

Health Care for Her Baby, Thanks to You



Maria and Carlos fled Venezuela with their little boy when lack of food and medicine put their health at risk.

Maria and her family had camped for months at a construction site after fleeing Venezuela with nothing. That's when her baby became ill.

Little Dominic had diarrhea, which can be life threatening in a child if left untreated. Without money or citizenship in Colombia, Maria had no options. Then, another Venezuelan refugee told Maria about an Americares free clinic nearby. She and her husband rushed Dominic to the clinic, where Americares doctors treated the little boy. Within weeks, he was fully recovered.

Over the past five years, 4.8 million people have fled Venezuela, with Colombia hosting nearly 1.6 million displaced Venezuelans—the



At an Americares clinic in Colombia, Maria found quality health care for her son.

most in the region. Like many, Maria and her husband, Carlos, had a good life in Venezuela; they were both working while studying for college degrees. But the political crisis made currency worthless, and what had bought groceries for a month was gone in a day. Carlos left first and found a construction job in Colombia; Maria and Dominic followed.

"Thank you, Americares," says Maria. "I'm very grateful. Not just for me, but for everyone who is coming. Many people arrive sick, because in Venezuela you can't get medicine."

Americares opened its first clinic in July 2018 and now operates 10 health clinics in Colombia for families like Maria's. Americares clinics provide comprehensive primary care, including medical exams, mental health services and medication, at no cost for Venezuelan children and adults. Clinical staff also provide mobile outreach services in neighboring communities. Americares has provided nearly 177,000 patient consultations—close to 20 percent of clinic visits are pregnant women seeking pre-natal care, including many women with high-risk pregnancies.

The clinic that restored Dominic's health is now the family's primary health center—Americares staff even provided the paperwork Dominic needed to enroll in school in Colombia. Now, Maria sees a healthy future for her little boy, and that, at least, gives her hope.

"We had not been able to get masks"

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, Americares is supporting health workers, providing protective equipment and sharing educational materials with local health centers and the public.

"Our main concern is increasing the capacity of health centers in under-resourced communities to respond to the pandemic," says Americares Vice President of Emergency Programs, Kate Dischino. **Our focus is to:**

Equip health workers: Americares is providing personal protective equipment for health workers on the frontlines of the outbreak. This includes isolation kits that contain masks, gloves, gowns and other supplies. "These isolation kits are phenomenal!" says Lynn Scott, director of medical services at the Capital City Rescue Mission Free Clinic in Albany, N.Y., which provides no-cost medical care to more than 2,200 mostly homeless and uninsured patients a year. "We had no gowns, were getting low on gloves and had not been able to get masks. The kits are providing the opportunity to stay open and provide care."

Support health centers: To keep health centers functioning, Americares is providing coronavirus-specific emergency planning tools, mentoring and training.

Educate partners, patients and the public: To help maintain physical and mental health, Americares is sharing public health and safety information with partners and the public, including our community of committed donors and supporters, through live webinars, including question-and-answer sessions and downloadable information on our website.

Find the latest here:
americares.org/coronavirus

See our videos and webinars here: americares.org/live

Health Care Reaches Deep In India's Slums



From the
President and CEO

Dear Friends,

During my first week as incoming CEO of Americares in mid-March, Connecticut's governor closed schools and nonessential businesses to stem the spread of the coronavirus. Americares immediately began making the changes necessary to maintain staff safety while responding to a worldwide pandemic.

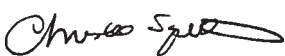
To keep shipments of medicine and medical supplies moving from our distribution center, Americares revised our safety procedures and created a new schedule to reduce the number of staff on-site at any time. Our own frontline health workers—including those in the Bahamas, Colombia, India, El Salvador and here in the U.S.—continued to treat patients as long as they were able, abiding by national and local guidelines. Where possible, medical staff used telemedicine.

I have been asked multiple times how difficult it must be to be incoming CEO during this challenging time, and I feel just the opposite. When crises strike, strong teams become stronger. And at Americares, flexibility is in our DNA: We adapt to some of the most challenging circumstances and still make a big difference, saving lives and improving health. I have never been prouder.

I am equally impressed with the compassion and commitment of supporters like you. Health has never been more important than during this unprecedented pandemic and I, along with Americares global staff, am grateful for your ongoing support.

Thank you, and good health to you and your family.

Sincerely,



Christine Squires



Photos by William Vazquez

In Mumbai's slums, Javed volunteers as an Americares health promoter, directing his community to good health information and Americares mobile health center.

Javed is a tailor in Rafiq Nagar, one of Mumbai's largest slums. But his neighbors know him best as an Americares health promoter, one who shares information about healthy habits and disease prevention and alerts his community to the arrival of Americares mobile health center, a van that delivers free health care.

Javed is one of 84 Americares health promoters, known in India as *arogya mitra*, which means whole health friend in Sanskrit.

Javed volunteers as a health promoter because he knows how quality health care can change a life. His mother was ill for years because of diabetes. She'd been seeing a doctor, but only after she began visiting Americares mobile health center did her health improve. Americares medical staff helped her better understand diabetes, and she now manages the disease by taking her medication, eating healthful foods and, in her 80s, walking over a mile a day.

Rafiq Nagar is one of 133 slum locations Americares eight mobile health centers visit each month. (Note: By late March, the coronavirus pandemic had interrupted service). Last year, 84,000 patients received care at the health centers, and more than 70,000 people received health education from health educators and promoters like Javed. In 76 schools in Mumbai, 20,000 students a year learn the basics of health and hygiene in Americares programs and take those lessons home to their families.



Americares mobile health centers are dependable, arriving in 133 communities every two weeks.



Javed promotes health and hygiene throughout Rafiq Nagar, one of Mumbai's many slum communities.

Slum communities offer low-cost housing, but the environment puts people at risk for disease, and quality health care in Mumbai is often too expensive or difficult for the working poor to access. That's why Javed gladly volunteers his time: It's an expression of his hope and love for the people of Rafiq Nagar, his home.

There's a little revolution in health care happening in the mountains of El Salvador, where poverty, rough roads and lack of transportation keep many people from the care they need.

With critical support from Astellas Pharma, Américas family clinic, La Clínica Integral de Atención Familiar, in remote Usulután, is expanding how the lowest-income Salvadorans access health services. The clinic provides primary and specialty care, a pharmacy and community health education on topics such as nutrition and exercise. For the ultra-poor, the clinic provides a unique poverty access fund and, for remote communities, outreach teams that bring health services to patients where they live.

Astellas Pharma and Astellas Global Health Foundation's partnership with Américas began a decade ago. Astellas USA Foundation is the legacy philanthropic entity of AGHF. Its support for Américas U.S., Medical Outreach and Emergency Programs includes the Américas Hurricane Dorian response; Astellas Pharma's support includes the 10 Américas clinics providing health services for Venezuelan refugees in Colombia.

Headquartered in Japan, Astellas is a research-based global pharmaceutical company committed to advancing innovative medical solutions for patients, particularly in key focus areas, including



Américas clinic in rural El Salvador provides quality health care—including well-baby care—to some of the region's poorest residents.

oncology, immunology, cardiology, urology and neuroscience, while also advancing new areas such as cell and gene therapy, ophthalmology and muscle diseases. Astellas support for Américas is part of the pharmaceutical company's commitment to CSR and philanthropy.

"Astellas works to advance access to health by engaging in initiatives in areas where improvements are needed," says Percival Barretto-Ko, president, Astellas Pharma U.S., and a member of the Américas board of directors. "Américas is an important partner in that effort."

Help After a Hurricane

"No one will know what it was like," a 13-year-old Hurricane Dorian survivor told Américas mental health staff at a shelter in the Bahamas. "They will think I am lying."

The boy was worried that no one would understand what he had experienced during the hurricane. Then, his father had placed the family's cash savings in a backpack, while a close cousin and her family had packed into a car to escape the wind, rain and 20-foot storm surge. The boy had watched his father be swept away and drown and was on the phone with his cousin when the line went silent, the family lost to the treacherous waters.

The Américas counselor sat with the boy and offered support. "How can we work together to find some relief for you?" the counselor asked.



Américas mental health and psychosocial counselors helped hurricane survivors deal with trauma and loss.

After Hurricane Dorian battered the Bahamas, Américas sent mental health counselors with our mobile medical teams to the hardest-hit communities. In the first six months after the storm, Américas medical teams provided 4,200 medical consultations and 2,500 mental health consultations for survivors in need.

Plan a Gift, Leave a Legacy

You are in good company. Américas supporters are thoughtful and compassionate and seek to help people in need. When Américas acts on our mission to save lives and improve health, we are accomplishing your wishes. Here is what supporters tell us:

"Doing something for other people less fortunate than I am is very important to me."
— Priscilla Letendre

"If every family with money would help one family without, we could change the world. It's naïve to think this will happen without organizations like Américas."
— Jay Nielsen, M.D.

"I've seen my share of disasters in my career [as a writer], and I was impressed then, as I am now, with Américas impact and low-overhead."
— Joel Stratte-McClure

"Américas represents the best of America in its generosity and care for humanity."
— Josh Rucci

"We are confident that Américas will continue to evolve and enhance its impact on global health, and we embrace Américas legacy as part of our family legacy."
— Elizabeth Furst Frank

To learn more about

your options, please contact Karen Malner directly at **203-658-9500** or by email at plannedgiving@americares.org, and she will be happy to assist you.

Thank you!

Your Donations at Work—During Emergencies and Every Day

With your help, between December 1, 2019, and February 29, 2020, AmeriCares provided project support, medicine and medical supplies to the following countries and U.S. territories:

Afghanistan	Cambodia	Ethiopia	Ivory Coast	Madagascar	Nicaragua	Peru	St. Lucia	Uganda
Armenia	Cameroon	Ghana	Jamaica	Malawi	Nigeria	Philippines	St. Vincent Island	United States
Bahamas	Colombia	Greece	Jordan	Marshall Islands	Pakistan	Puerto Rico	Sudan	Uzbekistan
Bangladesh	Congo (Kinshasa)	Grenada	Kenya	Mexico	Palestinian Territories	Rwanda	Syria	Vietnam
Belarus	Dominica	Guatemala	Kyrgyzstan	Myanmar	Panama	Samoa	Tanzania	Yemen
Belize	Dominican Republic	Guyana	Laos	Namibia	Papua New Guinea	Senegal	Thailand	Zambia
Benin	Ecuador	Haiti	Lebanon	Nepal		Sierra Leone	Togo	
Bolivia	Egypt	Honduras	Liberia			Somalia		
Brazil	El Salvador	India						

AmeriCares Emergency Response Partners

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

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Alexion | FCA Foundation | Odyssey Group Foundation | Vertex Foundation |
| AmerisourceBergen Foundation | Horizon Therapeutics | Patagonia | Voya Foundation |
| Anthem Foundation | Integra Foundation | Southwest Airlines | Xylem |
| Bose | Medtronic | Teleflex Foundation | |
| Chevron | Northrop Grumman | Dean and Denise Vanech | |
| | Novartis | | |



Photo by Alejandro Granadillo

Puerto Rico

When multiple earthquakes shook and shattered Puerto Rico beginning in December 2019, AmeriCares provided 32 shipments of medicine and medical supplies, as well as mental health support for survivors.



Connecticut

AmeriCares Free Clinics staff in Stamford, Conn., turned to telemedicine, appointments by telephone, to keep patients and staff safe from coronavirus infection in mid- March.



Connecticut

By mid-March, AmeriCares had provided 6 tons of protective supplies for health workers at the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Philippines

After Volcano Taal erupted in January 2020, more than 138,000 people fled the smothering ash fall. AmeriCares provided aid to more than 3,000 families, including mental health activities for children in shelters.



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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.

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