

NEWS

For Immediate Release

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Global Links Receives ‘Champion for Change’ Environmental Excellence Award Presented by Practice Greenhealth

(PITTSBURGH May 17, 2010) –Practice Greenhealth, a national membership organization for health care facilities committed to environmentally responsible operations, has presented its “**Champion for Change Award**” to Global Links for outstanding contributions to environmentally responsible health care.

Practice Greenhealth honored its top performers at the *Environmental Excellence Awards* held last week in Baltimore, MD, in conjunction with CleanMed, a **Global Conference on Environmentally Sustainable Health Care**.

The *Champion for Change* award recognizes businesses and organizations that demonstrate successful accomplishments in ‘greening’ their own organization and have assisted their associated healthcare facility clients/members/customers in improving their environmental performance.

“This award is a reflection of Global Links’ commitment to their community to protect patient health and preserve the environment,” said Bob Jarboe, executive director, Practice Greenhealth. “It is exciting to know that Global Links is leading this effort and setting an example for other institutions.”

“Global Links recognizes the importance of improved stewardship of our resources and takes its responsibility seriously,” said Kathleen Hower, Global Links chief executive officer and co-founder. “Not that many years ago hospitals were hearing about medical supply recovery for the first time. It was a foreign concept, and it has taken time and a tremendous amount of hard work, dedication and collaboration to set up systems that enable us to protect the environment and public health, while maintaining cost effectiveness.”

“We have come a long way. Facilities are asking for eco-friendly, non-toxic products in increasing numbers. Our hospital partners are proactively working with us to reduce their disposal of still useable surplus, and we continue to develop new donor relationships with the medical community each year. Together we are making an impact, and it is our hope that the work of Global Links and partnering medical institutions will become a national model for reducing the disposal of still useable medical equipment and supplies.”

The *Champion for Change Award* is an award reserved for organizational partners supplying health care products and services that are considerate of the earth and its resources. The winners of this award have achieved success in greening their own organization and have also assisted others who are committed to improving their environmental performance.

Practice Greenhealth presented Environmental Excellence awards in seven categories for their work and commitment to health care and the environment today.

About Practice Greenhealth:

Practice Greenhealth is the nation's leading membership and networking organization for institutions in the healthcare community that have made a commitment to sustainable, eco-friendly practices. Members include hospitals, healthcare systems, businesses and other stakeholders engaged in the greening of healthcare to improve the health of patients, staff and the environment. Practice Greenhealth is a source of environmental solutions for the healthcare sector. For more information on Practice Greenhealth, healthy initiatives, current trends, news and views, and other links to earth-friendly organizations, visit www.practicegreenhealth.org.

About Global Links:

U.S. hospitals annually discard an estimated **\$6.25 billion of medical surplus**. This still-useful material ends up landfilled or incinerated, increasing costs and adding to environmental pollution. Pittsburgh-based Global Links is working to change that and simultaneously improve global health..

Since its founding in 1989, Global Links, a registered 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, has recovered and processed **more than 3,000 tons of medical materials** that would otherwise have been discarded from Western PA health facilities and delivered those materials **to health improvement projects in developing countries** including Bolivia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica and Nicaragua. And because poorly planned donations can be worse than no aid at all, each donation is carefully tailored to meet the needs of the recipient institution.

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Global Links. Sharing Surplus. Saving Lives.

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