WAYS TO SUPPORT
GLOBAL LINKS
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Volunteer & practice your Spanish every 3rd Thursday!
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Saturdays
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Double Your Donation
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Thanks to a family foundation in Pittsburgh
Tuesday November 29
GiveBigPittsburgh
GivingTuesday
www.givebigpittsburgh.com/organizations/global-links

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL AID PROGRAM
Women’s Health Matters in Bolivia

Global Links is working with communities in the Andean regions of Bolivia in 2022-2023 to strengthen the healthcare system, improve access to healthcare services as well as improve the quality of those services in these mostly indigenous and rural communities of the country. To understand the reality of living in these regions, imagine an ambulance ride to the nearest hospital—if fuel is available—taking a 2–11 hour drive over rough terrain or necessitating a helicopter ride! Therefore these communities want to ensure quality healthcare closer to home, and Global Links is partnering with them to furnish and equip the local healthcare facility network.

In addition, Global Links is helping to empower medical professionals with training support and equipment for nursing schools in rural areas. Most importantly, Global Links is partnering with nonprofit Days for Girls International to provide reusable menstrual product kits to girls and women. Menstrual health education training is being provided to indigenous healthcare professionals, who will bring these workshops to their home communities. Last but not least, Global Links is supporting the Bolivian National Plan of facilitating access to and incorporating effective traditional medicine at health institutions across the Andean regions.

Kits include reusable menstrual pads—lambs unfortunately not included!
In one recent project, Global Links provided furniture and supplies for a newly constructed branch facility of the National School of Health in the municipality of Poroma, Bolivia. The school will train individuals from the community as nursing technicians. Nursing students from the area will speak the native languages and have more incentive to stay in their home communities, and investment in training helps to lift people up economically by providing education and job opportunities.

Women’s health matters to improve the health and future of the whole family, and the women of the Andean regions of Bolivia come from varied backgrounds. Therefore it’s important that health information is provided in a cultural context and native language.

Partnering with Days for Girls International (DfG), Global Links is providing menstrual product kits to Bolivia that include reusable menstrual pads, underwear, washcloths, care and use instructions, and a drawstring bag to hold all the components. DfG washable pads are always paired with comprehensive menstrual health education—for menstruators, families and entire communities.

Some of the first women participating shared their thoughts about the importance of access to menstrual health. One woman attending a workshop said, “We are three daughters and myself in my home and it is impossible to have money to buy sanitary napkins. It is very difficult for us those days—we try to protect ourselves, but we do not have what we need—now we can use those kits without spending money.” And another shared, “They had never been interested in us, always the little help that comes is for the men or for work, like seeds and water, but never something as special as these kits that benefit us and which will allow our daughters not to miss school and the boys not to bother them.”

When trained municipal health professionals return to their home communities, they will be able to carry out these menstrual health education workshops while delivering the reusable menstrual product kits. This project not only provides needed reusable period products, but improves the dignity and health of those who menstruate and reduces stigma in communities around menstruation. We appreciate your support for Dignity and Health for All.

Training for indigenous health professionals of all genders to lead menstrual health workshops

Global Links’ consultant Karina Zelaya (center with straw hat) with nursing students in Poroma, Bolivia
Can you imagine needing surgery, but your surgery being canceled or delayed, as key supplies, like sutures (or stitches), are not available? This is a reality facing patients and healthcare providers daily around the world. And the situation is worse due to the worldwide upheaval in shipping and supply chains, not to mention cost increases.

**Some surgeries however are not elective and simply cannot wait.** A mother in trouble during childbirth needs a cesarean section surgery in order to save her life and that of her baby. Without the correct sutures to sew the incision, the surgery simply isn’t possible nor safe for the mother. Likewise, after farm field and vehicular accidents, surgery might be necessary to literally save the life or limbs of the breadwinner for the family. Children born with cleft lips or palates or congenital heart conditions need surgery when they are young, and the surgeon needs specialty sutures for these complicated surgeries. And of course sutures are just one of the many necessary items for a safe and clean surgery.

Executive Director Angela Garcia shared, 

“\[I think back to one of our visits to a hospital we supported in recovering from hurricane damage. When touring the Operating Room (OR) to see the table we had provided, I didn’t notice any of the suture brands Global Links typically sends and asked if they had received them. The OR Director left without a word, and came back carrying a bag of Global Links donated sutures, explaining they are of such high quality and value that she keeps them locked in her office for difficult cases, as the suture they receive from other sources is of lower quality, sometimes breaks, with poorer outcomes for patients and much frustration for the surgeons.\]" 

Global Medical Partnerships

For several decades, Global Links has provided critically needed medical supplies to healthcare providers in low-resource settings. Our newly branded Global Medical Partnerships program offers supplies to US based individuals, groups, and organizations with established relationships to healthcare institutions and providers in communities with need around the world. Our partners serve their communities with a deep understanding of local health systems, community norms, culture, and a desire to support locally-run health initiatives.

The primary materials available through Global Medical Partnerships are Medical Backpacks, Sutures, and Nebulizers. These materials can be requested for medical service trips, ongoing medical needs, or disaster response situations. To qualify for supplies, organizations must demonstrate familiarity with the medical conditions and priorities of the communities they are serving and offer free or significantly reduced cost medical care.

If you are committed to providing the highest quality services possible regardless of ability to pay, faith proclamations, or other potential barriers for people to receive care, we welcome your partnership in delivering life-saving care around the globe. For more information, contact ima@globallinks.org or visit globallinks.org/programs/global-programs/
Global Links has long envisioned creating a network of community partner organizations across western Pennsylvania with the capacity to directly distribute surplus and donated home medical equipment to neighbors in need. Global Links has partnered with the Erie-based nonprofit CHOSEN since 2017 to distribute home medical care equipment and supplies in northwest Pennsylvania. In September Global Links announced a new partnership with The Blessing Board, located in Allegheny County where we are headquartered. This new collaboration with The Blessing Board will make it possible for individuals in southwest Pennsylvania to request and pick up durable home healthcare equipment at The Blessing Board’s locations in Shaler Township and West Mifflin.

“Global Links has worked for several years to find a partner in southwestern Pennsylvania with the staffing and capacity to handle requests from individual members of the community who are in need of, but cannot afford, home medical equipment,” said Angela Garcia, Executive Director, Global Links. “Medical equipment such as rollators and shower benches are critical to prevent falls, support independence and quality of life, while transport wheelchairs help both the caregiver and the senior in their care. In addition to accessing these items, we encourage the community to help our neighbors in western Pennsylvania by donating no longer needed home medical items in good condition.”

Items available to the public from CHOSEN or The Blessing Board include walkers, bathing stools and benches, transport chairs, wheelchairs and rollators. Many home healthcare products are not covered by insurance, Medicare or Medicaid, while others are out of financial reach for those on fixed incomes who are un- or under-insured, or who cannot afford the copays associated with purchasing home care equipment.

Donations of acceptable items may be made at the Global Links headquarters via their contactless self-service donation bin at their garage/dock entrance, or via one of their Community Collection Network Partners. A full list of acceptable donations as well as a list of drop off locations can be found at www.globallinks.org under the “Ways to Give” tab.

Global Links Collaborates with the University of Pittsburgh on Surplus Initiatives

This year Global Links and the University of Pittsburgh collaborated on two important surplus initiatives that together rescued 23,185 pounds (10.5 tons) of materials from campus to improve health for local and global neighbors. In March, Pitt hosted its annual Clean & Swap event for office equipment, and other supplies; this year included a student-led focus on recovering medical supplies for swap with other departments and donation to Global Links.

Additionally, this summer Global Links partnered with Pitt on the replacement of mattresses in Panther and Irvis Halls. 922 mattresses (filling 4 semi-trucks) were kept from disposal and used to support Global Links’ international partners. Thank you Pitt Sustainability, Housing, Surplus, and additional donating departments in partnering on Global Link’s mission to improve health in communities with need.
Get your Team Together for a Rewarding Day Outside of the Office

Corporate Team Building experiences are a great way to spend time together outside of your everyday roles. Global Links will curate an experience just for your team that includes time to build bonds, deepen relationships, and do good together. Kick off or finish off your time with us by bringing in breakfast or lunch to enjoy together in our conference room or cafe. Be inspired as you learn more about the Global Links mission to improve health. Put inspiration into action as you sort and pack medical supplies for communities in need. Cap off the day with a group photo and impact debrief.

Contact Stacy Bodow at sbodow@globallinks.org to learn more and to schedule your Corporate Experience.

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.

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.

Leaving an Enduring Legacy

Planned Giving (or Legacy Giving) allows you to continue supporting Health for All locally and globally beyond your lifetime. There are many ways to give, including the three listed below:

- Name Global Links as a Beneficiary in your Will. A bequest to Global Links in your will or trust is a great way to extend your generosity well into the future.
- Name Global Links as a Beneficiary of your IRA. Bequeathing your IRA or other retirement plan may help reduce or even eliminate the associated estate or income taxes. To name Global Links as a beneficiary you simply modify your beneficiary form.
- Name Global Links as a Beneficiary of your Life Insurance Policy. You can name Global Links as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. It’s easy to change your beneficiary; call us for Global Links’ Tax ID number.

For questions or more information, visit the “Other Ways to Give” page on our website at globallinks.org/ways-to-give/other-ways-to-give/ or contact Kimberlee Love, Director of Development and Strategic Partnerships, at 412-361-3424 X 203 or klove@globallinks.org. Speak with your financial advisor or attorney to discuss what planned giving options best suit your specific needs.

Congratulations to Sandra Matoushaya for being named one of this year’s 40 Under 40 Award honorees. Sandra volunteers on our Young Leader Advisory Committee, otherwise known as YLAC. This award, sponsored by Pittsburgh Magazine and the Pittsburgh Urban Magnet Project (PUMP), annually recognizes outstanding individuals under the age of 40 who have made a positive and lasting civic and professional impact on our region. Are you a young professional interested in joining YLAC? If so, contact Maggee Carrara at info@globallinks.org.
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.

Global Links arms 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.

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