency abdominal surgery. While preparing for the operation, the doctor mentioned that the surgery could cost \$2,000. With just \$25 to her name, Alain's grandmother halted the plan.

She took him to a clinic run by an AmeriCares partner in Port-au Prince, Haiti. There, health workers registered Alain with AmeriCares Quality and Access Program, which provides low-income patients with care at a private, for-profit hospital, at no cost. AmeriCares supported the hospital's earthquake repairs with the agreement that the facility would accept low-income patients in dire need of specialty services, with 180 patients helped so far.

Now Alain is running, playing and pain-free and his grandmother is "happy, grateful and relieved" about her grandson's future.

*\*name changed*



## Voices from the Field: Surgery in the Ebola Zone *By Dr. Richard Sacra*

In August, I traveled to Liberia as a missionary serving with SIM USA at the ELWA Hospital in Monrovia. Because of the Ebola crisis, nearly all hospitals were closed — some were decontaminating, others were short of staff due to Ebola infection and a lack of supplies and personal protective gear. At ELWA, only the maternity ward was open. I brought close to \$10,000 worth of medicines from AmeriCares Medical Outreach and worked alongside ELWA's medical director, Dr. Jerry Brown, and other members of the medical staff to perform 35 surgeries until I became infected with Ebola. Three days after testing positive, I was airlifted to a medical center in Nebraska where I recovered.

During my three-week stay, I saw firsthand the desperate need for health services in Liberia. One family brought their 13-year-old daughter to ELWA after being turned away from other hospitals. After caring for Ebola patients all day at another facility, Dr. Brown examined the young patient at 8 p.m. and recommended immediate abdominal surgery; we began at



10 p.m. and operated until midnight, closing intestinal perforations caused by Typhoid fever. I spent the night monitoring the girl as she was quite ill from fever.

I am happy to report that the young girl is slowly recovering. But she is just one of so many people in Liberia who are at risk because of the Ebola tsunami that swept through an already fragile health care system. I have recovered from my Ebola infection and am eager to return to Liberia and help where the need is so great.

*Note: Since Dr. Sacra's visit, AmeriCares has provided ELWA Hospital with support to re-open its emergency ward.*

Alain received free surgery through an AmeriCares program (top). Dr. Richard Sacra used donated medicines from AmeriCares on a medical mission to Liberia (above) before he became ill from Ebola.



# Donations Strengthen Emergency Response

Support from a group of committed Annual Emergency Response Partners helps AmeriCares maintain readiness, including an emergency pharmacy and the ability to quickly deploy health workers and aid shipments to disaster sites.



This strong base of support allows AmeriCares emergency staff to conduct assessments in vulnerable countries where disasters occur frequently — helping to prepare for deadly seasonal storms, for example. With ongoing commitments from these partners, we can pre-position medical and relief supplies in those countries and monitor disease outbreaks, including cholera and Ebola. We also maintain emergency health kits at distribution hubs, for immediate deployment anywhere on the globe.



In the past two years, corporations participating in AmeriCares Annual Emergency Response Partner program have doubled. For partners, this is a unique way to ensure that they are among the first to help save lives whenever disaster strikes. “We know that when a disaster occurs the ability to act quickly and respond to the needs of communities is vital, we are pleased to be able to support AmeriCares so they may act quickly during emergencies,” says Lance Chrisman, executive director of the Anthem

Foundation. “Disaster relief is important to our customers and associates and the communities we serve.”

Boeing and its employees value the social responsibility this support represents. “Boeing is committed to giving back,” says Liz Warman, Director of Global Corporate Citizenship, Northwest Region at Boeing Commercial Airplanes. “Corporate citizenship speaks to everything we do – from our products and services to our business practices and community engagement. We feel privileged to be able to help those in need.”

Current Annual Emergency Response Partners are Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Anthem Foundation, Boeing, Covidien, McGraw Hill Financial, MedImmune, OdysseyRe Foundation, Southwest Airlines, Voya Foundation and a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

## Safe Water Restored After Tornado

When a tornado ripped through tiny Gifford, Illinois, in November 2013, it left the town in tatters. Insurance covered people’s homes, but residents were shocked to learn that the town’s insurance did not completely cover damage to infrastructure, including the village water tower, the source of water for one-third of residents and fire response. With an inadequate supply, water quality could not be ensured and neighboring squads had to cover the town’s fire station.

With project support from AmeriCares, the town repaired the tower and restored an adequate flow of safe water to homes and the fire department. The response to the tornadoes is just one of 29 emergencies AmeriCares responded to last year, delivering emergency preparedness, response and recovery projects valued at \$38 million.



With our partners’ commitments, AmeriCares is always ready for disasters (top). This tornado-damaged water tower made water unsafe for residents until AmeriCares repaired it (above). Donor Al Hartig appreciates AmeriCares efficiency (top right).

## Make the Most of Your Giving



At age 93, Albert Hartig has a sharp wit and big heart. He rode his motorcycle until age 80, volunteered in his community until last year and only recently stopped driving his convertible. A puzzle fan, passionate philanthropist and fiscal conservative, Al is also a longtime AmeriCares donor who included a gift to AmeriCares in his estate plans.

Al has always been a giver, as are his children and grandchildren, and he’s quick to proudly recount the many gifts they have made in honor of him and his wife, Linda.

In the 1980s, Al and Linda learned about AmeriCares through his daughter who worked with our founder Bob Macauley. Since that time, AmeriCares has been an important part of Al and Linda’s philanthropy and they have traveled to Nicaragua and Mexico to see our work in action.

AmeriCares efficiency suits Al’s fiscal conservatism and the humanitarian mission appeals to his big heart. “I like the way most of the funding goes directly to benefiting people who are suffering or to clinics being rebuilt,” he says. A number of years back Al decided to plan a meaningful gift to AmeriCares as part of his estate plans. “My legacy gift makes practical tax sense,” Al says. “And I’ve been fortunate in my life and figured I should share it.”

*To learn about the benefits of donating assets such as appreciated securities, contact Malaine Miller at AmeriCares: 203.658.9634 or [mmiller@americares.org](mailto:mmiller@americares.org)*



**Your Donations at Work in 67 Countries** With your help, between July 1 and September 30, 2014, AmeriCares sent medicines, medical supplies and project support to the following countries:

Afghanistan	Dominican Republic	Guyana	Kenya	Nepal	Philippines	Tanzania
Armenia	Ecuador	Haiti	Laos	Nicaragua	Poland	Thailand
Bangladesh	El Salvador	Honduras	Lebanon	Niger	Romania	Trinidad
Belize	Ethiopia	India	Liberia	Nigeria	Rwanda	Uganda
Bolivia	Fiji	Indonesia	Malawi	North Korea	Senegal	Ukraine
Cambodia	Ghana	Iraq	Marshall Islands	Pakistan	Sierra Leone	United States
Cameroon	Grenada	Ivory Coast	Mexico	Palestinian Territories	Solomon Islands	Uzbekistan
China	Guatemala	Jamaica	Morocco	Panama	South Africa	Venezuela
Colombia	Guinea	Japan	Mozambique	Peru	St. Vincent	Vietnam
Congo (Kinshasa)		Jordan	Myanmar		Swaziland	

**Sri Lanka**



**Sri Lanka:** Ten years after the Southeast Asia tsunami devastated Sri Lanka and Indonesia, this little girl can get the monthly transfusion she needs at a hospital ward AmeriCares built to restore and strengthen health systems.

**Ebola Emergency:** Since May, AmeriCares has sent 14 shipments of safety equipment, supplies and medicine to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Here, our staff meets a delivery at the airport in Monrovia, Liberia.

**Ebola Emergency**



**Philippines**



**Philippines:** The doctor is in – now that AmeriCares has restored health care to devastated regions of the Philippines one year after super Typhoon Haiyan swept the region.

**Tanzania:** These young women are recovering after surgery to repair obstetric fistula at Bugando Medical Centre in Mwanza. Now they can resume their lives, healthy and confident.

**Tanzania**



CAROLEE Thank you to CAROLEE for supporting AmeriCares during the 2014 holiday season with a specially designed jewelry collection.

**AmeriCares**

AmeriCares is an emergency response and global health organization committed to saving lives and building healthier futures for people in crisis in the United States and around the world.

88 Hamilton Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902  
203.658.9500 | 1.800.486.HELP | americares.org  
Editor: Kathy Kukula, editor@americares.org

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