

NEWS

For Immediate Release

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MEDICC Awards Global Links \$30,000 to Support Haiti Relief Efforts

MEDICC, Global Links Working in Partnership to Develop Sustainable Public Health System in Haiti

(PITTSBURGH -- April 18, 2011) — MEDICC (Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba) presented \$30,000 to Global Links today for the organizations' joint program supporting development of a sustainable public health system in Haiti.

The monies, donations from people in the United States and across the globe, will fund shipments of surgical instruments, medical equipment and supplies to a network of over 400 Haitian physicians and their colleagues from the Americas working in public hospitals and clinics across Haiti. These doctors, graduates of the Latin American Medical School in Havana, work with the Cuban-led team serving long-term in the country to contain the cholera epidemic and staff post-earthquake health facilities.

The supplies are surplus materials donated to Global Links from hospitals in the United States. Global Links collaborates with the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and Haiti's Ministry of Health to ensure delivery.

MEDICC Board member Dr. C. William Keck, who presented the check to Global Links' Chief Executive Officer Kathleen Hower, noted: "We're joined to Global Links and our other partners in a chain of commitment to the young doctors helping to make health care a right in Haiti."

"Global Links has been providing critically needed medical materials and equipment to hospitals and healthcare facilities in the cities and rural areas of Haiti since 1996," says Global Links co-founder and CEO, Kathleen Hower. "We value the collaboration of PAHO/WHO and MEDICC in our efforts, and the thousands of volunteers and supporters who care deeply about Haiti's people. Together we are working toward a time in which everyone there has full access to basic quality healthcare regardless of their economic status."

Support from MEDICC for this joint Haiti effort now totals \$80,000 since the 2010 earthquake.

About MEDICC

Since 1997 MEDICC's mission has been to contribute to the development of medical education paradigms that foster health equity, relying on and cooperating with relevant aspects of Cuban medical education. Through 2004, MEDICC organized electives in Cuba for 1,500 students from 118 US medical and public health schools. MEDICC also produced the feature-length film *¡SALUD!* on the Cuban health system, winner of the Council on Foundation's prestigious Henry Hampton Award for Excellence in Film; publishes *MEDICC Review*, the only internationally peer-reviewed journal on Cuban health and medicine; assists students and graduates of the Latin American Medical School, and supports research in Cuba by US health professionals in the public interest of both countries.

www.medicc.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.

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Global Links. Sharing Surplus. Saving Lives.

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