

Emergency in Oklahoma: Nurses Fill Staff Shortage



When there was a shortage of medical staff at the Citizen Potawatomi Health Services clinic, Americares filled the gap; from left, Angela McCaskill, Dina Valenti, Carlos Dones and Waverly Jackson.

In late September, hundreds of tribal members and workers in Shawnee, Oklahoma, were in need of COVID-19 vaccine and flu shots. But the tribal clinic was short on staff, leaving its community at risk — many patients and elderly are susceptible to complications from COVID-19 and the flu.

Americares received a call from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and immediately notified U.S.-based members of our global emergency response roster. Within days, a team of four emergency medical workers was at Citizen Potawatomi Health Services in Shawnee, providing a range of services, including COVID-19 testing and flu and COVID-19 vaccinations.



Americares global emergency roster members helped with flu and COVID-19 vaccinations.

“Americares presence and support allowed our tribal clinics to reopen one of our two testing sites, which had closed due to staffing challenges,” says Director of Operations at Citizen Potawatomi Health Services Lauren Bristow. “We are thankful for the support and kindness offered by the team to our staff, providers, patients and tribal nation.”

The health workers in Shawnee were just four of the 750 medical and emergency response experts on Americares global roster, hailing from 52 countries. Each member is vetted and trained in Americares programming and policy. “Our global roster is an efficient way to deliver quality services in an emergency,” says Americares Vice President of Emergency Programs Kate Dischino. “They are always ready to go.”

The team worked for five days in Shawnee — and in total administered 237 flu shots, 223 COVID-19 booster shots, two first-dose COVID-19 shots and 77 COVID-19 tests. Eight different vaccination drives occurred during the week, including one at a senior living facility.

“What really impressed me was how the tribal community took care of each other,” says Dina Valenti, a nurse volunteer on the trip who is the director of the Boehringer Ingelheim Americares Free Clinic of Danbury and worked alongside local nurses. “There were two elderly patients who were scheduled but didn’t show up, so we hopped in a car and went to their homes to vaccinate them.”

Your Gift Supports Vaccinations

Around the world, COVID-19 vaccines are provided by governments, but it’s up to countries — and even cities and neighborhoods — to deliver vaccines into people’s arms, to save lives and reduce the risk of COVID-19.

Americares supports local vaccination efforts where we have deep partnerships, providing the masks, gloves and other PPE health workers need. To encourage vaccination, Americares provides information and campaigns to reduce hesitancy and build trust. We collaborate with hospitals, departments of health and other groups to provide what’s needed to vaccinate more people, especially people who might be excluded from other vaccination programs.

By the end of October 2021, Americares has helped more than 30,000 people receive COVID-19 vaccines in India and the Philippines. In India, Americares set up events at a hospital in Mumbai with tents, chairs and information flyers and support staff, so minimal hospital staff was needed to administer the vaccine. More than 5,000 people were vaccinated at 11 events. In the Philippines, an Americares doctor and nurses administered the vaccines to 26,800 people and provided post-vaccine monitoring and health education.



Americares supports local vaccination efforts around the world — here, in the Philippines.

Health for Refugees: “You’re Safe Now!”



From the
President and CEO

Dear Friends,

It’s 2022, and there’s more work to be done.

I wish I could say that we could take a rest, but that wouldn’t be fair to the millions of people around the world who lack access to quality health care. So, at Americares, our sleeves are rolled up, and we’re hard at it, creating and implementing health programs that will improve health for years to come. And if you’re reading this, I know you’re with us in this effort.

As much as we’re focused on the future, it’s always good to look at what we accomplished last year. With your help, Americares provided medicine to treat an estimated 3 million people in our fiscal year 2021 — that’s enough for 19.5 million prescriptions. Our health projects tackle difficult issues, like dangerously high blood pressure among communities in rural El Salvador and health care for women in earthquake-affected Indonesia. Altogether, our teams managed 233 projects in 31 countries that directly benefited nearly 925,000 people — improving health and lives.

So, when you read through the pages of this newsletter — or see headlines about a disaster or crisis — know that you are part of an organization with the ability to help millions of people every year. We can’t control everything in our lives — but our ability to do good? That’s a power we all wield.

Thank you,

Christine Squires
President and CEO



Americares global emergency roster member Aaron Mishler jumped at the chance to provide medical care to Afghan refugees on evacuation flights.

Aaron Mishler, a registered nurse from Elkhart, Indiana, was in a city council meeting in August 2021 when his phone pinged with an email from Americares. Could he volunteer as medical staff on a flight carrying refugees from Afghanistan to safety in the United States? Mishler couldn’t focus on business — he was already anticipating his mission.

Mishler was one of six roster members Americares recruited from our global roster of 750 trained medical and emergency response professionals to provide urgent in-flight medical care on multiple United Airlines evacuation flights.

The flights originated in the United States and met the Afghan refugees in Germany. Each flight was full, every seat taken, and carried two trained medical professionals and a full United Airlines flight crew. The Americares roster members treated toothaches, dehydration and gastrointestinal issues while the crew provided food, diapers, hygiene supplies and coloring books and crayons. Mostly, the passengers slept.

“My understanding from the interpreters was that the refugees were relieved to be safe and able to rest,” says Monica Staples, an Americares global roster member and dialysis unit nurse manager at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. “At one point there was a woman asleep, and she had a toddler she was holding on to. I just kept doing rounds to make sure he didn’t slide out of her arms.”

Mishler helped one mother whose baby was having trouble taking in any formula. “The mother had been so stressed she was unable to produce milk for the child at that time,” Mishler says. The United Airlines crew had formula but couldn’t find a bottle. “I remembered there were syringes in the emergency drug kit.” Mishler and the mother filled syringes with formula, and she was able to feed her baby.

This was Mishler’s third deployment with Americares and Staples’s first. “From the Americares perspective, the communication was excellent, my questions were answered immediately, I felt very well supported,” says Staples. “I would definitely respond with Americares again.”

The best part for Mishler? When the plane landed stateside, the pilot made an announcement: “The United family and crew and our friends at Americares know you’ve gone through a hard journey, and we don’t necessarily know what’s ahead of you, but we want to welcome you to the United States,” the pilot said. “You’re safe now.”



Nurse manager Monica Staples deployed with Americares.



Aaron Mishler’s emergency medical kit was a lifesaver for one hungry baby.

Partner in Profile: BD



More than 2 million people in the United States can't afford health insurance and rely on the nation's network of 1,400 free and charitable clinics for care. Strengthening that safety net is an AmeriCares goal, and one of our long-standing partners in this effort is global medical technology company BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company).

BD has been an AmeriCares partner since 1986, with donations of more than 300 million medical supplies to 137 countries, including more than \$5 million in diabetes care products specifically for U.S. clinics. BD also supported six U.S. safety net clinics as they were coached by AmeriCares to achieve certification by the National Committee for Quality Assurance. BD's employees are involved as well and have volunteered their time and talent on specific projects, working alongside AmeriCares staff in El Salvador in 2015, then virtually with AmeriCares Puerto Rico staff in 2021.

Now, BD is supporting AmeriCares Roadmap to Health Equity project, which aims to give free and charitable clinics the tools to improve and demonstrate the quality and equity of the care they deliver.

"With the support of this project, we'll be able to look at different numbers and metrics and then compare them across the United States," says Shelby Miller,



The Hope Clinic and Care Center in Wisconsin aims for health equity.

executive director at the Hope Clinic and Care Center in Menasha, Wisconsin "The Roadmap to Health Equity project is a great opportunity to continue to move forward and do everything we can to help our patients."

"AmeriCares Roadmap to Health Equity is an innovative and necessary initiative," says Jennifer Farrington, senior director of social investing for BD and vice president of the BD Foundation. "This effort aims to create measurable improvements in the quality health care that free and charitable clinics provide to low-income uninsured patients. BD is proud to support AmeriCares as they implement and share this change-making project."

Because of You: Aid for Lebanon

Life in Lebanon just gets harder. The nation is experiencing one of the most severe economic crises in modern history, made worse by the pandemic. A fuel crisis is causing blackouts that last up to 22 hours a day, and the nation is still recovering from a horrific and deadly explosion in Beirut's harbor in 2020 that shattered homes, businesses and hospitals, killing more than 200 people and leaving 300,000 homeless.

Now, hospitals across the country struggle to maintain day-to-day operations. Many rely on generators, and staff search daily for fuel. A nationwide shortage of medicine also limits care.

AmeriCares donations of medicine, supplies and health programs to two local partners are critical to keep health centers functioning. AmeriCares partners Anera and Caritas reach more than 500 health centers across the country. Most recently, an AmeriCares air shipment arrived carrying nearly \$500,000 in medicine and supplies, including chronic disease medications and



Aid leaves AmeriCares distribution center for Lebanon.

PPE to slow the spread of COVID-19; the aid will be distributed to as many as 10 primary care centers. AmeriCares has also provided training for health workers and an innovative program that provides refugees with cash for health services.

AmeriCares has been providing aid to Lebanon since 1986, including enough medicine for 3.3 million prescriptions.

To Make the World a Better Place

Alexandra Nash grew up in a charitable family: Her parents, grandparents and great-grandparents all gave back to their Tulsa, Oklahoma, community. But giving got personal when Nash was working in New York in fashion and photography after earning her master's degree in fine art. "I started by going to fun benefit parties in New York where the purchase price of a ticket went to a certain charity," she remembers. She was hooked. "I've had buyer's remorse after a material purchase, but never regretted any amount of money 'spent' on charity," says Nash.

Nash was living in Milan with her husband and children when she learned about Hurricane Katrina's devastation of New Orleans. "I went on Charity Navigator's website to find a great charity to support, and AmeriCares was one of the first to pop up," Nash says. Now, she's a monthly sustainer. "For me, a monthly donation combined with individual donations when necessary is the easiest way of showing continued support when disaster strikes," she says.

Nash, who lives in London with her family, also gives back through volunteering. "Homelessness and mental health are two areas of interest," says Nash, knowing that her donations of time and treasure are always good investments.



AmeriCares donor Alexandra Nash in London.

Your Donations at Work — During Emergencies and Every Day

With your help, between August 16 and November 1, 2021, AmeriCares sent project support, medicine and medical supplies to the following countries and U.S. territories:

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|------------|----------------------------------|-------------|------------|---------|-----------|------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Angola | Central African Republic | El Salvador | India | Liberia | Nicaragua | Papua New Guinea | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | Togo | Venezuela |
| Bangladesh | Colombia | Eswatini | Indonesia | Malawi | Niger | Peru | Sierra Leone | Uganda | Vietnam |
| Barbados | Democratic Republic of the Congo | Ghana | Jamaica | Mali | Nigeria | Puerto Rico | South Sudan | Ukraine | Yemen |
| Belarus | Dominican Republic | Guatemala | Kenya | Mexico | Pakistan | Philippines | Tajikistan | United States | Zambia |
| Benin | Ecuador | Haiti | Kyrgyzstan | Myanmar | Palau | Saint Lucia | Tanzania | Uzbekistan | |
| Cambodia | | Honduras | Lebanon | Nepal | Palestine | | | | |

AmeriCares Emergency Response Partners

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

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| Alexion | Chevron | Northrop Grumman | Teleflex Foundation |
| AmerisourceBergen Foundation | FCA Foundation | Odyssey Group Foundation | Dean and Denise Vanech |
| Anthem Foundation | Horizon Therapeutics | Patagonia | Vertex Foundation |
| Baxter International Foundation | Integra Foundation | PVH Foundation | Voya Foundation |
| | Medtronic | Southwest Airlines | |



Haiti

After the August 2021 earthquake in Haiti, AmeriCares responded with more than \$10 million in aid, including five Haitian medical teams that provided more than 17,000 patient visits.



Ghana

Teachers distribute hygiene supplies donated by AmeriCares to help students apply lessons on health and hygiene.



Colombia

These children are receiving care from one of AmeriCares nine clinics in Colombia that serve refugees and migrants from Venezuela. Last year, these clinics managed more than 200,000 patient visits.



Texas

After Hurricane Delta hit Beaumont, Texas, AmeriCares provided Spindletop Center with a generator so it can always keep its doors open. Spindletop Center provides mental health care to patients affected by poverty.



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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