

Personal Care Kits are assembled with some of the most commonly requested products from our Community Partner organizations

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IMPORTANT DATES

April 29-May 1: Join Us for The Pittsburgh Marathon

May 7: Join Us for the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community

June 8: Volunteer Appreciation Event & Green Mountain Energy Sun Club Celebration

DOMESTIC MEDICAL AID PROGRAM

Improving Health, Hygiene and Dignity with Personal Care Kits

One of our Domestic Medical Aid and Community Engagement projects which has grown over the past year is our signature Personal Care Kit project. Assembled with some of the most commonly requested products from our Community Partner organizations for the neighbors they serve, Personal Care Kits contain toothpaste, toothbrush, floss, soap, shampoo, deodorant and lotion to cover at least 1 month's use. **These products are key to general health, employability, personal dignity and well-being,** and at the

same time, they are NOT covered by SNAP benefits (food stamps) or other government assistance programs which help low income families and seniors.

While meeting an important need of our neighbors, assembling Personal Care Kits is also a sought after group activity in our Volunteer Center, especially accessible to our volunteers with differing abilities. **After being assembled and quality checked by our volunteers, Personal Care Kits are provided to local safety net organizations.**



Assembling and quality checking Personal Care Kits is a popular group activity in our Volunteer Center

We received this feedback in 2021 from The Brashear Association in Pittsburgh, *“An overwhelming appreciation for the Personal Care Kits were shared by all clients. Stories ranged from ‘you never know how much toiletries mean to you when you have to ration out how much is used’ to how some were extremely grateful to receive name brand items they couldn’t afford on their own. Altogether, these kits were well received and used by children, adults, and seniors.”*

Also in 2021, Transitional Paths to Independent Living (TRPIL), a

recipient of Global Links’ Personal Care Kits, shared that one of their program participants, *“Susan* is on a fixed income (Social Security = \$800 a month) and a person with a disability. She does not have transportation to get to the store. She was very grateful to have items that she really cannot afford.”*

Our local as well as national network of food banks and food programs have long recognized the great need for personal care products from those receiving food aid through their programs. However, their mission

is to provide food, not personal care products. Global Links, whose core mission is to improve health for those in need, is coordinating with our Community Partners to provide the personal hygiene items necessary for health and dignity. Together, we can help our neighbors more, as we each concentrate on what we do best to serve people in need.

How can you help your neighbors? You can volunteer remotely to assemble Personal Care Kits at home or at your school, workplace, place of worship, or other community group off-site and then drop the kits off at our headquarters. **Visit the “Get Involved-Volunteer”** section of our website to sign up and for instructions on how to assemble the kits. If you are a corporation looking for a sponsorship opportunity to help our neighbors, we have a **Personal Care Kit sponsorship opportunity** and also space for your employees to volunteer together if that is a goal. **Visit the “Get Involved-Partner With Us”** section of our website or give us a call. **Contact us at www.globallinks.org or +1-412-361-3424.** ●

*Name changed for confidentiality



Planning for medical backpacks in Bolivia.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL AID PROGRAM

Bolivia: Partnering with Indigenous Health Networks

Karina Zelaya, our International Medical Aid consultant, represented Global Links at the beginning of February during a visit to La Paz and Cochabamba to make plans and sign agreements with several communities for health improvement projects that will begin in 2022. The communities involved requested support to strengthen their public health services as well as support for indigenous traditional medicine health networks. In partnership with Days for Girls, we

will also provide reusable menstrual kits and training, explore providing medical backpacks for healthcare professionals in the country, and partner with a new school of nursing, among other projects to improve health. ●



Karina Zelaya signing 2022 project agreements with Bolivian leaders.

Nicaragua: Wheelchairs Improve Mobility and Quality of Life

We wanted to share this story we recently received after a Global Links donation of wheelchairs and other supplies arrived in Nicaragua this past fall. One of the wheelchairs went to Jaime*, 100 years old and living in a rural community. He was unfortunately bedridden for some time. He and his family were overjoyed that he could be mobile once again. They shared that he cried with happiness to be able to be outside of their *“little house to see the sun and the rain.”* In Nicaragua and in many of the countries where we work, a family cares for their elders at home. Having a wheelchair means the family can safely take care of their parents/grandparents with dignity and better quality of life. •

*Name changed for confidentiality



Photo: Silias Zelazya Central

Can you imagine your father or grandfather needing a wheelchair or walker, but not having access to one?



Honduras: Supporting Vaccination Campaigns

Global Links supported the Honduran Ministry of Health's response to the COVID-19 pandemic through the provision of COVID-19 Emergency Response shipments, which included hospital furnishings, medical equipment, and supplies for the country's public health networks and reference hospitals. Our last shipment of 2021 contained critically important syringes and other vaccination supplies, as a shortage was preventing efficient vaccination campaigns around the world, including in Honduras. •

Cuba Medical Aid Program Update

Global Links wants to thank the hundreds of donors across the United States who supported our Cuba medical aid program over the past year- in particular those who supported the vaccination campaign and protecting healthcare workers. Special thanks to the following organizations: Global Health Partners, Pittsburgh-Matanzas Sister Cities Partnership, and all members of the Saving Lives Campaign! This collaboration allowed 25% of the population 2 years and older to receive their Covid-19 vaccinations by the end of 2021. •



Global: Medical Backpacks make a difference in Haiti

Because of your generous donations, Global Links was able to equip 158 Haitian medical professionals with backpacks following the August 2021 earthquake. Here's a picture of one of backpacks in use by Haiti H2O. One of their doctors providing care as part of the mobile clinic shared, *"It is wonderful to be able to provide constant care to a community that would not otherwise have access."* •



Global Links Medical Backpacks in use by Haiti H2O clinicians

MEDICAL SURPLUS RECOVERY PROGRAM

On the Road Again

Our Medical Surplus Recovery team is back on the road checking in with our healthcare partners! COVID-19 forced us to pause many of our clinical surplus recovery programs. We know that there have been many changes over the past two years: in hospital staff, leadership and safety protocols. We have begun reconnecting with our surplus recovery champions at hospitals across PA, as well as hospitals in Maryland and West Virginia. If you have worked with Global Links in the past, we are looking for you! Regardless of whether you work in a different unit, department, facility or even if you have retired, we would love to hear from you. We welcome you to register for a virtual or in-person tour of Global Links, register to volunteer at our headquarters, or reconnect to evaluate and reboot a surplus recovery program.

Contact us at medicalsurplus@globallinks.org •



Global Links staff visiting our hospital recovery champions.



Thanks Pitt Sustainability for hosting a Clean & Swap home medical surplus drive!

Have you checked out our new and improved website?

globallinks.org



Volunteer with Your Corporate Team at Global Links

Studies show that Corporate Volunteerism not only increases employee morale and improves team/staff relations, but also enhances the perception of their brand. According to a recent article in **Business News Daily**, a study on corporate volunteerism, done by Deloitte, found that “an overwhelming majority – 89% – of employees think organizations that sponsor volunteer activities offer a better overall working environment. In addition, 70% believe volunteer activities are more likely to boost staff morale than company-sponsored happy hours, with more than three-quarters saying volunteering is

essential to employee well-being.

Global Links offers Corporate Team Volunteer Experiences on Fridays. Groups of up to 15 people can choose a shift from either 10:00 am-12:00 pm or 1:00-3:00 pm. We begin with a tour and discussion of our work. This adds to the experience, as volunteers learn about and connect to the impact of their time. We ask Corporate Groups to make a donation of \$250 to accompany their volunteer shift. This helps cover delivery of the donations you sort and pack to where they are needed most. **For more information, contact Stacy at glvolunteer@globallinks.org** •



A team from Viatrix spent a recent Friday morning with us - team building, learning and doing good.

Giving Health for ALL

Did you know you can support your favorite charities when you make a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA if you are 72 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 tax savings while supporting health and the planet.

Have a Donor Advised Fund (DAF)? Consider making a donation from your DAF to improve mobility, independence, dignity and health for your neighbors locally and globally.

Become a Legacy Donor for Health! Include Global Links in your will and provide Health for All.

Have a vehicle you no longer need? You can donate your car, truck, boat or RV and designate Global Links to receive the proceeds and you can claim the tax deduction. Contact us for details.

Join Us for the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community and the Pittsburgh Marathon

Looking to reach your 2022 health goals? You're in luck! Global Links has 2 options you can get involved in while also supporting Global Links and our mission of bringing health to all. Join us for the Pittsburgh Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community! Help us reach our 2022 goal to raise \$4,000 to improve health! The Walk is in-person this year and takes place on Saturday, May 7th but you can donate through June 30.

Or join us for our first year as a contributing charity as part of The Pittsburgh Marathon April 29-May 1! Register for your marathon event and then join our Board, Young Leader Advisory Committee (YLAC) and staff in running for Global Links. Information on how to set up a personal donation page and to donate to Global Links is on our website! Our collective goal is to raise \$6,000 to improve health!

Visit the “Get Involved-Attend Events” section of our website to sign up for either event - contact us at www.globallinks.org or +1-412-361-3424.



The Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership (GPNP) honored Global Links with an Award for Nonprofit Excellence in Collective Impact, which was presented to an organization that was able to coordinate partnerships and share resources to best meet the needs of a community impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.



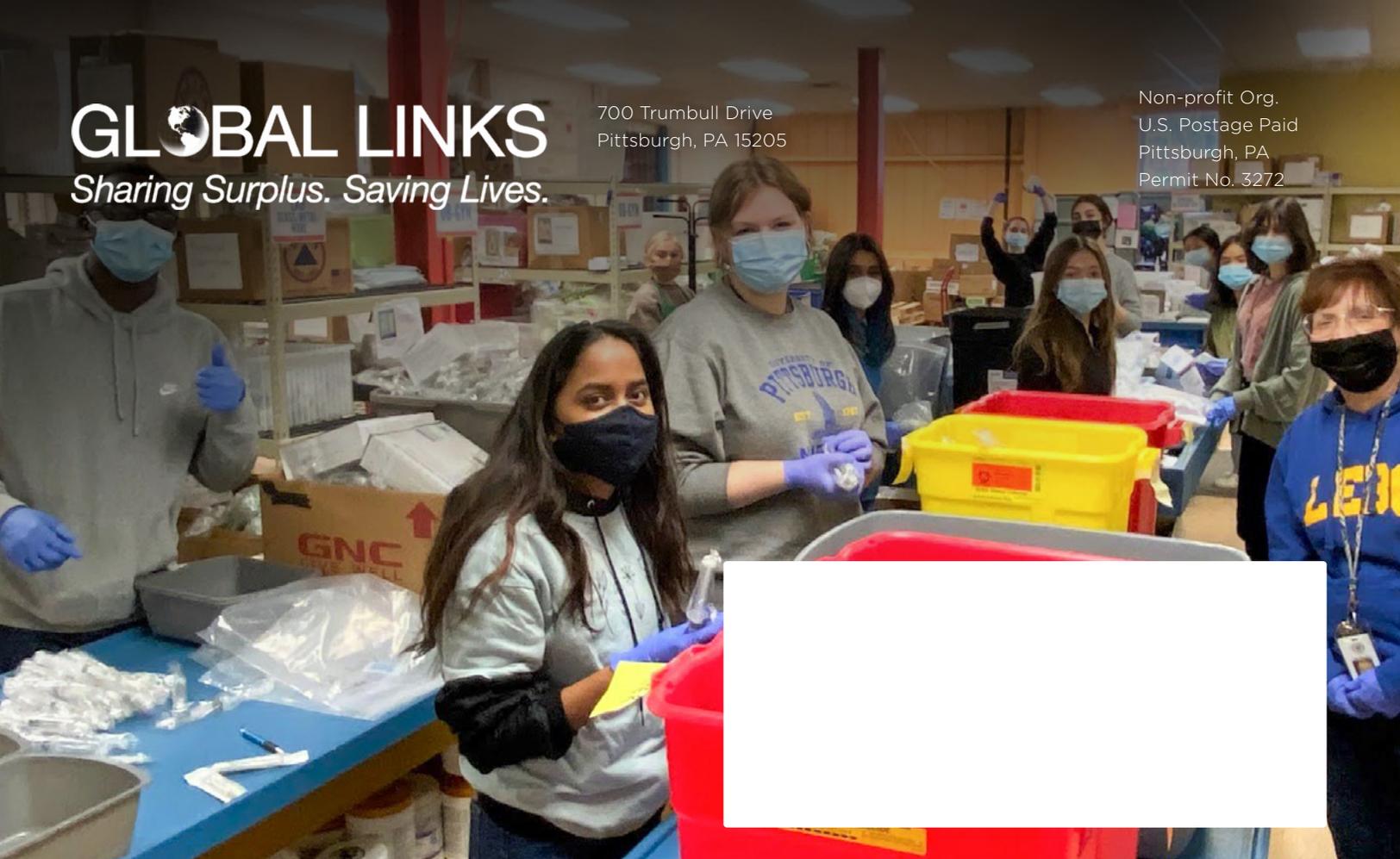
Global Links staff wins an Award for Nonprofit Excellence in Collective Impact

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ABOUT GLOBAL LINKS

Global Links is a Pittsburgh-based non-profit dedicated to improving health in communities with need. For 30+ years, Global Links has been collaborating with partners to improve health for vulnerable populations by sharing surplus rescued from the US healthcare system to support health programs globally and locally.

We Believe in Health for ALL.

Global Links affirms our foundational commitment to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. These important themes are at the forefront of our minds and our work and are woven throughout all we do. Respect for all people and the environment guides our mission. We recognize everyone has value and deserves to be included equitably. We recognize everyone is our neighbor and we are dedicated to helping all people live with dignity, independence, mobility, and in good health. We will call out inequities and injustice and work to lift up all.

GLOBALLINKS.ORG
INFO@GLOBALLINKS.ORG
+1.412.361.3424



#HealthForAll

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