Medical surplus from U.S. hospitals improves quality of care for patients in Bolivia

MEDICAL SURPLUS RECOVERY PROGRAM

Global Links Presents Outstanding Hospital Partner Awards

Global Links’ Medical Surplus Recovery Program provides healthcare organizations, corporations, universities, and the community with a socially and environmentally responsible alternative to discarding surplus medical supplies and furnishings, supporting the “Circular Economy.”

With the help of hospitals and other surplus rescue partners, we were able to keep close to 263 tons of materials from disposal in 2023.

Some of our hospital partners have been working with Global Links for well over 30 years! We started celebrating hospital partner milestones, first with recognizing St. Clair Hospital, and then by recognizing UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside Hospital’s commitment to rescuing surplus supplies and equipment and redirecting them to serve communities in need around the world. Global Links began working with the three entities—Presbyterian, Shadyside, and Montefiore Hospitals—to collect no longer needed medical supplies and equipment in 1990. At the beginning of this year, UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh and UPMC Mercy Hospital were presented with their Outstanding Hospital Partner Awards in recognition of their 30-

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Year Commitment to surplus medical equipment rescue and sustainability.

U.S. hospitals accrue a surplus of medical and clinical furnishings for multiple reasons, including upgrades, renovations, healthcare regulations, rebranding, and more. Surplus materials range from sutures, surgical tools, bandages, and gloves to exam tables, beds, IV poles, stretchers, wheelchairs, and more.

John Innocenti, President of UPMC Mercy Hospital, shared, “UPMC Mercy is proud to have been an early partner with Global Links, and even more proud to continue that relationship today, more than three decades later. Reducing waste and promoting sustainability while providing medical equipment to communities that truly need it is a natural extension of our mission at UPMC Mercy and throughout UPMC.”

“We want to thank Global Links for their partnership and trust for over the last 30 years,” said Diane Hupp, President of UPMC Children’s Hospital. “We are grateful for their support in helping to improve the quality of care for patients and families around the world.”

Angela Garcia, Executive Director of Global Links, shared, “UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh has been a special partner. I have visited pediatric units in Latin America that were destroyed by hurricanes and have been rebuilt thanks to surplus equipment from the former Oakland hospital building. Young patients in multiple countries have had surgeries to repair congenital heart defects as well as to heal trauma and burn injuries thanks to donations of specialized surgical supplies rescued from UPMC Children’s.”

To learn more about our Medical Surplus Recovery Program, visit our website www.GlobalLinks.org, select the “Our Programs” tab, and then click “Medical Surplus Recovery,” or contact us at MedicalSurplus@GlobalLinks.org.

Introducing our New Donation Drop-off Pavilion

Thanks to funding from the Snee-Reinhardt Charitable Foundation, the public can donate home medical equipment and supplies at the new Global Links donation drop-off pavilion. Donations (accepted items only) can be dropped off at the contactless, self-service donation bins located outside Global Links’ garage/dock entrance!

Visit our website at GlobalLinks.org under “Ways to Give” and then click on “Donate Medical Supplies” to find out which items we can accept.
At the end of last year, Global Links provided medical materials that arrived in the municipality of Poroma. The materials are benefitting the Comprehensive Health Care Center of Poroma, which serves about 9,600 patients annually from four municipalities. Included were menstrual health and hygiene products from Days for Girls, two laptops and a desktop computer to support telehealth, as well as an emergency and disaster response kit.

What’s an emergency and disaster response kit? It’s a kit that contains a megaphone, danger tape, reflective vests, a first aid kit, and more. Kits contain all the necessary elements that a first responder and emergency coordination team need to respond effectively when a disaster occurs. Last year Global Links received some surplus emergency response kits.

Every container shipment from Global Links to Bolivia includes one of these emergency kits, which have been in demand from our partners in the country. The emergency teams in the municipalities where we work finally have the necessary materials to respond effectively to a disaster!

Laptops are included to support telehealth.

Expanding Surgical Capacity in Honduras

In January, Hospital Basico de Tela received a shipment of medical supplies from Global Links. The hospital serves a population of 337,088 people from ten municipalities in the Atlantida Department. This is a regional hospital, which offers more than seven specialities, diagnostics, and a delivery ward. The project focused on strengthening their surgical capacity. Of the three operating rooms they have, only one was fully functional. Therefore, it is expected that with the recently received supplies and materials, they can expand their surgical capacity beyond the 266 surgeries they perform monthly.
Haiti’s Humanitarian Crisis

Our long-time supporters know that Global Links has a history of involvement in health recovery projects in Haiti, including after the devastating 2010 and 2021 earthquakes. Haiti is in the midst of a political and severe humanitarian crisis, which is affecting the health, nutrition, education, livelihoods, and safety of millions. Global Links has been in touch with our partners on the ground regarding their greatest needs, and we are raising funds to help meet those needs. Examples of needed materials include Global Links Medical Backpacks, emergency kits, Days for Girls menstrual health and hygiene kits, and more. We are preparing the needed materials and we will send them as soon as our partners communicate that they can be received safely. To support our efforts, you can visit our website at GlobalLinks.org under “Ways to Give” and designate your gift for “Haiti” in the notes section.

Personal Care Kits in Demand from Community Partners

“As a food bank client when we get the health kits (Personal Care Kits) it’s like an extra treat. Sometimes my budget doesn’t allow for anything extra. It’s wonderful to get the lotion and deodorant and all the little extra goodies. I enjoy them greatly. Thank you for providing them to my food bank.” - Jan S. at Human Services Center Mon Valley

Made up of the most commonly requested hygiene products by our Community Partner organizations, Personal Care Kits contain toothpaste, toothbrush, dental floss, soap, shampoo, deodorant, and lotion. 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. Global Links delivered 1,350 Personal Care Kits to partners in February and plans to distribute 10,000 altogether over the year. You can help us reach this goal and support our neighbors in need by assembling some Personal Care Kits from home. A shopping list and packing instructions can be found on our website at GlobalLinks.org from the “Get Involved/Volunteer” tab; then select “Volunteer/Join a Project.”

DOMESTIC MEDICAL AID PROGRAM

Breathe Hope Impact

“What a blessing to be able to give a nebulizer (breathing machine) to deliver much-needed medication to our six-year-old client” - Nurse Practitioner from Breathe Hope partner clinic Sentara Community Care

Global Links’ Breathe Hope initiative recovers gently used nebulizers from across the United States and redistributes them to clinic partners serving communities in need, both at home and abroad. Nebulizers are part of an essential treatment for asthma, COPD-Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, and other respiratory ailments. Due to barriers such as high co-pays, lack of insurance coverage, the need for multiple machines when insurance only covers one, or broken units, many people are unable to continue their prescribed treatments without a nebulizer. The Breathe Hope initiative addresses this problem by providing nebulizers to free and charitable clinics to redistribute to their patients at no cost.

Last year, Global Links was able to provide 205 nebulizers to clinics in Pennsylvania and other states, including Alabama, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, and Virginia. Our goal for 2024 is to provide 450 nebulizers helping 450 people! For more information about how to donate a gently used nebulizer, visit our website at GlobalLinks.org under “Ways to Give” and then click on “Donate Nebulizers.” For more information about how to enroll your clinic in Breathe Hope, email BreatheHope@GlobalLinks.org or call us at 412-361-3424 x204.

Personal Care Kits delivery to Global Links Community Partner, Human Services Center Mon Valley.
Learn How We Operate to Support Health

Join us for a tour at Global Links or request a speaker! You’ll get an inside look at our programs while learning how we operate to support health improvement initiatives. You can also combine a tour with volunteering or a special event. For example, the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania hosted an event at our space in January, with a tour and hands-on volunteer activities for their leadership donors, followed by a discussion of the challenges faced by our community and actionable ways to make a positive impact to meet peoples’ basic needs. **Global Links is a proud recipient of a United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania Impact Grant for Basic Needs to support the Personal Care Kit Initiative.**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

More Ways to Give

More Ways to Give

Visit our website GlobalLinks.org under “Ways to Give” and “Other Ways to Give” to see the many ways you can offer your support to improve health for our most vulnerable neighbors.

- **Are you considering donating your Required Minimum Distribution from your retirement account?** Download and print our simple instruction sheet.
- **Want to maximize tax savings by donating stock?** Download and print our stock transfer instruction sheet.

Did you Know that Global Links has a Young Leader Advisory Council (YLAC)?

Our Young Leader Advisory Council (YLAC) is a group of emerging leaders who serve on a committee of our Board of Directors to broaden and strengthen Global Links’ network of young professional supporters. As a member of YLAC you can grow your network, gain leadership skills, and volunteer as well as fundraise for a great cause. To learn more and apply, email info@GlobalLinks.org.

Double Your Donation

Did you know you can double your support for Global Links without giving even a dollar more? Visit our website GlobalLinks.org under “Ways to Give” and “Other Ways to Give” under Employee Matching to find out if your employer participates in our Matching Gifts Program.
ABOUT GLOBAL LINKS

Global Links is a 501(c)(3) Pittsburgh-based non-profit dedicated to improving health in communities with need. Global Links collaborates with U.S. healthcare institutions and the community to rescue hundreds of tons of high-quality surplus medical materials every year. These materials are shared with public health facilities around the world and with non-profit organizations in Western Pennsylvania that are providing care for their community's most vulnerable people.

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.