

# GLOBAL LINKS

Sharing Surplus. Saving Lives.

NEWSLETTER  
VOLUME 31 NUMBER 2  
FALL/WINTER 2023

## SUPPORT GLOBAL LINKS

Donate Money

Donate Medical  
Supplies

Volunteer



## IMPORTANT DATES

### Family Volunteer Days

Saturdays December 2  
& December 9

### Double Your Donation One Day Only

Thanks to a family  
foundation in Pittsburgh

**Tuesday November 28**  
**#GiveBigPittsburgh**  
**#GivingTuesday**

GiveBigPittsburgh.com/  
Organizations/Global-Links

Visit GlobalLinks.org to get  
involved.

All photo credits Global Links unless otherwise noted.



Photo Credit: Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh

Global Links Program Manager Kareliz at an Age-Friendly  
Greater Pittsburgh event.

## DOMESTIC MEDICAL AID PROGRAM

# Home Medical Equipment for All Ages

Home medical equipment donations like manual wheelchairs make a big difference in the quality of life for the person who needs them as well as the caregiver assisting them. Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh is an initiative meant to make our region more inclusive and respectful of all ages - and Global Links is collaborating with them to equip event spaces with wheelchairs and other assistive devices. We are a part of their Action Plan for 2022-2025 as one of their partners to improve life for the nearly 20% of residents who are aged 65+ in southwestern PA.

Laura Poskin, Executive Director of Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh shared, *"We are so grateful to have Global Links as a partner, both for their donations and for their thought leadership. Over the coming years, we will work together to equip event spaces with wheelchairs and other assistive devices to make it easier to access programming. We want to inspire institutions to anticipate needs rather than make accommodations upon request. That's better for our older neighbors—and better for everyone who wants to get out and enjoy all that our region has to offer."*

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**Do you have home medical and mobility equipment in good condition like knee scooters and rollator walkers that you no longer need?** Visit our website at **GlobalLinks.org** under “Ways to Give” and then click on “Donate Medical Supplies” to find out how to donate them. ●

## Personal Care Kit Project Impact



Toothpaste and a toothbrush are essential for good health

Personal hygiene is essential to good health, yet government programs assisting low-income families exclude products like shampoo, toothpaste, and soap, making them a cash purchase. This often results in families having to make tough choices, like paying utility bills or buying soap and deodorant. Our Personal Care Kit Project provides hygiene items to help people meet their basic needs. Global Links partners with local agencies which then distribute the kits directly to the people they serve. So far this year we've been able to impact 1,850 people through partnerships with agencies such as South Hills Interfaith Movement, Human Services Center Mon Valley, Adagio Health and the Department of Human Services for their emergency response.



450 families served at the June Diaper Distribution

**To find out how you and/or your group can help with packing Personal Care Kits, visit our website at GlobalLinks.org under “Get Involved/Volunteer” and then click on “Volunteer/Join a Project.”** Alternatively, your company may be interested in sponsoring this project - find out more by clicking on “Partner With Us” under the “Get Involved/Volunteer” tab on our website. ●

## Diaper Distribution Impact

During the month of June, Global Links hosted a community Diaper Distribution in partnership with the Western PA Diaper Bank. The event was made possible with support from the Jefferson Regional Foundation. **In less than 2 hours we were able, with the help of 40+ volunteers, to distribute 91,920 diapers to 450 families in need living in 67 unique zip codes** - depleting our supply of diapers! By the time you read this article, we will have hosted a second Diaper Distribution in October serving the Mon Valley area, thanks to support from UPMC and UPMC Health Plan. The National Diaper Bank Network has shared that 1 in 2 families with young children across the United States are struggling to afford diapers - so a month's supply of them at no charge is a great help for families struggling to meet this basic need! ●





Global Links and Cuban Embassy staff at our headquarters.



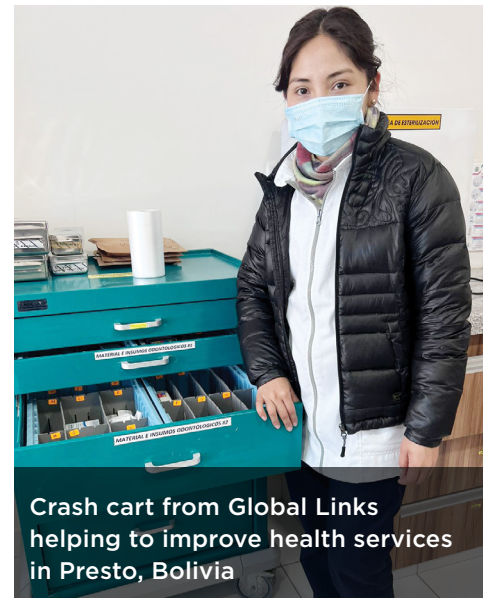
#### INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL AID PROGRAM

## Cuban Embassy Staff Visit Global Links

Global Links was honored to host staff from the Cuban Embassy to learn more about our work and our long-standing partnership to support public health services. Global Links has been licensed to provide medical aid by the US and Cuba since 1994. **Global Links was able to provide millions of syringes and other medical supplies to support the Cuban national Covid-19 vaccination campaign in 2021,** thanks to fundraising efforts by groups across the US. In learning about this effort, one of the embassy visitors shared, *“Projects like the one with the syringes reach the heart. It makes me think that my family, my parents, even my children, were vaccinated with a syringe donated by Global Links - Thank you!”* •

## Partnerships in Rural Bolivia

Global Links continues to work with rural Bolivian communities on projects to improve health in primarily indigenous municipalities. Presto is one of four municipalities in the province Jaime Zudáñez. Their goal is to **increase access to health services for 45,000 patients** by equipping the healthcare network with medical equipment, supplies and furnishings. Helping to ensure quality healthcare services to rural communities with high concentrations of vulnerable populations also contributes to decreasing the number of preventable mother-baby deaths in the community - another important health impact! •



## Health Projects in Honduras

Hospital Salvador Paredes, located in Trujillo, a city on the northern Caribbean coast of the Honduran department of Colón, **serves 58,000 people** from five municipalities and three departments. Medical supplies and hospital furnishings will reduce delays in scheduling surgical procedures in the operating room and will support the labor and delivery department, which has the greatest occupancy in the hospital. •





# Global Medical Partnerships for Suture

The BIG FIX Uganda operates the only veterinary hospital in Northern Uganda. With the help of sutures provided by Global Links which are about to “expire” for human use but which are still sterile and high quality, they can continue to provide free services including animal medical care, vaccinations for rabies, spay and neutering, and community outreach programs. Healthy animals in the community also ensure a healthier community for their human friends too!

Resident Veterinary Doctor Bayebazibwe shared, *“On behalf of the BIG FIX Uganda, we want to thank you for the donation of these sutures, which will help us conduct surgeries including spay/neuter surgeries and also the repair of wounds, which are about 75% of the cases we admit here. As the only hospital in the whole of northern Uganda, we receive so many patients, and therefore the donation of these sutures that you have made will help us to achieve so much. Thank you so very much!”* •



## MEDICAL SURPLUS RECOVERY PROGRAM

# New Partnership with The Ohio State University

Global Links began working with The Ohio State University system earlier this year and because **they are both a health system and a university, they have been able to provide essential surplus furnishings and supplies** — such as crash carts, exam tables, desks, waiting room chairs and more — that will help meet requests from our international medical aid partners. And we appreciate our warehouse team who are literally going the distance to pick up these materials to impact health! •



The crash carts rescued from OSU surplus will improve health services in vulnerable communities

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

# Corporate Volunteer Groups Can Party with Purpose

This holiday season, celebrate while making an impact. Corporate volunteer and team building experiences make a great “party” with a purpose. Getting together and doing something purposeful in person is good for your team. It gives everyone a break from the daily routine and helps co-workers relate to each other in new and creative ways.

**Contact Stacy Bodow at [GLVolunteer@GlobalLinks.org](mailto:GLVolunteer@GlobalLinks.org) to set up your next team experience.**

One volunteer from earlier this year shared, *“My co-workers are still stopping me to tell me about how much they enjoyed learning about Global Links and the work that you all do. They’re already brainstorming ways for us to volunteer again closer to the holidays. I’m really grateful to you and your team for putting together such a stellar volunteer experience every time; it truly helps volunteers to become passionate about what you do.”* •



# Join Our Community of Change-Makers

A Global Giver (monthly donor) is part of our community of change-makers. As a monthly donor, you become the bedrock of sustainable change. **You allow Global Links to plan ahead, respond swiftly, and implement long-term projects that provide health for all.** Can you imagine needing surgery, but

your surgery being canceled because key supplies, like sutures (or stitches), are not available? By giving just \$15 a month, you ensure that every year, 60 people in need of surgery will have access to the sutures (stitches) they need. Together with your monthly gift, we can work to improve health for all. •



## Donor Spotlight: Global Giver Salvatore Valeriano

Salvatore Valeriano spent the summer of 2014, after his senior year of high school, interning at Global Links. After that summer Sal moved away for college, and then began his military career. But his experience at Global Links made an impression. *“Once I started working and making decent paychecks, charitable giving was important to me, and I wanted to donate to organizations that I knew. With Global Links, I know*



*I can donate money with 100% confidence. I know what they do.”* Sal has supported Global Links since 2016, and always as a Global Giver, or monthly donor. *“Honestly, I set it up that way so I don’t forget. I feel like, if you have the means, you have a certain responsibility to help other people.”* •

## Making a Gift Through Your Will

Many of our supporters choose to leave a gift to Global Links in their will. Making a gift through your will is a simple way to improve health for our most vulnerable neighbors for years to come. Leaving a gift through your will allows you the flexibility of specifying a dollar amount or a particular asset, such as real estate or stock.

It also allows you to donate either a percentage or the remainder of your estate. For more information about including Global Links in your will, or to inform us that you’ve already done so, please contact **Kimberlee Love at DonorSupport@GlobalLinks.org, or call 412-361-3424 X 203.** •

## Congratulations to our incredible leader, Angela Garcia,

for winning the 2023 Community Leader Illuminate Award from the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh! Congratulations to all the winners on making a difference in the city of Pittsburgh.



**FAMILY**  
**VOLUNTEER**  
**DAYS**

**Saturday, December 2nd and 9th**  
**10am-12pm and 1-3pm**  
**Register at GlobalLinks.org**



# GLOBAL LINKS

*Sharing Surplus. Saving Lives.*

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700 Trumbull Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Permit No. 3272

## 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' humanitarian and environmental mission begins with our three guiding principles:

**Dignity & Respect for All People**

**Respect for the Environment**

**Continuous Learning & Improvement**

We seek to apply these principles to everything we do.

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# GIVING TUESDAY

## SUPPORT HEALTH FOR ALL

11

MONTH

28

DAY

23

YEAR