

GLOBAL LINKS

Sharing Surplus. Saving Lives.

NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 33 NUMBER 2
FALL/WINTER 2025

SUPPORT GLOBAL LINKS



Donate Money



Donate Materials



Volunteer



Tour/Visit



Partner/Sponsor



#4319

IMPORTANT DATES

Check GlobalLinks.org & social media for updates!

**YOUR DONATION MATCHED—
ONE DAY ONLY!**

Thanks to a family foundation in Pittsburgh

Tuesday December 2
#GiveBigPittsburgh
#GivingTuesday

**2025 FAMILY VOLUNTEER
DAYS**

Saturday, November 22 or December 6



Photo Credit: Lynn Johnson

MEDICAL AID PROGRAMS

Meeting the Healthcare Needs of our Neighbors

Global Links' Community Partners Program ensures that individuals and families in western Pennsylvania have access to basic health and hygiene materials via our nonprofit partners. Health outcomes are not limited to a hospital or doctor's office—health is affected by a person's home, neighborhood, income, mobility, insurance coverage, and their overall daily circumstances.

The incontinence supplies, home medical equipment, and personal care kits we distribute are not luxuries—they are fundamental to preserving dignity, independence, and health. When an older adult

receives equipment that reduces their risk of falling, we are not only protecting them from injury but also helping them remain safely in their home. When an older neighbor struggling with incontinence receives supplies, we are preventing isolation, reducing the risk of infection, and supporting both their physical and emotional well-being. When a child or older adult with asthma receives a nebulizer, we are helping them to manage their condition and avoid preventable emergency room visits. Each of our local initiatives is bridging the gap between what families need and what they can

afford or access on their own.

Low-income families and older adults on fixed incomes are especially impacted by the rising costs of medical supplies and basic hygiene items. Many of the medical materials we provide are not covered under other assistance programs like SNAP (food stamps). They are a cash purchase competing in household budgets with food and housing. Our projects support people's health by proactively giving essential materials to our community partner organizations, who then provide them to our neighbors who need them.

For over a decade, Global Links has partnered with CHOSEN to provide surplus home medical equipment to lower-income neighbors in Erie and surrounding counties. Their staff recently shared the story of Mr. S*, who came to them after a several-story fall. In urgent need of a wheelchair and supplies, he received the support he needed. Months later, Mr. S returned to trade his wheelchair in for a walker. *"I've been blessed,"* he said, reflecting on his journey of healing

and regaining strength. He brought back the equipment he no longer needed, hoping it could be passed on to someone else. *"I want others to be helped the way that your organization has helped me,"* Mr. S shared with CHOSEN.

(*Abbreviation of last name for privacy.)

How can you help? Donate your surplus medical equipment, like rollator walkers, transport wheelchairs, and non-motorized wheelchairs, to Global Links. The public can drop off these accepted home medical items 24/7 at Global Links—700 Trumbull Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15205—at our contactless self-service donation bin located outside our garage/dock entrance under our pavilion. Items must be in good condition—not broken, no rust, and no missing parts. Alternatively, visit our website at www.GlobalLinks.org to find the locations of our Community Collection Network partners, where the public can drop off donations of surplus medical supplies, home care equipment, and mobility aids. ●

One Hundred for Health: A Community Success Story

Global Links launched its One Hundred for Health campaign earlier this year, asking for help to replace lost federal funding for our international programs. To those we reached out to who gave so generously, thank you! With your support, we surpassed our \$100,000 goal for this year. Our lost funding was intended to cover the cost of freight charges for shipping much-needed medical supplies and furnishings to communities where we work in Bolivia, Haiti, and Honduras.

Thanks to our supporters' generosity, this year we've sent shipments of critically-needed medical supplies and equipment to:

Most Needed Items



ROLLATOR WALKER



**WHEELCHAIR
(NON-MOTORIZED)**



TRANSPORT CHAIR



Photo Credit: SESAL

- Puerto Lempira, a remote area in eastern Honduras, to improve surgery and rehabilitation services for 70,000 patients each year; hear more about that journey below!
- Rural Yotala, Bolivia, to improve emergency and maternal care for over 27,000 people by supporting local OB-GYN and ER services.
- Hôpital Albert Schweitzer, in Haiti, which provides care for over 350,000 people. The hospital is meeting the rising demand for its services amid political unrest and ongoing humanitarian challenges.

The shipment to Puerto Lempira contained items such as cabinets, desks, mattresses, surgical protective gear, syringes, and other much-needed supplies for the only hospital in this remote region of Honduras. The items will strengthen the hospital's operating room, surgical services, and physical therapy and rehabilitation areas. After traveling by truck to a cargo ship from our headquarters in Pittsburgh and then by sea to a port in Honduras,

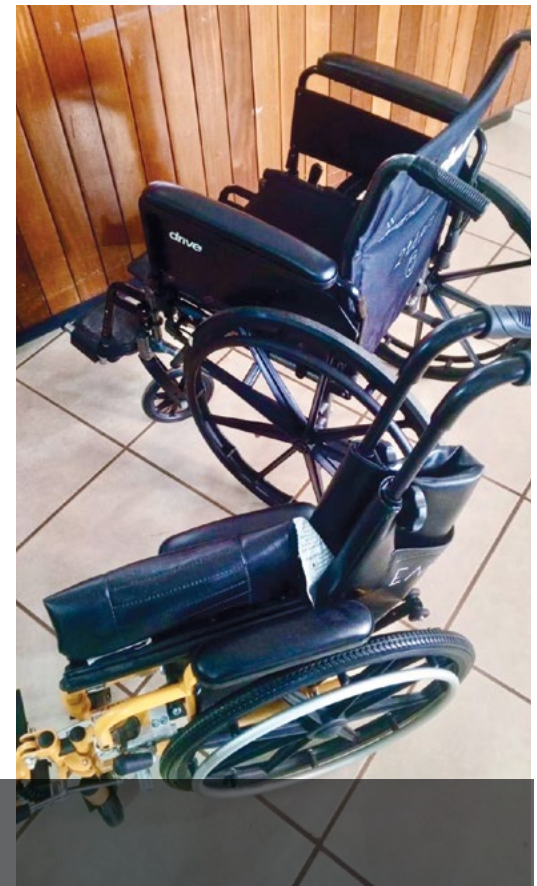
our shipment faced the most difficult part of the journey. Supplies were transported by our Honduran partners for 30 hours over unpaved roads by truck and by boat to finally arrive! Although the journey was not easy, there was nothing but excitement when the items finally arrived, because doctors and nurses then had the tools they needed to help their community!

It has been a turbulent time for non-profit humanitarian aid organizations that work to meet public health needs internationally and domestically; however, our talented team continues to work effectively and efficiently. Global Links is grateful to have a diversified funding base and long-term partnerships that allow us to be resilient, nimble, and responsive when it's needed most. That said, we will continue to need your support!

Visit the "Ways to Give" button on our website to find out more about supporting our international programs. ●

Keeping Babies Healthy and Dry

In June, Global Links and the Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank, with support from Phillips Charitable Foundation, provided a month's worth of free diapers to 230 households in Clairton! Then again, in August, with support from the Jefferson Regional Foundation, together we hosted another free diaper distribution, donating diapers to 352 households who might otherwise not be able to afford them. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped out at either event! ●





Delivering critically needed supplies

Delivering Healing with Surplus Burn Dressings

Earlier in the year, specialized burn dressings were hand-delivered by our Executive Director to one of our international partners. Thanks to our surplus recovery partnership with St. Clair Health, the medical team

pictured here can now put these specialized bandages to use caring for victims of fires and battery acid burns, which they are seeing more of as young people are overcharging their scooters. ●



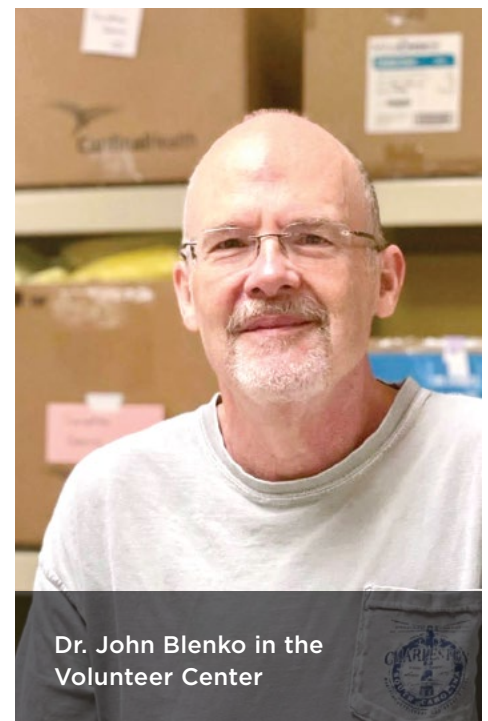
Global Links Celebrates our 800th International Shipment!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Volunteers Find Purpose in Retirement

The Global Links Volunteer Center is a hub of activity, mobilizing dedicated volunteers from our region whose efforts are felt in communities across our region and the world. One of those volunteers, Dr. John, has likewise found personal purpose in helping. “When I retired from a long career in anesthesiology and moved to Pittsburgh with my wife...I wanted to do something that was intellectually challenging and that

would include working with people...I found my dream activity with Global Links. I repackage items that are donated to Global Links in quantities too big to send to one individual [hospital]. I see piles of donated medical supplies and think to myself, ‘Yeah, I threw away stuff like that every single day.’ There was no Global Links [where] I was practicing...I feel like I am making amends for all the equipment I threw away.” ●



Dr. John Blenko in the Volunteer Center

GIVING TUESDAY

December 2, 2025



Your donation will be matched one day only on our GiveBigPittsburgh.com page! Thanks to a family foundation in Pittsburgh.

Maximize your Impact while Reducing Your Taxable Income

Consider maximizing your support by giving through your Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) or, if you're 70 ½ or older, making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your retirement account. These tax-efficient giving options allow you to support the causes you care about while potentially reducing your taxable income. Whether you recommend a grant from your DAF or direct a QCD from your IRA, your generosity will help to improve health for countless neighbors here and abroad. •

MEDICAL SURPLUS RECOVERY PROGRAM

Donation Instead of Disposal

Businesses can make a positive environmental and community impact by choosing donation over disposal. Filing cabinets may not seem essential, but for healthcare workers, they are key to organizing patient records and running the administrative functions of a hospital. A hospital in one of our program countries is required to keep paper records for 10 years, but deteriorating shelves can make this a challenge. Thanks to a recent donation of hundreds of filing cabinets from BNY, healthcare workers will now have improved and safer working conditions. Medical records will be easier to organize, improving patient care.

To learn more about how your

company can choose donation over disposal, visit our Medical Surplus Recovery Program page on our website, GlobalLinks.org, by selecting the "Our Programs" tab, and then clicking "Medical Surplus Recovery," or contact us at MedicalSurplus@GlobalLinks.org. •

Family Volunteer Days

November 22
December 6

10am - 12pm OR 1pm - 3pm

Register at GlobalLinks.org



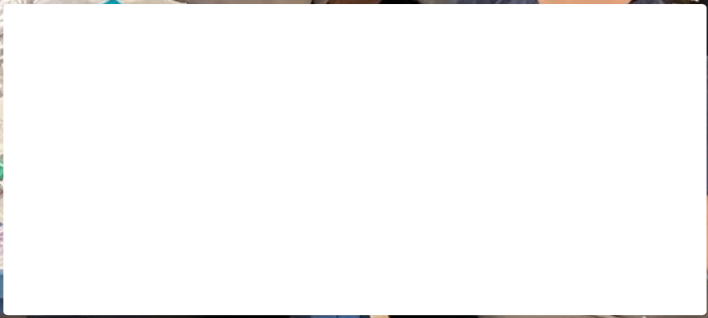
Filing cabinets donated by BNY

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Global Links
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Pittsburgh, PA 15205

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



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.



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