

Donations Help Volunteer Doctors



Nothing prepared Dr. Adeshola Adewunmi for the patient he met on a volunteer medical trip to Igbesa, Nigeria: She had dangerously high blood pressure of 240/200—far higher than the 120/80 considered normal.

“I thought the reading could not be real, so I asked a nurse to recheck it,” Dr. Adewunmi says. His volunteer team gave the patient medicine donated by Americares and, within 40 minutes, the patient’s blood pressure improved.

Dr. Adewunmi was just one of hundreds of doctors supported by Americares who

volunteer to improve health in vulnerable communities around the world. Last year, Americares provided medicine and supplies for 1,074 trips.

All medical volunteers are U.S.-based; Dr. Adewunmi practices internal medicine near Atlanta, Georgia, and was part of a team organized by the nonprofit Mercy Said No. In 2017, teams supported by Americares performed 40,000 surgeries and saw 817,000 patients—all for free for people who could not otherwise access health care because of poverty or disaster.

Americares is deepening the impact and sustainability of these trips by also providing volunteer medical teams with safety equipment such as pulse oximeters, training and educational materials and a website for information exchange. The teams work side by side with local health workers—in clinics and hospitals—to integrate best practices.

“Our support of these hundreds of volunteer teams makes a difference in the lives of not only patients but also health workers,” says Dr. Julie Varughese, Americares medical officer and director of medical outreach. “By providing safety supplies, training resources, medicine and medical supplies, we are increasing capacity for health care in communities around the world.”



With medicine and supplies from Americares, Dr. Adewunmi and his team treated 1,300 patients in Nigeria last April (top), while Dr. Edmund Nichter and his team provided free care for 2,600 patients in Yen Bai, Vietnam (above). Roberto (right) received a replacement hip from Americares and Operation Walk USA.

“This Is The Best Thing That Could Have Happened To Me!”

Roberto’s legs are his life. He moved to Los Angeles from Brazil to play soccer professionally and then coach. When hip pain sidelined him, Roberto thought joint replacement surgery was out of reach: He had no insurance, and the surgery was too costly to pay out-of-pocket.

A friend told him about Operation Walk USA, a network of orthopedic surgeons supported by Americares that provides free hip and knee replacement surgeries for patients without insurance or the ability to pay. Roberto applied and was accepted.

Americares provided the replacement hip joint, donated by Zimmer Biomet, at no cost. “Without Americares donations, I don’t know how we’d do this,” says Dr. Adolph Lombardi, founder of Operation Walk USA, which provides dozens of replacement surgeries every year. Doctors, nurses, anesthesiologists and other staff volunteer their skills. “It’s all about doing as much as we can for others,” says Lombardi. “It feels good.”

Now pain-free, Roberto can coach again and teach his grandchildren the skills that have brought him joy and success. “As soon as I woke up from surgery, the pain was gone,” says Roberto. “I am so happy. This is the best thing that could have happened to me.”



From the President and CEO



Dear Friends,

As one year ends and another begins, I take time to reflect on all the good that has happened in 2017. While it's tempting to focus on the hurricanes, drought and conflicts that have caused so much suffering, I choose to remember the positive changes that we have made by working together.

With your support, AmeriCares reached millions of people with health programs, medicine and medical supplies that bring health and hope to communities torn by poverty or disaster.

I am privileged to have met many of the people we have helped: midwives in Liberia, who are thankful for the safe pregnancy training we have provided; orphans in a home in Guatemala, growing up healthy because of AmeriCares medicine and supplies; low-income, uninsured neighbors in Connecticut, who appreciate the quality primary care they receive from AmeriCares Free Clinics.

And of course, I've met supporters like you, each of whom has a desire to make a difference, whether they are a family choosing to make helping others part of their legacy; employees at a corporation who want to give back; or someone making a first-time gift, fulfilling a wish to help survivors after Hurricane Maria.

Whatever your reason, I am humbled and grateful that you included AmeriCares in your giving this year.

For all the good that we have accomplished together—and will accomplish next year—thank you!

Sincerely,



[Click here to see the impact you are having in Liberia](#)

Michael J. Nyenhuis
President and CEO

Aid Reaches Hurricane Survivors

Forty days after Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico, Elia had empty prescription bottles and no way to refill them. Without power, pharmacies could not access patient records or insurance plans. "I can't get medicine because there's no data system," Elia says. Elia was living without electricity or water; lack of medicine was adding to her worries. She needs medicine daily to control her blood pressure and diabetes.

Beginning immediately after the hurricane, AmeriCares delivered medicine and medical supplies to more than 60 health centers on the island and brought medical teams to communities including Moca, in western Puerto Rico, where Elia lives. On an 85-degree November day, Elia was one of 60 patients who received care and medication from AmeriCares medical team at no cost.

AmeriCares emergency response is active in Florida, Texas, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as the Caribbean island nation of Dominica.



Photo by William Vazquez

With care from AmeriCares mobile medical team, Elia's health is one less worry.



Photo by Annie Mulligan

AmeriCares delivered medicine and supplies for families in Houston, Texas, shelters.

2017 Atlantic Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria

Aid includes:

540,000+ prescriptions for people in need

254 shipments for health centers serving survivors

Mobile medical teams for communities cut off from health services

Mental health services for health workers and to increase capacity at clinics

Support to keep clinic doors open, including structures, fuel, equipment and repairs



Medicine left AmeriCares distribution center bound for the Caribbean, Florida, Texas and Puerto Rico.

Partner in Profile: URBN

It seemed impossible that three Category 4 or 5 hurricanes could hit the United States in a month, but that's exactly what happened during the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season. Millions of people were plunged into darkness; thousands fled flooded homes. In the midst of the serial disasters, global consumer brand URBN tapped into the interest and compassion of their customers to help storm survivors by promoting AmeriCares emergency response.



In mid-September, the URBN retail brand Urban Outfitters began marketing three specially designed T-shirts, with 100 percent of the profits going to AmeriCares hurricane relief efforts.

UrbanOutfitters promoted AmeriCares emergency response capabilities with in-store messaging and information on the shirt itself. The shirts will be available for sale until stock runs out.

Urban Outfitters also included AmeriCares in its holiday season giving guide to drive awareness of our relief efforts. Simultaneously, another URBN retail brand, Free People, donated 25 percent of all sales on September 17 to AmeriCares, publicizing the effort with messaging on the global brand's website and in stores. The event was a strong success in support of hurricane survivors.



Record rains from Hurricane Harvey flooded Texas.

URBN is a Philadelphia-based portfolio of global consumer brands comprising of Urban Outfitters, Anthropologie, Free People, BHLDN, Terrain and the Vetri Family.

“This Is My Last Chance”

Leanne knows healthy eating is important but sometimes goes without fresh fruits and vegetables due to cost. Even though the Orlando resident tries to maintain a healthy lifestyle, she struggles with high cholesterol and high blood pressure and is at risk for diabetes. When Leanne heard about a new AmeriCares diabetes prevention initiative for low-income patients, she immediately enrolled. “This is my last chance,” says Leanne.

The AmeriCares Diabetes Prevention with Healthy Food Program aims to prevent diabetes in free clinic patients by providing free, healthy food for one year. Patients of participating AmeriCares partner clinics in the U.S. will receive weekly boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables, lean meats and fish. The Good For Me food boxes are designed to provide about 25 percent of a household's food supply.

Launched in partnership with Feeding America and with funding from Baxter International, Inc., AmeriCares program will look specifically at how clinics can identify and effectively address food insecurity in patients.



Leanne receives her weekly food box from AmeriCares.

Save Lives Every Day



Photo courtesy of Hill Danforth

Priscilla and Hill Danforth support AmeriCares.

Hill Danforth likes to get things done, and he's not shy about meeting a challenge. When a storm sent a tree crashing into his yard recently, Hill started up his chainsaw and made quick work of it.

Hill's tendency toward action extends to philanthropy—if people are in need, he says, find a way to help. When Hill met AmeriCares founder Bob Macauley in Connecticut several decades ago, he found a kindred spirit. “Bob was an inspiration,” says Hill. “Philosophically, I'm on the same page. Actions speak louder than words.” Inspired by Macauley's passion and initiative, Hill, and his wife Priscilla, immediately began supporting AmeriCares.

The Danforths have continued their support with annual gifts. They stay up-to-date on AmeriCares relief and development projects around the world and appreciate AmeriCares efficiency, leverage of donor dollars and gift-in-kind partnerships with pharmaceutical and medical supply corporations.

Now living in Massachusetts, Hill and Priscilla carve out time to focus on “doing the right thing”—a value they have passed on to their two sons. “The world's a complicated, difficult place, and on any given day, somebody's got a disaster to deal with,” says Hill. “If something needs fixing right then and there, let's get it done.”

Your Donations at Work—in Emergencies and Every Day

With your help, in the last three months, Americares provided life-changing health programs, medicine and medical supplies to the countries below.

Afghanistan	China	El Salvador	Honduras	Kyrgyzstan	Nepal	Philippines	St. Vincent	Venezuela
Armenia	Colombia	Ethiopia	India	Laos	Nicaragua	Puerto Rico	Syria	Vietnam
Bangladesh	Costa Rica	Fiji	Indonesia	Lebanon	Nigeria	Rwanda	Tanzania	Yemen
Belize	Djibouti	Gabon	Ivory Coast	Liberia	Palau	Sierra Leone	Togo	
Benin	Dominica	Ghana	Jamaica	Malawi	Palestinian	Somalia	Trinidad	
Bolivia	Dominican	Guatemala	Jordan	Mali	Territories	South Africa	Uganda	
Cambodia	Republic	Guyana	Kenya	Mexico	Paraguay	Sri Lanka	United States	
Cameroon	Ecuador	Haiti	Kosovo	Myanmar	Peru	St. Martin	Uzbekistan	

Emergency Response Partners

These organizations support Americares year-round readiness for global disasters, including current emergencies.

Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Anthem Foundation

Chevron

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles Foundation

Horizon Pharma

Medtronic

MoneyGram Foundation

Northrup Grumman

OdysseyRe Foundation

Patagonia

Southwest Airlines

Vanech Family Foundation

Voya Financial

Anonymous



Guatemala

With support from Americares, there's opportunity at every stage of life for residents of this home for the elderly in Antigua, Guatemala. Passengers on Americares airlift saw this and other Americares health programs firsthand.



Haiti

After Hurricane Matthew swept through Haiti in 2016, more than 32,000 survivors sought care from Americares mobile medical teams. Americares remains in the island nation, helping families prepare for future storms.



Nepal

Americares recovery program continues rebuilding and improving damaged facilities, giving survivors of Nepal's powerful 2015 earthquake health, hope and opportunities for a bright future. The quake damaged more than 1,200 health facilities.



Ghana

Last year, Americares provided enough medicine for 65,000 prescriptions and more than 873,000 medical supplies to our network of hospitals, community clinics and health care providers in Ghana.



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.

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