

GLOBAL LINKS

Sharing Surplus. Saving Lives.

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 27 NUMBER 1 FALL 2019

WAYS TO SUPPORT GLOBAL LINKS



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Corporate Group



Donate \$10+ a month as
a Global Giver



Host a Personal
Care Collection



Follow Us on Social
Media & Share Our Story



Attend a Tour or Join us
for a Lunch + Learn

IMPORTANT DATES:

December 3 Give Big Pittsburgh
[www.givebigpittsburgh.com/
organizations/global-links](http://www.givebigpittsburgh.com/organizations/global-links)

30th Year Anniversary Celebration
Events through summer of 2020
globallinks.org/visit/special-events

ABOUT GLOBAL LINKS

Global Links is a medical relief and development organization dedicated to supporting health-improvement programs in communities that lack resources. Since 1989, we have been collaborating with government officials, healthcare professionals, community organizations and community leaders to rescue medical surplus and to develop projects that support public health goals both internationally and domestically by improving access to quality healthcare and needed materials.

GLOBALLINKS.ORG

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Executive Director Angela Garcia and Cuba-PAHO representative Justo Cárdenas receiving Allegheny County Proclamations from County Executive Rich Fitzgerald at the Roberto Clemente Museum

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL AID PROGRAMS

Celebrating 25 Years of Humanitarian Efforts with Cuba

“PAHO-Cuba partners with Global Links because of our shared mission to work with resource poor communities, our shared principles of respect for all people and the environment, and our shared values of solidarity, excellence, and integrity as well as the technical expertise and work capacity Global Links demonstrates.”

JUSTO MANUEL CÁRDENAS RODRIGUEZ, PAHO-CUBA

Global Links is proud to celebrate its 25th anniversary of humanitarian efforts in Cuba. Global Links began working in Cuba in 1994 at the request of the Pan American Health Organization and the World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), following the downturn in Cuba's economy and health care system

after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Global Links is the only nonprofit in Pittsburgh, and one of the few in the United States, with a fully licensed partnership from both the United States and Cuban governments to collaborate on humanitarian health efforts. Thanks to robust collaboration with the PAHO/WHO

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office in Cuba and the Cuban Ministry of Health, Global Links has become one of the major donors of medical aid to Cuba from the U.S.

To mark this anniversary, Global Links hosted PAHO/WHO representative Justo Manuel Cárdenas Rodríguez, who specializes in the coordination of natural disaster emergency response within PAHO-Cuba, and other agencies within the U.N. in Cuba. His visit centered on **shared learning and best practices for improving healthcare, with a specific focus on maternal health, an issue of concern for health leaders in Cuba and Pennsylvania alike.**

Mr. Rodríguez's itinerary included visits to the Midwife Center for Birth & Women's Health, UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital and Magee-Womens Research Institute.

In addition to visits to local health care facilities, Mr. Cárdenas met with faculty and students and presented a lecture on the history of PAHO/WHO and their successful collaboration with Global Links at the University of Pittsburgh Center for Latin American Studies and the University Center for International Studies. Staff, board members, supporters and our guest, Mr. Cárdenas, also gathered at The Roberto Clemente Museum to celebrate 25 years of partnership. We were honored by Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald who recognized Global Links' work and collaboration with Cuba with an **Allegheny County Proclamation designating September 27, 2019 as Global Links Day in Allegheny County!**

As we reflect back on 25 years of humanitarian work in Cuba, we think of the many projects which have been possible thanks to our generous supporters. **Most recently, Global Links completed a 2 year long effort to improve and restore**

disaster resilient hospitals in areas of Cuba where Hurricane Irma struck in September 2017. Our Executive Director Angela Garcia and International Medical Aid Consultant Karina Zelaya traveled to Cuba in March 2019 to evaluate the impact of our projects and to visit the 5 hospitals to which Global Links sent materials. These 5 hospitals serve 2+ million people and have need of specialty supplies not always requested by other Global Links partners. After careful assessment of needs, Global Links carefully prepared and delivered 8 containers of needed furnishings, equipment, and supplies to help in rebuilding the capacity of the 5 hospitals damaged by the hurricane.

Angela was especially touched by the story of Bryan, a 13 year old patient at the pediatric hospital in Holguin. The hospital director shared that the materials from Global Links were used in the units where the patients had the longest stays or in

the units where patients with delicate conditions were staying. Hospitals preferred to use the Global Links materials in those units due to the quality, comfort, and functionality of the treatment chairs, beds, stretchers, IV poles and other items Global Links provided. Bryan was in the oncology ward due to his third recurrence of leukemia and he would be hospitalized for several weeks. His mother stays with him and she was grateful for the new treatment chairs, which provided a dignified and comfortable alternative to her son's bed.

During the trip Global Links also finalized our agreement for health improvement projects in Cuba in 2020. Plans include support for a maternity hospital, for a center for people with disabilities, for several senior care facilities, and support for the provision of specialized suture and surgical instruments. Global Links will need to raise \$50,000 to fund the Cuba program for 2020. •



Providing comfort and dignity for pediatric oncology patients in Cuba



Unpacking the Global Links container with oral rehydration supplies in Honduras

Honduras: Global Links Responds to Dengue Fever Outbreak

Earlier this year the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) asked Global Links to support their efforts to combat a dengue fever outbreak with an unusually high percentage of severe cases, causing a high number of deaths for patients 15 and younger. Dengue is a viral disease carried and spread by mosquitoes, the same species which carries yellow fever, Zika, and other diseases. There is no cure for dengue, which causes flu-like symptoms, fever, extreme joint pain, and dehydration.

Oral rehydration therapy is essential to save lives and the Honduran Ministry of Health was running low. With support from partners like Rise Against Hunger and donors like you, we were able to provide enough oral rehydration therapy supplies to treat up to 5,000 people. **Responding to disasters and emergency situations like this one requires experience, preparedness, resources and your financial support.** •

Bolivia: Strengthening and Celebrating the Public Health System

In Bolivia, we continue to work with indigenous communities, whose topography and location make it nearly impossible for people to travel outside of their community for healthcare. We work with the community leaders, who are in charge of their own health budgets, to meet the needs of their communities and the abilities of their health workers. In fact, upon the arrival of our shipments, all of the materials are unloaded for the community to see. Communities have a celebration and give thanks to Pacha Mama (Mother Earth) for the bounty and blessings they have received to improve health. •



The Bolivian community of Icla celebrates the arrival of their Global Links container



Newborn at one of the maternal homes in Nicaragua

Nicaragua: Ensuring All Mothers Have a Safe Place to Give Birth

Global Links continues to support our Maternal Health and Nutrition Project, in collaboration with PAHO/WHO and the national health ministry of Nicaragua. **Women come to maternity homes from their rural communities to be close to a hospital at the time of their delivery.** In the past 10 years, the maternal death rate dropped from 96 women dying per 100,000 live births to 34 women.

During an evaluation visit earlier this year, Executive Director Angela Garcia was able to meet Juana, who accompanied her daughter-in-law Leyla for her first delivery at one of the maternity homes Global Links helped to equip. Juana did not have the benefit of maternity homes and lost 4 of her children. “The maternal homes provide more safety. It’s better for the mothers,” she explained. Leyla is one of the many mothers who has benefitted from your support of this project.

Global Links is committed to completing the project, which involves equipping just 30 more maternity homes of the 170 total in the country. **We have the equipment and supplies needed, but we need to raise \$84,000 to complete the project and ensure that all women across Nicaragua have a safe place to give birth.** •

Community Collection Network (CCN)

DOMESTIC MEDICAL AID PROGRAMS

Did you know that Global Links rescues homeware surplus, which is quality checked at our headquarters in Pittsburgh then matched to local safety-net organizations serving our neighbors in need through our Community Partners Program?

The Global Links Community Collection Network provides convenient locations for community members to donate their surplus medical supplies and equipment. For open hours and details of what each drop-off site can accept, visit: www.globallinks.org/donate/medical-supplies •

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS.



200 JHF Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15217



2585 Freeport Rd., Suite 104
Pittsburgh, PA 15238



214 N. Lexington St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15208



5301 Park Ave.
Bethel Park, PA 15102

MOST NEEDED ITEMS.



Rolling Walkers



Nebulizers



Shower Benches



Manual and
Transport
Wheelchairs



Meal Replacement
Shakes



Incontinence
Supplies



Engage your company with Global Links

Corporate Engagement

VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROGRAM

Corporate groups are encouraged to get involved by scheduling a custom volunteering experience. We can design a shift to help you engage your employees and meet your corporate social responsibility goals. A corporate partnership is an option for companies that volunteer multiple times a year or who want more engagement and promotional benefits. For more information on corporate engagement options, contact Stacy Bodow at sbodow@globallinks.org or 412-361-3424 x205 •

Breathe Hope

"Watching my father struggle to catch his breath is difficult. Losing my aunt to pulmonary fibrosis was heartbreaking. My family was born and raised in Pittsburgh's Steel Valley and many of them suffer from a variety of respiratory conditions, a legacy of Pittsburgh's poor air quality.

To manage his respiratory distress, my father—like many seniors and young children—needs a small machine called a nebulizer for breathing treatments. Respiratory conditions and overall health worsen when breathing treatments are delayed or unavailable, which can result in preventable visits to the ER and extremely scary moments fighting to breathe. Project Breathe Hope was born in part to meet the local community need for better access to treatment."

- ANGELA GARCIA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Global Links is working to keep gently used nebulizers out of the landfill and redistribute these small but mighty machines to our under-insured neighbors and to those without insurance. In 2018, Global Links recovered 486 nebulizers from people living in 43 states. You can support the program by donating your gently used nebulizer or with a financial donation. •



PHOTO CREDIT: RENEE ROSENTEEL FOR THE PITTSBURGH FOUNDATION

Year-End Giving Option

Need to make a year-end Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA if you are 70 ½ or older? Talk to your financial advisor about whether you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to Global Links, and possibly take advantage of a tax savings while supporting a favorite non-profit like Global Links.

Thank you to Surgical Product Solutions for sponsoring our Sip n Sort series for young professionals.



SPS

Surgical Product Solutions

Year of 30th Anniversary Celebrations for Global Links

In July, we kicked off our year of celebrating our 30th anniversary with a volunteer appreciation event, reaching out to volunteers we have had the honor of welcoming since our inception in 1989. We have additional events planned through June of 2020 highlighting each of our programs and engaging different audiences across our local community.

Thank you to everyone who supported our October 10 Benefit Dinner at Eleven and our Young Leaders Advisory Committee sponsored evening at CA Pizza Kitchen. For updates, visit our website globallinks.org/visit/special-events •



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Saturday Family Volunteer Days

www.globallinks.org/visit/special-events



November 23

December 7

December 14

Presented by: UPMC and UPMC Health Plan

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