

## NEWS

For Immediate Release

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### Practice Greenhealth Presents Global Links with National Award for Environmental Excellence

(PITTSBURGH – April 7, 2011) – Global Links ([www.globallinks.org](http://www.globallinks.org)) has been honored with a Partner Recognition Award by **Practice Greenhealth**, a national membership organization for health care facilities committed to environmentally responsible operations. The award is one of the organization's **Environmental Excellence Awards** given each year to honor outstanding environmental achievements in the health care sector.

“Global Links has been singled out for their efforts to protect patient health and preserve the environment,” said Anna Gilmore Hall, executive director of Practice Greenhealth. “Global Links’ approach to health care demonstrates a keen understanding of the impact our activities have on the environment and a commitments to build on the achievements they have made so far.”

In 2010, Global Links extended its outreach to over 40 health facilities, including hospitals, clinics and surgery centers. Global Links recovered **260 tons** of still-usable medical materials from these facilities last year, including furnishings (exam tables, beds), unused consumable supplies (suture, gloves, gauze) and equipment (nebulizers, microscopes, etc.) to reduce the solid waste disposal of its healthcare partners and to meet the needs of hospitals in developing countries.

Global Links also expanded its **home medical collection** program, increasing the number of community collection events for materials such as crutches, canes, wheelchairs and nebulizers that cannot be returned and would normally be landfilled.

Global Links also established **three new collaborations** to further reduce the amount of materials discarded. Surplus office furnishings (donated from administrative departments of hospitals) that cannot be matched with its international humanitarian programs are now donated to **Construction Junction**, a Pittsburgh non-profit that recovers surplus building materials for reuse.

Likewise, surplus home medical items that cannot be matched are donated to three Pennsylvania lending centers that are cleared to issue them to uninsured patients, and liquid nutritional products that cannot be shipped due to approaching expiration dates are donated to a cancer support

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group that can provide them to patients without insurance coverage. By working with these new partners, Global Links was able to redirect over six tons of materials for reuse that in the past would have had to be disposed of.

“We are proud of the important work that we do to help our hospital and healthcare partners reduce their impact on our local environment, as we contribute to the strengthening of public health systems in resource poor countries,” says Kathleen Hower, Global Links chief executive officer and co-founder. “Our hospital partners are proactively working with us, 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 waste of still useable medical equipment and supplies.”

The Practice Greenhealth Environmental Excellence Awards in eight categories were presented April 6 in Phoenix, AZ, in conjunction with CleanMed 2011, a global conference for environmental leaders in health care.

**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 health care sector. For more information on Practice Greenhealth, visit [www.practicegreenhealth.org](http://www.practicegreenhealth.org).

**About Global Links:**

Global Links is an international medical relief and development organization based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Founded in 1989, Global Links is dedicated to improving health and promoting health equity in resource poor countries. Programs include the provision of high quality medical supplies and equipment that have been systematically recovered from U.S. hospitals. These valuable surplus materials which would otherwise be disposed of in landfills are channeled to public health systems in targeted countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Because poorly planned and inappropriate donations can cause more problems than they were meant to address, each donation is carefully tailored to meet the needs of the recipient institution. Dedicated volunteers help Global Links to maintain high quality standards and low costs. Since its founding, Global Links has provided more than \$160 million in critical medical aid to developing nations, including Bolivia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica and Nicaragua. More information at: [www.globallinks.org](http://www.globallinks.org).

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Global Links. Sharing Surplus. Saving Lives.

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