

## West Africa Needs Improved Health Care



Liberia

Two years ago, Kla Williams lost his job when his hometown of Monrovia, Liberia, was overwhelmed by Ebola.

He followed his impulse to help his country and is now a skilled infection prevention and control worker — one of hundreds of West Africans AmeriCares has trained in the lifesaving skills that prevent infections from spreading in hospitals, clinics and homes. “We are ready for any kind of outbreak, but before we were not ready,” says Williams.

Skilled health workers are critical to a full recovery. Before the Ebola crisis, families in Liberia and Sierra Leone had a difficult time accessing health services — rural clinics and urban hospitals were crowded and understaffed. The spread of Ebola made the



situation more dire — not only did health workers die from the virus, but patients were reluctant to seek health services, as hospitals and clinics had sometimes

unwittingly spread Ebola. As a result, people stayed away from health facilities: In Grand Bassa County, Liberia, people seeking care decreased by 20 percent; the number of pregnant women making clinic appointments dropped by 19 percent.

At two hospitals and a nursing school in Sierra Leone, AmeriCares is training more than 300 hospital staff and 500 nursing students in infection control, as well as supplying critical safety gear and upgrading facilities to build in safeguards against spread of infection.

In Grand Bassa County in Liberia, AmeriCares is working with the county health team to ensure that health services for mothers and newborns are expanded and improved at a clinic and district hospital. AmeriCares is giving health workers critical midwifery skills, as well as providing medicine, medical supplies and equipment and building new, separate clinic space for safe birthing.

“These programs will improve health at the community level, strengthening health systems to be resilient day-to-day as well as in times of crisis,” says Elikem Tomety Archer, AmeriCares senior director of global programs. “Women are leaders, so by focusing on them, we will help rebuild trust in the health system as well.”

AmeriCares began providing primary care in remote areas of Grand Bassa County, Liberia, in early 2015 (top). Kla Williams is one of hundreds now trained in infection prevention and control (above). With donated medicine, Tammie’s health conditions are under control (right).

## Your Donations Help U.S. Patients

Two heart attacks, severe arthritis and COPD left Tammie uninsured and unable to work. But with help from AmeriCares and our partner the Anderson Free Clinic in South Carolina, Tammie’s health is one less worry: She receives free medical care and medicine.

“The medicine, the clinic — I thank God every night for all of it,” says Tammie, 54, who helps care for her grandchildren. “If it weren’t for the clinic and the people donating to the clinic, I don’t know what I would do.”

To date, AmeriCares has donated over \$600,000 in medical products to the Anderson Free Clinic, including cardiovascular medicine. If the clinic did not provide medication, says Anderson Free Clinic Executive Director Barb Baptista, many patients would go without, putting their health at risk.

AmeriCares U.S. Medical Assistance is the nation’s largest provider of donated medical aid to the U.S. health care safety net, last year delivering more than \$85 million in prescription and over-the-counter medicine and medical supplies to a network of more than 800 health providers in 50 states. Supported by the GE Foundation, the program helps partner clinics and health centers to increase capacity, provide comprehensive care, improve health outcomes and reduce costs for patients.



Photo by Matthew McDermott

## From the President and CEO



Dear Friends,

At AmeriCares, we know how important advance preparation is to reduce injuries and loss during storms and disasters such as earthquakes. In El Salvador, we worked with 245 rural communities to identify risks and resources, so when the next tropical storm hits, residents can make quick, informed actions to stay safe. Our similar risk-reduction work in Myanmar was put to the test when floods inundated communities there in August.

We are also strengthening health systems in Liberia and Sierra Leone to withstand crises — not just weather, but also epidemics (page 1). And in the U.S., in partnership with Walgreens, we are making flu vaccine available at no cost to low-income uninsured patients through our network of community health providers — a kind of preparedness that improves the health of entire communities.

Thanks to your commitment, we can say confidently that we are ready to help those in need — with our emergency pharmacy, innovative health programs and more than 30 years of experience.

Thank you!

Michael J. Nyenhuis  
President and CEO

## One Pill Helps Millions of Children Stay in School

When school starts in Kumasi, Ghana, students receive pencils, books and a little white pill — Vermox. The pill kills intestinal parasites that rob children of nutrients, creating weakness and even malnutrition. Treatment is simple and effective: Regular doses have been shown to increase school attendance, improve health and even boost earnings during adult years.

“Intestinal parasite infections are harmful to a child’s growth and development,” says Dr. Julie Varughese, AmeriCares medical officer. Children are infected by playing or walking barefoot in parasite-infected soil or by eating parasite eggs in contaminated soil or food.

Though treatment with a single pill once or twice a year may seem simple, real challenges exist in reaching the thousands of communities where children are most at risk. Johnson & Johnson has donated pharmaceutical and other healthcare products to AmeriCares for over 30 years because of its extensive network of global health partners. In 2014, J&J donated 24 million doses of Vermox (known generically as mebendazole) to AmeriCares to treat intestinal worms in vulnerable populations and communities. In the first year of the program, AmeriCares distributed doses to health partners in 16 countries, including Afghanistan, Armenia, Ghana, Honduras, Liberia and Nicaragua. The program will continue in the coming years.

“To promote better health of children, mebendazole is the most important drug in Afghanistan,” says Dr. Mohammad Amin, head of pediatrics at Afshar Hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan, which received 48,000 doses. “We highly appreciate those who provide this drug to Afshar Hospital.”



## Health Services for Earthquake Victims in Nepal



In the Sindupalchowk District of Nepal, destruction from the April 25 magnitude 7.8 earthquake was massive. More than 4,000 people were injured and 62 health facilities destroyed. As a result, many survivors in need of long-term care are unable to find treatment.

In partnership with the International Organization for Migration, AmeriCares is supporting a new 20-bed facility for patients who have been released from the hospital but need additional care. Patients at the facility will receive nursing and rehabilitation services as well as psychosocial support. AmeriCares will also develop community-based care plans for patients, provide education on self care and connect families with transitional housing. AmeriCares is also collaborating with Himalayan Healthcare Nepal to repair 13 damaged health care facilities in Dhading District.

In the Kathmandu Valley, AmeriCares staff is providing psychological counseling to health care workers and developing a psychosocial program to build resiliency and coping strategies in affected communities.

In all, AmeriCares has delivered \$21.5 million in aid since the earthquake.

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Children benefit from treatment to kill intestinal parasites that rob nutrition and energy (top). In Nepal, AmeriCares new health facility will benefit earthquake victims who need long-term care (above).

## Partner in Profile: Bristol-Myers Squibb

Just 10 days after a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck Nepal in April, AmeriCares airlifted critical medicine and supplies to Kathmandu, including diabetes medication and IV fluids donated by Bristol-Myers Squibb to support the immediate health needs of earthquake survivors.



Since 1986, Bristol-Myers Squibb has donated more than \$43 million in medicine for emergencies like the Nepal earthquake. In all Bristol-Myers Squibb has donated \$350 million in medicine to AmeriCares to help people in 116 countries access quality medicine.

In addition, the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation has provided critical funding for AmeriCares community health programs around the world. With its \$50,000 donation, the foundation made the first financial commitment to AmeriCares Nepal earthquake response. Previous support includes sponsoring a diabetes diagnosis, treatment and patient education program in

the Piura region of Peru and funding AmeriCares innovative health worker safety projects in Tanzania and India, which provide Hepatitis B vaccinations and training in safety techniques to medical professionals.

In June, AmeriCares presented its annual Power of Partnership Award to Bristol-Myers Squibb in recognition of its outstanding commitment to increasing access to medicine, health worker safety and improving the wellbeing of children worldwide. The award was presented in

partnership with the Healthcare Distribution Management Association. “Bristol-Myers Squibb and the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation are among AmeriCares most consistent supporters,” says AmeriCares President and CEO Michael J. Nyenhuis.

“When focusing on the health of vulnerable populations in challenging geographies, no one sector can do it alone,” says John Damonti, president, Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation and head of Corporate Philanthropy. “It is only through the partnership of government, business and civil society that progress can be made. We are proud to partner with AmeriCares from India to Tanzania to Nepal to help those who are desperately in need.”

## With Lifesaving Medicine, He Can Walk Again

When Dr. Jay Nielsen heard shouting outside a clinic in remote Savanette, Haiti, he found a young boy bleeding on the road: The boy’s foot had been so severely injured in a motorcycle accident that his foot was connected only by the Achilles tendon.

Nielsen was on one of his regular volunteer medical visits to the Missions International of America clinic to provide primary care and surgeries using medicine and supplies donated by AmeriCares.

“After we controlled the bleeding, we iced the foot and splinted the leg,” says Nielsen. A volunteer family practitioner packed IV solutions and needles, pain medicine and antibiotics donated by AmeriCares and accompanied the young patient to the hospital. The boy endured four surgeries and a month in the hospital — including two weeks on intravenous antibiotics supplied by AmeriCares.

Nielsen and his team return regularly and see their young patient, now able to walk with his friends, while they take care of other health crises. “Hernias that need repair, gall bladders that need removal, cancers that never got any surgery: It is horrifying how seriously ill people can be and walk into our clinic,” says Dr. Nielsen. “Without your products, I’d not be doing medical clinics.”



AmeriCares quick response to the earthquake in Nepal was a comfort to survivors (top). Quick action and quality supplies kept this boy alive after an accident (above). Drew and Liz Stackel include AmeriCares in their estate plan (top right).

## Make the Most of Your Giving



Photo courtesy of Drew Stackel

When Drew Stackel wanted to reinforce the role of philanthropy in his adult children’s lives, he suggested they introduce him to their favorite charities. “I asked them to tell me about the charity’s mission, who it helps and how it spends money,” says the retired oil company engineer.

Stackel received a similar introduction to AmeriCares 10 years ago. His employer, ExxonMobil, sent a list of company gift-matching charities that were responding to the devastating tsunami in Southeast Asia. “I was super impressed with how AmeriCares can leverage each dollar into \$20 of benefits for people in need,” says Stackel, “plus AmeriCares has the ability to project resources into a disaster area so quickly.”

Including AmeriCares in their estate plan was natural for Drew and his wife, Liz, who have four children. “We view it as an extension of our willingness to help others,” says Stackel. “If you can set an example for your children, grandchildren and people with knowledge of your estate by including charities in your plan, then essentially you are serving as a role model.”

*For more information on the benefits of gift planning, contact Malaine Miller at AmeriCares: 203.658.9634 or [mmiller@americares.org](mailto:mmiller@americares.org)*

**Your Donations at Work in 65 Countries** With your help, between April 1 and June 30, 2015, AmeriCares sent medicine and medical supplies to the following countries:

- |                     |                    |           |            |                         |                     |               |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Afghanistan         | China              | Guatemala | Lebanon    | Niger                   | Samoa               | Turkey        |
| Angola              | Colombia           | Guinea    | Liberia    | Nigeria                 | Senegal             | Uganda        |
| Antigua and Barbuda | Costa Rica         | Guyana    | Madagascar | Palestinian Territories | Sierra Leone        | Ukraine       |
| Armenia             | Dominican Republic | Haiti     | Malawi     | Panama                  | Somalia             | United States |
| Belize              | Ecuador            | Honduras  | Mexico     | Peru                    | South Sudan         | Uzbekistan    |
| Bolivia             | El Salvador        | India     | Micronesia | Philippines             | St. Vincent         | Vanuatu       |
| Brazil              | Ethiopia           | Jamaica   | Mongolia   | Poland                  | Tanzania            | Vietnam       |
| Cambodia            | Fiji               | Jordan    | Myanmar    | Romania                 | Thailand            | Zambia        |
| Cameroon            | Ghana              | Kenya     | Nepal      | Rwanda                  | Trinidad and Tobago | Zimbabwe      |



**Guatemala**

**Guatemala:** Guatemalans face a silent emergency every day — close to half of children age 5 and younger are undernourished. AmeriCares provided more than \$27 million in aid to Guatemala last year.

**Burundi:** As violence continues in Burundi, AmeriCares emergency supplies are helping refugees fleeing to Tanzania.



**Burundi**

**Annual Emergency Response Partners**

Thank you to the following donors whose contributions help AmeriCares maintain year-round readiness for global emergencies:

- Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
- Anonymous
- Anthem Foundation
- The Boeing Company
- Chevron
- McGraw Hill Financial
- Medtronic
- Northrop Grumman
- OdysseyRe Foundation
- Southwest Airlines
- Voya Financial

**Philippines**



**Philippines:** To keep this community clinic operating during the next typhoon, AmeriCares installed a powerful generator in a stormproof enclosure.



**Myanmar**

**Myanmar:** AmeriCares worked with community leaders after August floods in Myanmar to distribute emergency aid, including enough water purification packets to provide nearly 16,000 families with clean water for one month.

**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.

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