

Your Donation Reaches Venezuelans



Photo by Nicolo Filippio Rosso

“Children die of malnutrition and lack of medical attention,” says Esmerelda, holding her 2-year-old son tightly. “There is no food, no medication.” She is describing Venezuela, the homeland she fled two years ago.

Esmerelda is one of an estimated 2.6 million people who have left Venezuela since 2014; more than 1.1 million have arrived in Colombia. To provide care and ease the burden on Colombian health facilities, Americares opened four primary care clinics in towns near the border or where Venezuelans have settled. Most of the



Photo by Nicolo Filippio Rosso

patients at the clinics are Venezuelans, though the clinics are open to anyone who lacks a national identification card, Colombians included.

“I am very grateful to Americares because they have given me medical attention and have provided me with medicine,” says Esmerelda, who recently learned she is pregnant. “If Americares stops providing this help for us, I do not know what I would do to continue receiving the care that I need for my baby.”

Sick with tuberculosis, Alcides also escaped the crisis in Venezuela. “I knew that if I did not receive medical attention, I would die,” he says. “In Venezuela, there is no food, no employment; there is a lot of crime, people are dying from starvation and multiple illnesses. I couldn’t receive the treatment I need because there is no medication.” When Alcides arrived in Colombia, he did not have insurance; when he sought care at a Colombian hospital, staff told him about Americares clinics. Alcides works in Columbia to send money to his 90-year-old mother in Venezuela.

Since Americares clinics opened in July 2018, Americares medical staff in Colombia have managed more than 30,000 patient visits. “Twenty percent of the patients are pregnant women seeking prenatal care,” says Americares Colombia Country Director Walter James. “More arrive each day. We are committed to providing services—the only health care many Venezuelans in Colombia have access to.”

Since July 2018, Americares clinics in Colombia have provided care for thousands of Venezuelans. Many bring their young children for care. Twenty percent of Colombia clinic patients (above) are pregnant women. In Puerto Rico, Americares installed a complete solar system at Migrant Health Center (right).

“They would plead for help from anyone.”

“In the weeks after Hurricane Maria, people would desperately call radio stations and plead for medicine for their loved ones,” says Puerto Rican solar engineer Luis Muñoz. “They would plead for help from anyone.”

Without power, stocks of certain medicines quickly spoiled. Health centers spent huge amounts on fuel to run generators. “We also couldn’t leave the generator working 24/7 because occasionally, it needed to be turned off,” says Wendy Morales, administrator of Migrant Health Center in Yauco, Puerto Rico. “When we would leave it on without a break, the generator would turn off on its own. If there had been solar panels, we would have saved on diesel.”

That was in 2017. Since then, Americares has installed a complete solar system—panels, storage batteries and controls—at Migrant Health Center as part of Americares disaster recovery and preparedness programs. Now, when Puerto Rico’s fragile power grid fails in a wind or rain storm, the clinic’s medicine stays cold and lights are on. “There has been a sporadic loss of power,” says Morales. “However, as a result of the solar panels, we were able to continue to provide help. We were able to provide care for patients and medications, such as insulin and vaccines.”



From the President and CEO



Friends,

One of the best parts of my job as CEO of a health-focused charity is sharing the impact of donor support. You can see the difference your donations are making in the pages of this newsletter. Here are more updates from my desk:

Because of you, AmeriCares is hiring local contractors in Tanzania to pipe clean water into every ward of the only hospital in rural Kibondo. This is just one way AmeriCares is making the hospital safer for patients and health workers. Thank you!

Because of your support, more than 300 women in Cambodia had access to breast cancer treatment last year, and now, acting as community educators, they have reached more than 4,000 women with critical information about breast cancer. Thank you!

Because of you, more than 100,000 low-income, uninsured and underinsured people in the United States received medicine for their chronic disease last year at no cost, easing the burden of diabetes and high blood pressure. Thank you!

And because of your support, people who have fled Venezuela in search of a better life have access to empathetic, quality health care at the four AmeriCares clinics in Colombia. "I will always be thankful to the people of AmeriCares for saving my life," says Alcides, who received treatment for tuberculosis at AmeriCares clinic. "God bless you always!"

Your commitment means the world to so many people. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Nyenhuis
President and CEO

From the Field: Hurricane-Battered Communities Are Not Forgotten

By Kate Dischino,
AmeriCares Vice President,
Emergency Programs

It's nearly 18 months after Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria struck the U.S. and, as the lead of AmeriCares emergency programs, I work every day to advance recovery from those powerful storms. As we help communities recover, our focus is on resilience—when the next storm comes, can health centers stay open? Is the health system truly recovered?

I know that AmeriCares strong foundation allowed us to respond quickly and effectively to all three storms. We built a roster of emergency responders who deployed swiftly and helped us distribute aid and operate mobile medical units, which provided care for more than 1,700 survivors. We maintain an emergency pharmacy and were able to send 367 shipments of medicine and relief supplies. Our growing expertise in addressing stress and trauma—both in emergencies and ongoing programs in the U.S.—allowed us to support the health work force in the U.S. and Caribbean. Building capacity for mental health is critical. We know stress and trauma can take a toll and any comprehensive emergency program must address that.

Now, in Dominica, Puerto Rico and Texas especially, we're investing in recovery and preparedness. Recovery includes rebuilding. We are rebuilding health centers—some with stronger roofs and windows, others with generators or solar systems. And we are rebuilding the health of survivors—especially where gaps exist in access to mental health for the elderly and those affected by poverty.

Our preparedness workshops for health centers began within months of the storms. The workshops include planning, communication, and strengthening community networks—all needed to adapt in the face of adversity. We can't stop the next storm (the 2019 Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1) but to save lives and protect health, we are investing in resilient health centers.



After Hurricane Harvey, Vice President of Emergency Programs Kate Dischino met survivors at a Houston shelter.



AmeriCares brought health services to remote communities in the wake of the hurricanes, including home visits in Puerto Rico.



In Dominica, AmeriCares is rebuilding health centers and adding generators.

Thank You

Because of your support, AmeriCares provided the following aid* in response to the devastating 2017 hurricanes in the U.S. and Caribbean:

- 75** responders in the field
- 2,500** days in the field (combined)
- 367** shipments of aid
- 164** local organizations
- 154,000** survivors helped

*by June 30, 2018

Partner in Profile: Odyssey Group

When Hector arrived at one of AmeriCares Free Clinics in Connecticut, he was suffering from blurred vision and constant fatigue. His blood sugar was three times the normal level, and doctors quickly diagnosed him with diabetes. Staff not only prescribed medication, but also coached Hector to better manage his blood sugar. Now, his indicators are close to that of a nondiabetic.

One of the generous donors supporting health services for low-income individuals is Odyssey Group, a leading global provider of reinsurance and specialty insurance based in Stamford, Connecticut. The Odyssey Group Foundation's support for AmeriCares is driven by its company's mission to support charitable organizations active in communities where its employees live and work, as well as those dedicated to worldwide disaster relief efforts.

Core support for AmeriCares Free Clinics, which serve the area's low-income and uninsured residents, is just part of Odyssey Group's longstanding commitment to AmeriCares, which currently extends through 2023. Odyssey Group is also an AmeriCares Emergency Response Partner, providing ongoing support that builds the foundation from which our responses are launched and playing a part in funding every AmeriCares emergency response. Their employees have also stepped



Over the years, Odyssey Group employees have joined events to assemble emergency kits for disaster survivors.

up many times over the years by volunteering to pack emergency kits at the AmeriCares distribution center and running on Team AmeriCares in the TCS New York City Marathon to raise funds, among other ways.

"By insuring commercial property owners and providing property catastrophe reinsurance, Odyssey Group shares in AmeriCares mission to help rebuild communities after a disaster strikes," says Alane Carey, executive vice president of Odyssey Group and grants review officer for its foundation. "In addition to our role in AmeriCares disaster relief program, we have also supported their efforts to tackle some of the toughest health care challenges here in Fairfield County for more than 10 years. We have seen first-hand the difference that AmeriCares makes to improve the lives of millions of people around the world and are very proud of our long-term partnership."

Ready to Respond

The June 2018 eruption of Fuego volcano in Guatemala is just one of 35 disasters AmeriCares responded to last year. The volcano's dangerous ash, gasses and mudslides killed more than 100 people and forced thousands into emergency shelters.

AmeriCares maintains a constant state of readiness. Over the past three years, our relief workers have responded to 90 disasters with programs uniquely suited to survivors' health needs. For the survivors of Fuego, AmeriCares provided medical and relief supplies to shelters, protecting health and providing access to care.



*fiscal year

Why We Give



Donors ensured a health check for this young hurricane survivor.

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

I've supported AmeriCares for many years, for several reasons. First, because AmeriCares keeps its overhead low, almost all that I donate goes to help people. I give the same amount each month and get an update on where my donation is going, so I feel it's being put to good use. —*Gabi Coatsworth Wilson, Fairfield, Connecticut*

I looked at AmeriCares on Charity Navigator, which is the guide to intelligent giving, and it consistently scores high in terms of money going to people who really need it, and not as much to overhead and administrative costs. In contributing to AmeriCares, I know my contribution will go to the people directly—it will help the maximum number of people. —*Gregory E. Lindquist, Houston, Texas*

I first became aware of AmeriCares through my former employer, Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, which was providing medicine donations and other support to AmeriCares. Because AmeriCares rushes medical support to crisis areas all over the world, I feel that my ongoing donation helps AmeriCares hit the ground running when a major emergency strikes. —*Dorothy J. Rich, Norwalk, Connecticut*

MAKE A DIFFERENCE! YOUR GIFT WILL BE MATCHED 2X!

With our Make a Difference Matching Gift Challenge, your contribution will have twice the impact on support for clinics where families count on donors like you to provide quality health care that they can't access anywhere else. Don't delay; this matching gift offer ends 4/30/19. Please visit www.americares.org/double to take advantage of the Make a Difference Matching Gift Challenge so your gift can have 2X the impact.

Your Donations at Work—In Emergencies and Every Day

With your help, between November 1 and December 31, 2018, AmeriCares sent project support, medicine and medical supplies to the following countries and U.S. territories.

Afghanistan	Colombia	Ethiopia	Iraq	Mali	Nigeria	Peru	Somalia	Turkey
Armenia	Costa Rica	Ghana	Jamaica	Mexico	Northern Mariana Islands	Philippines	St. Lucia	Uganda
Bangladesh	Dominica	Guatemala	Kenya	Mozambique	Myanmar	Puerto Rico	St. Vincent	United States
Belize	Dominican Republic	Haiti	Kosovo	Nepal	Nicaragua	Rwanda	Tanzania	Uzbekistan
Benin	Ecuador	Honduras	Lebanon	Nicaragua	Panama	Senegal	Togo	Vietnam
Bolivia	El Salvador	Indonesia	Liberia	Niger	Paraguay	Sierra Leone		Yemen
Cambodia								Zambia

Emergency Response Partners

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

- Alexion Pharmaceuticals
- AmerisourceBergen Foundation
- Anthem Foundation
- Chevron
- FCA Foundation
- Horizon Pharma
- Medtronic
- Northrop Grumman
- Novartis
- Odyssey Group Foundation
- Patagonia
- Southwest Airlines
- Vanech Family Foundation
- Voya Financial



Philippines

Tropical Depression Usman struck the Philippines in December 2018, killing more than 150 people and affecting more than 1 million. AmeriCares provided critical relief supplies for survivors and our mobile medical team conducted more than 1,000 patient consultations.



Somalia

Millions of vulnerable families in Somalia are facing extreme food shortages and cholera. AmeriCares provides medicine and supplies to our partner Human Appeal, which hosts medical clinics in Mogadishu.



Tanzania

At a health facility in Tanzania, an AmeriCares assessment found a lack of infection control that threatened the health of patients. Plans to improve the facility are now underway. Last year, AmeriCares conducted similar assessments in five countries.



United States

In partnership with Feeding America and funding from Baxter International Inc., AmeriCares Diabetes Prevention with Healthy Food Program aims to prevent diabetes in free clinic patients by providing them with a weekly box of healthy food for one year.



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.

88 Hamilton Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902
 203.658.9500 | 1.800.486.HELP | americares.org
 Editor: Kathy Kukula, editor@americares.org

Connect with us



Health is on the Way is a trademark of Tandigm Health, LLC.

