

VITAL SIGNS

Stories of Health and Hope from Around the World



Winston stands in front of a damaged local clinic with medicine provided to him by Americares emergency mobile medical clinic.

Hurricane Melissa Update: Helping Communities Recover

This past October, Hurricane Melissa tore across the Caribbean, unleashing destruction on entire communities in Jamaica and surrounding island nations. Melissa was one of the most powerful storms on record in the Atlantic Ocean, with violent sustained winds reaching up to 185 mph. The destruction is heartbreaking with lives lost, homes destroyed and health facilities and roads damaged, limiting access to essential health services.

Thanks to the support of donors like you, Americares responded immediately, with our emergency response team arriving in Jamaica

only two days after Hurricane Melissa made landfall. What they found when they arrived was not only significant damage to buildings, roads and hospitals but also health workers drained from physical and emotional exhaustion still serving their communities. Some who had lost their homes were sleeping in their cars with nowhere else to go.

In Jamaica, three major hospitals sustained severe damage, including two that were forced to evacuate patients. At Falmouth Hospital, which lost more

Continued on page 3



IMPROVING HEALTH



PROVIDING MEDICINE



RESPONDING TO DISASTERS

Supporter Spotlight: Michael Corbett

Michael Corbett and his beloved late wife, Sandy, started giving to AmeriCares over 20 years ago in the aftermath of September 11. As they reflected on how they could best help their country after the tragedy, AmeriCares was at the top of their list.

Guided by gratitude and compassion, the Corbetts found deep meaning in helping others. As Michael explains, “When helping others, I feel a sense of accomplishment and belonging that nothing else matches. Focusing outward on the less fortunate rather than inward might make the world a happier place.”

“I think the world needs a little bit more caring, a little bit more empathy and a little bit more giving.”

—Michael Corbett, AmeriCares Supporter

When Sandy sadly passed away in January 2025, Michael decided to continue their legacy of generosity and rewrote his will. After providing for his family, he decided to make a planned gift by leaving a percentage of his estate to AmeriCares.

As a generous member of our Macauley Legacy Society, the longtime AmeriCares donor says there’s a “world of people in need due to war and more frequent weather catastrophes.”

He is confident that his gift will be put to good use because he knows that more than 98% of all donations to AmeriCares go directly toward improving the health of people in need.

Thank you, Michael, for doing your part to help so many and save lives. ❤️



Letter from the CEO

Happy New Year to you and yours!

With you beside us, we’re starting 2026 with the hope that no matter where or when emergency strikes, AmeriCares will be there.

Just as we were this time last year, when extreme weather led to devastating wildfires in Los Angeles. And when deadly floods ravaged Kentucky and Tennessee in February, Central Texas in July and Pakistan in August.

We were also on the scene when Hurricane Melissa hit Jamaica and other island nations in October. And when war and conflict continued to create unprecedented humanitarian crises in places such as Ukraine and Gaza.

So as you review your newsletter, please take pride in the lasting impact you’re making around the world and across the U.S.

We don’t know what 2026 will bring. But we do know that together, we will save lives, restore health and renew hope. Because **AmeriCares is about good health for a better world.**

Christine Squires, President and CEO

Saving Lives in Ukraine

Two-year-old Andriy* was born in Kharkiv during the first summer of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine.

In August 2024, what began as a simple cough led to a heartbreaking diagnosis: lymphoma. While this news would be difficult for any family, Andriy's parents had to face the additional uncertainty of how and where to receive care in the middle of their war-torn country.

Thankfully, Andriy was able to receive lifesaving cancer treatment at Okhmatdyt Hospital in Kyiv, treatment made available through an AmeriCares grant to one of our local partners.

Andriy's condition steadily improved, and he was able to leave the hospital in April 2025. While his fight against cancer continues, his discharge marked a major milestone on his path to recovery. And it's because of your kindness.

So far, AmeriCares has helped 83 local Ukrainian organizations with aid valued at more than \$147 million. This includes grants

that can save lives—including Andriy's. Thanks to your support, we're bringing healing and hope to a nation still fighting for its future. ❤️

**Name changed to protect privacy and safety.*



Two-year-old Andriy sits on a couch at home in Kharkiv, Ukraine, holding a toy.



AmeriCares Hurricane Melissa Response team member, Corey Lott, helps unload a shipment containing medicines, medical supplies and equipment for AmeriCares emergency medical clinic.

(Hurricane Melissa continued from pg 1)

than half of its roof and sustained severe flooding, AmeriCares is supporting the cleanup of the facility by funding cleaning supplies and equipment.

In coordination with the Jamaican government, AmeriCares deployed a 16-person emergency medical team to provide free health care and mental health support. We are committed to meeting the health needs of survivors and restoring health services in storm-damaged communities.

Recovery from Hurricane Melissa will take months, if not years. Because of the generosity of friends like you, AmeriCares is uniquely situated to respond efficiently when disaster strikes or conflict threatens health. ❤️

CA Wildfires: One Year Looking Back

It's now been one year since disastrous wildfires burned 37,700 acres in Los Angeles County. Thanks to you, AmeriCares responded immediately. We supplied medicine, relief supplies, N95 masks and water. Plus, we increased access to health services, including mental health care.

We also provided \$1 million in direct cash assistance to over 5,500 people so they could meet their own needs. With cash in hand, they could take the first steps toward healing and regaining a sense of normalcy. People like Alphonso.

Alphonso and his wife lost their 1912 Craftsman home in Altadena, where they raised their two children, to the wildfire. AmeriCares was able to provide his family with cash assistance to help rebuild their lives. After living in a shelter for over a month, Alphonso said he plans to use the assistance wisely. "Cash is a big help," he said. "It's about compassion, it's about concern." ❤️



Give With Confidence

More than 98% of AmeriCares resources support health programs, with less than 2% going to administration and overhead expenses.

Plus, every contribution you make can go 20X as far in providing aid to people in need due to our trusted network of local partners and careful use of donated medicine. ❤️



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AmeriCares is a health-focused relief and development organization that helps people affected by poverty or disaster with life-changing health programs, medicine and medical supplies.

AmeriCares RISE Members

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

- AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals
- Baxter Foundation
- Boehringer Ingelheim Cares Foundation
- Bridgemill Family Foundation
- Cencora Impact Foundation
- Elevance Health Foundation
- Envestnet Financial Technologies, Inc.
- Integra Foundation
- Johnson & Johnson Foundation
- Las Vegas Sands
- Medtronic
- Northrop Grumman
- Novartis
- Odyssey Group Foundation
- Olympus
- Patagonia
- PVH Foundation
- Teleflex Foundation
- Vertex Foundation
- Voya Foundation
- Xylem Watermark