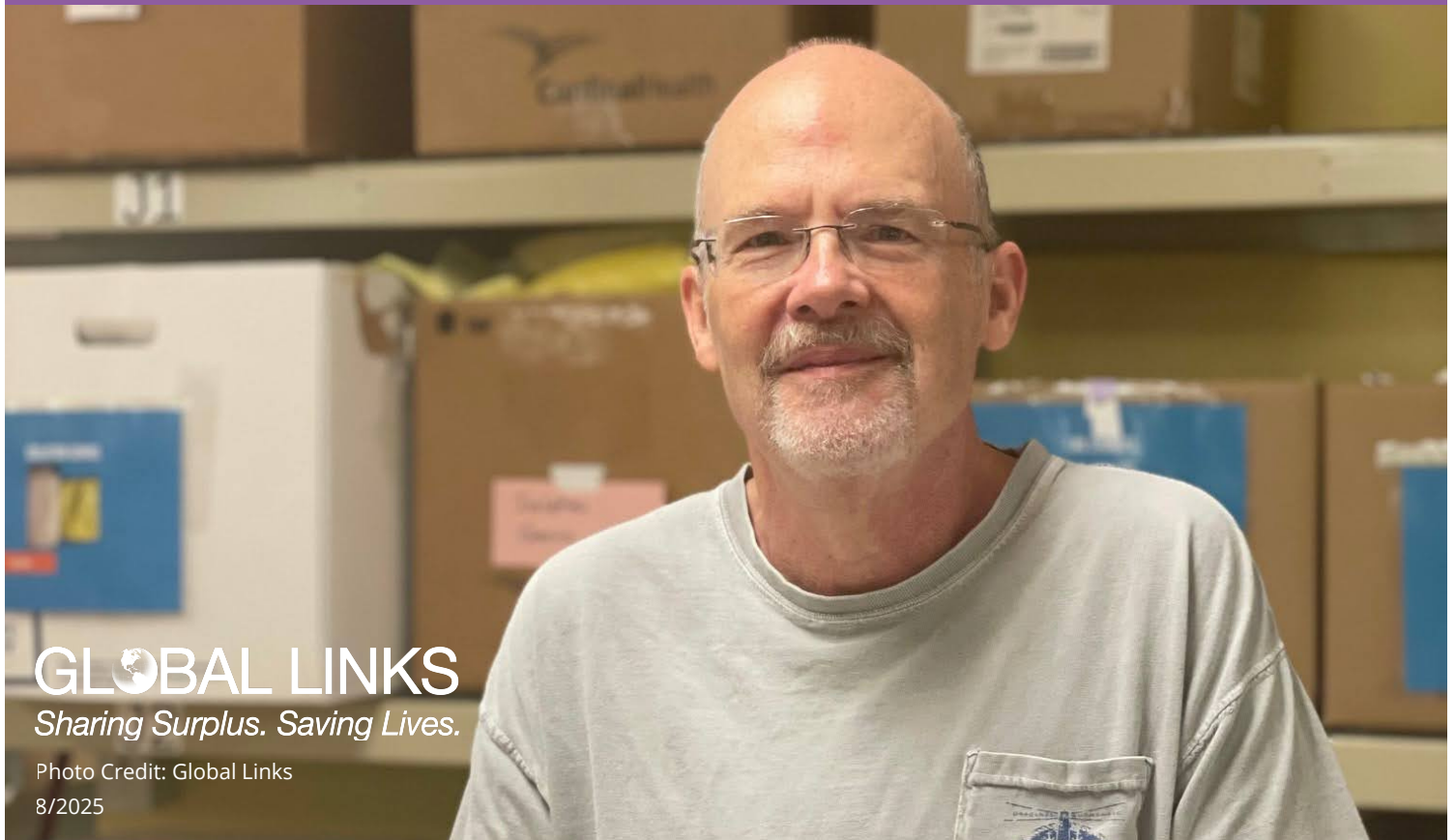




Community Engagement & Volunteer Program



GLOBAL LINKS

Sharing Surplus. Saving Lives.

Photo Credit: Global Links

8/2025

A Volunteer Finds Purpose in Retirement, & Makes Amends

Our vibrant Volunteer Center is a cornerstone of our impact, mobilizing dedicated volunteers from our region whose efforts are felt in communities across western Pennsylvania and our international partner communities. One of those volunteers, Dr. John Blenko, 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 country. 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.**”

GlobalLinks.org

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Global Links is a 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.