

Earthquake Victims Need Medicine, Supplies



Photos by Matthew McDermott

When the ground shook and her house began to crumble around her, Lakshmi thought she and her toddler son would die. They escaped with their lives, but her family's future is uncertain.

Lakshmi lives in Khokana, Nepal, just miles from the epicenter of the powerful April 25 earthquake that rocked Nepal, killing more than 8,000 people and destroying nearly 300,000 homes, including the three-story home Lakshmi shared with her husband and their two children.

An AmeriCares medical and emergency response team arrived with medicine within 48 hours of the disaster and began to treat survivors, including Lakshmi's son. Just 10 days after the earthquake,

an AmeriCares airlift delivered close to \$1 million in medicine and supplies that met needs defined by Nepal's Ministry of Health and Population and the World Health Organization. This was just one of a dozen AmeriCares air shipments in the first month after the disaster with donations including antibiotics, wound care supplies and medical tents.

An estimated 8 million Nepalese are picking up the pieces of their lives after the earthquake. "We see that 90 percent of health clinics and 95 percent of schools are destroyed in the most affected areas," says AmeriCares Senior Vice President of Global Programs Dr. E. Anne Peterson, who was in Nepal to meet survivors' immediate needs and begin AmeriCares long-term plans to help restore and rebuild Nepal's health system.

After a week of living under a tarp in a damp, crowded camp, Lakshmi's 2-year-old son began to cough. AmeriCares Dr. Swati Jha examined Lakshmi's little boy and told the worried mother that he did not have a chest infection. Relieved, Lakshmi thanked the doctors and emergency staff.

Lakshmi says she is hopeful that she and her family can rebuild their home, even though they do not have the funds to do so themselves. "We are just waiting for tomorrow," she says.



AmeriCares Dr. Swati Jha treats a boy who had been trapped in rubble (top); AmeriCares was the first relief team to reach Arughat, Nepal (bottom). Christina's free blood pressure medicine is donated by AmeriCares (right).

Your Donations Support Patients Here at Home

After she relocated to Texas last year to lower her cost of living, 64-year-old Christina worried she couldn't afford her blood pressure medication. Retired and on a fixed income, Christina had frequent dizzy spells and chest pain. Then she found the Greater Killeen Free Clinic, one of more than 800 safety net clinics in the U.S. that receive donated medicine from AmeriCares. There, Christina received her medication—for free.

"If I didn't get my medication from the clinic I would have to struggle," said Christina. "Without it, I honestly don't know where I would be today, or if I would be here."

"Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the U.S. and low-income patients are at highest risk," says Lindsay O'Brien, manager of AmeriCares U.S. Medical Assistance Program. "AmeriCares is committed to helping the most vulnerable patients."

AmeriCares is the nation's largest provider of donated medical aid to the U.S. health care safety net. Supported by the GE Foundation, the program helps partner clinics to increase capacity, provide comprehensive care, improve health outcomes and reduce costs for patients.



From the President and CEO



Dear Friends,

AmeriCares plans for disasters—we stock medicine and supplies and maintain relationships with large and small response organizations all over the globe.

So on Saturday, April 25, when a powerful earthquake struck Nepal, AmeriCares was ready to respond immediately—and we did (page 1). Our response was efficient and effective: Our emergency air shipments of medicine and supplies were quickly approved by the Nepal government and the World Health Organization because they contained precisely what was needed in the disaster zone.

We know that you and other donors support AmeriCares because we are efficient, earning the highest four-star rating from Charity Navigator. We leverage all donations so that every \$100 donated delivers \$2,000 in aid.

Those stars and ratings represent lives saved and healthy futures—for a 7-year-old Nepali boy whose infected wounds were treated with our emergency antibiotics, and for a Texas retiree who depends on AmeriCares donations for her blood pressure medicine (page 1).

Your continued support allows AmeriCares to respond to disasters, help communities recover and, over time, transform the lives of people in need with access to quality health care.

Thank you!

Michael J. Nyenhuis
President and CEO

Health Care Reaches Cyclone Survivors in South Pacific

Cyclone Pam slammed the South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu in March, killing 13 people and turning life upside down for more than 180,000 people on 22 islands. “Ninety percent of buildings, including health centers, were damaged or destroyed,” says AmeriCares Emergency Response Manager Karl Erdmann.

AmeriCares sent an emergency response team and supported a volunteer emergency medical team, NYC Medics. Working together, the teams delivered medicine and health services by boat, airplane and helicopter and treated more than 1,400 survivors on five islands. “We were the first to arrive on these remote islands,” says Erdmann. Doctors treated infected wounds, fungal rashes, bacterial infections, upper respiratory tract infections and injuries.



Because of Your Help, A Healthy Future

In Cochabamba, Bolivia, 24-year-old Marcelo* could smell and taste food, but swallowing brought only pain.

After six years of surviving on mostly liquids, the university student was very thin and risking malnutrition. When Marcelo’s family could not afford surgery for his condition, doctors told them of one other option: A U.S. volunteer surgery team supported by AmeriCares was about to visit Cochabamba and perform surgeries at no cost to patients. Bolivian doctors contacted the team, from an organization called Solidarity Bridge, and the visiting surgeons put Marcelo on their schedule.



“AmeriCares is vitally important,” says Solidarity Bridge surgeon Dr. Malcolm Bilimoria. “We would not be able to do even part of the surgeries without their donations. We take AmeriCares donations—every single one—and treat them like gold.” The Solidarity Bridge team mentors and partners with Bolivian medical staff each trip; the teams perform surgeries together, including Marcelo’s. AmeriCares supports more than 1,200 volunteer medical teams each year—more than 80 percent train local medical staff on their visits, building local health care capacity.

“Thank God everything went well and I am recovering rapidly—I can’t wait to go home,” says Marcelo. “I was waiting for this moment, for a surgery to make me better. Now I am better and will be able to eat as much as I want.” Marcelo has every chance for a productive, healthy life—his immediate plans include university exams, soccer and fully savoring his mother’s cooking.

**name changed*

A doctor mobilized by AmeriCares treats a young patient on the South Pacific island of Tongoa after a destructive cyclone wiped out homes and clinics. Surgeons used medicine donated by AmeriCares during Marcelo’s surgery (above).

Partner in Profile: U.S. Chemicals

When Carol Piccaro assumed leadership of U.S. Chemicals from her father, she made some changes: Carol certified the company “woman-owned”, began a sustainability program and introduced wellness programs for employees. But one thing didn’t change: U.S. Chemicals’ support of AmeriCares.

Social responsibility and giving back have long been part of U.S. Chemicals’ corporate culture. “Health is a human right. It’s critical to a productive society,” says Carol. Carol joined the business in 1983 and was elected president and CEO when her father, Howard Von Oehsen, died in 1995. The global chemical distributor generously supports AmeriCares with regular,



timely donations. Many recent contributions are targeted to AmeriCares Free Clinics, which serve the low-income uninsured in the Connecticut communities where both AmeriCares and U.S. Chemicals are headquartered. A hands-on executive, Carol has participated in AmeriCares airlifts to experience firsthand AmeriCares work, including trips to the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Mexico and Nicaragua.

Now, U.S. Chemicals has chosen AmeriCares as its charity of choice for

the company’s annual giving campaign. AmeriCares created a unique fundraising web page for U.S. Chemicals and over the year, the company will encourage employees and clients alike to donate—the fundraising goal is \$50,000, which U.S. Chemicals will match dollar for dollar. “This giving platform extends the opportunity to our clients, employees and their networks,” says Carol. “It demonstrates how important we think philanthropy is for everyone.”

U.S. CHEMICALS, LLC

Ebola Survivor Says “Thank You”

When Morris was sickened with Ebola last year, he received quality care at an Ebola treatment unit supported by AmeriCares in Tubmanburg, Liberia, and he recovered. But surviving Ebola is bittersweet: Morris lost his wife and seven other members of his community in the epidemic.

Now, struggling with side effects of Ebola including aches and weakness, Morris works to keep his neighbors and five children safe and healthy. In his community, he spreads the message of how to prevent Ebola infection. “People must keep washing their hands and not wash dead bodies,” Morris says.

“Those who are in other places that send their money just for us to be well, I want to tell them thank you,” says Morris.

“Because if it were not for their sake, it would not be easy for us in Liberia.”

AmeriCares has provided more than \$2.8 million in aid to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to support local health partners. Our aid includes millions of pieces of protective gear and recruitment of foreign medical staff. AmeriCares also supplied three Ebola treatment units in Liberia managed by the International Organization for Migration and is committed to strengthening health systems in the region.



Low-income patients receive free care at AmeriCares Free Clinics (top). Ebola survivor Morris Sirleaf thanks donors from his home in Liberia (above).

Make the Most of Your Giving

As a trusts and estates lawyer, Bryon Harmon works with clients to create estate plans that benefit families and other beneficiaries, while ensuring that those plans are tax efficient. As a philanthropist, Harmon has a personal passion to improve the lives of others. These two roles often meet in Bryon’s support of AmeriCares.

A resident of Old Saybrook, Connecticut, Harmon especially enjoys showing people how a well-crafted estate plan can support their philanthropic interests—“that’s a nice harmony,” says Harmon, who has been practicing for nearly 20 years.

Including AmeriCares in his own estate plan helps Harmon achieve the same balance he wishes for his clients. “When I learned how much AmeriCares does and how efficient they are, it’s hard not to support such an organization,” he says. He particularly likes how contributions directly support programs, with less than 3 percent going to administrative costs. “Entrepreneurial thinking is in the DNA of the organization,” he says. Harmon gives his time, too, volunteering on AmeriCares Professional Advisory Council. “AmeriCares has been here for over 30 years and will be here for many more, and it means a lot to me to know I’m helping today as well as supporting the future of the organization,” he says.

For more information on the benefits of gift annuities or other giving vehicles, contact Malaine Miller at AmeriCares: 203.658.9634 or mmiller@americares.org

Your Donations at Work in 64 Countries With your help, between January 1 and March 31, 2015, AmeriCares sent medicine and medical supplies to the following countries:

Afghanistan	Costa Rica	Grenada	Japan	Mongolia	Paraguay	Uganda
Armenia	Democratic Republic of Congo	Guatemala	Jordan	Myanmar	Peru	Ukraine
Bangladesh	Dominican Republic	Guinea	Kenya	Nepal	Philippines	United States
Belize	Egypt	Guyana	Liberia	Nicaragua	Romania	Uzbekistan
Bhutan	El Salvador	Haiti	Madagascar	Nigeria	Russia	Vanuatu
Bolivia	Ethiopia	Honduras	Malawi	North Korea	Rwanda	Vietnam
Cambodia	Gabon	India	Mali	Pakistan	Sierra Leone	Zimbabwe
China	Ghana	Iraq	Marshall Islands	Palestinian Territories	Solomon Islands	
Colombia		Ivory Coast	Mexico		Syria	
Congo (Kinshasa)		Jamaica	Micronesia	Panama	Tanzania	

Haiti



Haiti: AmeriCares Medical Officer Dr. Julie Varughese checks the health of a tiny patient at Real Hope for Haiti, which provides health care to malnourished children and has been supported by AmeriCares for five years.

Philippines: These children will have access to health care thanks to AmeriCares repairs of community clinics damaged by Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013.

Philippines



Nepal



Nepal: When 14 tons of AmeriCares medicine and supplies landed in Kathmandu, Nepal, AmeriCares staff made sure it moved quickly to hospitals and clinics. [Click here to see a video of AmeriCares Nepal airlift. >>](#)

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
- Covidien
- Chevron
- McGraw Hill Financial
- Northrop Grumman
- OdysseyRe Foundation
- Southwest Airlines
- Voya Financial

Liberia



Liberia: This young mother carried her child for three hours so he could receive a free vaccination at an AmeriCares mobile clinic.

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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