

**For Immediate Release**

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## Global Links Provides Medical Relief to Russian-American Community Devastated by Superstorm Sandy

Medical Supplies, Equipment, Furnishings to be Collected, Shipped to Help Rebuild Flooded  
Medical Offices, Restart Care in Southern Brooklyn, New York

(PITTSBURGH , December 20, 2012) -- In an unprecedented partnership to offer immediate relief to medical professionals and their patients in south Brooklyn who were dramatically impacted by the devastating effects of Hurricane Sandy, Global Links and the New York-based Afya Foundation have launched the [Sandy Doctors Recovery Project](#) . The project's goal is to replace damaged medical equipment, supplies and furniture in 30 clinics in the Sheepshead Bay and Brighton Beach communities.

The effort is being conducted in cooperation with FEMA, Project Chernobyl, Aidmatrix, American Logistics Aid Network (ALAN), Dr. Igor Branovan, and the American Forum of Russian Jewry, and with support from New York City and State public officials.

The devastating flooding of physicians' offices after Hurricane Sandy caused a sudden and dramatic decrease in availability of medical services in parts of Southern Brooklyn, an area that is home to a large community of immigrants from the former Soviet Union who rely almost exclusively on the Russian-speaking physicians who practice in the area. Since the hurricane, this 200,000-strong population, of which many are elderly and disabled, has struggled with reduced access to medical providers.

The *Sandy Doctors Recovery Project* aims to restore vital medical services by providing much needed materials, including examination tables, blood pressure units and physical therapy equipment to medical practitioners who experienced extensive water damage.

Both Pittsburgh-based Global Links and the Afya Foundation specialize in medical surplus recovery, matching the needs of those in resource-poor countries or disaster recovery areas with surplus medical equipment, supplies and furnishings from U.S. healthcare facilities.

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“When we were approached to assist in this effort and learned of the immediate need to restore basic health services to this very vulnerable community, we knew we had to take action,” says Global Links Deputy Director Angela Garcia. “Global Links specializes in managing the type of rebuilding medical services that this community needs, and we have the knowledge and experience to quickly locate and assemble materials and equipment that match the needs identified by physicians working in south Brooklyn.”

Financial donations are being requested to support the *Sandy Doctors Recovery Project*. For more information or to provide assistance, contact Angela Garcia, Deputy Director, Global Links, [agarcia@globallinks.org](mailto:agarcia@globallinks.org) or 412-735-6212 (cell).

**About Global Links:**

Global Links is a medical relief and development organization based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Founded in 1989, Global Links is dedicated to improving health and promoting health equity in developing countries. Programs include the provision of high quality medical supplies and equipment that have been systematically recovered from U.S. hospitals. Dedicated volunteers help Global Links to maintain high quality standards and low costs. Since its founding, Global Links has provided more than \$170 million in critical medical aid to resource-poor communities, including Bolivia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica and Nicaragua. For more information log on to: [www.globallinks.org](http://www.globallinks.org).

**About the Afya Foundation**

Inspired by the land, the people and the language, the name *Afya* is the Kiswahili word for *good health*. Founded in 2007, Afya has shipped more than 4 million pounds of medical and humanitarian supplies to more than 32 countries. Afya has established a regional program to collect medical supplies from numerous sources in the Greater New York area. The Afya Warehouse in Yonkers serves as a temporary supply storage, where the equipment and supplies are sorted, inspected, boxed and packed for shipment by volunteers. The Afya Foundation depends on volunteer donations to sustain its mission to save and rehabilitate lives abroad. For more information, log on to [www.Afyafoundation.org](http://www.Afyafoundation.org).

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