GLOBAL LINKS

Sharing Surplus. Saving Lives.

NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 34 NUMBER 2
FALL/WINTER 2026

SUPPORT GLOBAL LINKS

- Donate Money
- Donate Materials
- Volunteer
- Tour/Visit
- Partner/Sponsor
- Leave a Gift in Your Will

Charity Navigator FOUR-STAR | Platinum Transparency 2026 Candid. | United Way #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 1
#GiveBigPittsburgh #GivingTuesday

2026 FAMILY VOLUNTEER DAYS
Saturday, November 14 or December 5
Wednesday, December 9
With Support from Duquesne Light

All photo credits Global Links unless otherwise noted.



After the 2021 Haiti earthquake, we donated Global Links' signature Medical Backpacks to HAS

MEDICAL AID PROGRAMS

Our Longstanding Partnership to Help Improve Health in Haiti

Hôpital Albert Schweitzer Haiti (HAS) and Global Links both have Pittsburgh founders, and Global Links has had a long-standing partnership with HAS since we began our work back in 1989. Over the years, Global Links has provided HAS with essential high-quality surplus medical equipment and supplies valued at multiple millions of dollars and impacting hundreds of thousands of people.

Hôpital Albert Schweitzer is a 200-bed hospital located in central Haiti that provides integrated hospital and community-based health care services. HAS is the only full-service hospital in its region of Haiti with a main hospital campus, community health centers, and mobile health clinics. While 80% of other hospitals in the country have had to close in the past couple of years because of security risks and political instability, HAS has remained open for its entire 70 years of operation.

Global Links has collaborated with HAS in different capacities over the decades, furnishing patient wards, providing suture and other surgical supplies, or supporting their community health outreach. For example, after the 2021 Haiti

Photo Credit: Hôpital Albert Schweitzer Haiti (HAS)

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earthquake, we donated 158 of Global Links' signature Medical Backpacks to HAS, which they are using in their community clinics.

In 2024, we had the opportunity to invite Jessica Laguerre, the Chief Operating Officer of HAS, to tour Global Links. Jessica later wrote, *"HAS has served a population of 350,000 people in the rural Artibonite region of Haiti since 1956, operating an advanced surgical hospital and providing preventive community-based health services by a team of 600 Haitian employees…HAS relies on partners like Global Links, whose donations enable us to maximize our limited funding and deliver critical medical services every day…We highly value the important work of Global Links and support them in their efforts…to share essential medical equipment and supplies with those in the world who need them most."*

Your financial support makes possible our ability to deliver on our mission to improve health and provide materials to long-time partners like HAS.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR PROGRAM IN HAITI

In Memory of Dr. Mark Cantrell

In August of 2026, Global Links lost a member of our extended work family in the disastrous flooding and mudslides in Nepal and Tibet/China. Dr. Mark Cantrell was a public health expert, Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and USAID diplomat, and a champion for community health, partnership development, and universal health for vulnerable populations.

Mark was introduced to Global Links in 2012, when his wife, Karina Zelaya, joined our staff to strengthen our programs in Central and South America, and during his doctoral studies in nursing and health systems management at the University of Pittsburgh. In the years since, we have had the opportunity to work with him in Nicaragua on maternal health projects and when he returned to Pittsburgh as the Director of Public Health at Duquesne University.

He was preparing to return to Bolivia to continue this mission. Today, we ensure his work moves forward. To honor his legacy, and with his son, Nikolas, Global Links is establishing the Mark Cantrell Memorial Health Resilience Initiative in Bolivia. Led on the ground by Mark's widow, Karina Zelaya—our Bolivia team leader since 2012—this initiative directly equips remote, indigenous communities facing disaster emergencies. **Honor Mark's memory by donating to Global Links and select "Bolivia" with My gift is in memory of: Mark Cantrell**



Photo Credit: Karina Zelaya

Dr. Mark Cantrell in Bolivia, wearing a handcrafted lei/garland from the region

DONATE IN MEMORY OF DR. MARK CANTRELL

Providing Critically Needed Medical Humanitarian Aid

This year, Global Links has continued working with the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) on disaster response for Hurricane Melissa, delivering critical medical items that equipped hospitals in eastern Cuba and enabled medical professionals to provide care for affected communities. So far this year, three forty-foot cargo containers were shipped to support core hospital services, including cots, Global Links' signature Medical Backpacks, surgical sutures, catheters, orthopedic supplies, and millions of medical gloves, improving health for over 250,000 people. Global Links is one of a handful of nonprofit organizations licensed by the US government to deliver humanitarian aid to the island nation.

Community Health in Action: Expanding Access Where It Matters Most - Part Two



A February medical brigade delivered thousands of surgical sutures to a pediatric hospital in Cienfuegos and Calixto Garcia Hospital in Havana



Photo Credit: IMST PAHO/WHO field teams

Global Links' signature Medical Backpacks were deployed by the Pan American Health Organization/ World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), to equip medical professionals working in the field after hospitals were damaged or destroyed by the June 2026 earthquakes



Photo Credit: OPS/OMS/Karen González

In our spring newsletter, we shared the significant increase in demand for Global Links' local Community Partners Program. For example, dozens of organizations are on a waitlist to start receiving Personal Care Kits. These community partner organizations include shelters, free and charitable healthcare clinics (FQHCs), human and social service agencies, behavioral health service agencies, and senior care organizations, among others, that people rely on for help.

The **Basic Needs/Personal Care Kits**, which are in high demand as prices rise and the safety net is cut, contain full-sized toothpaste, toothbrush, dental floss, soap, shampoo, deodorant, and lotion. These products are key to general health, employability, personal dignity, and well-being, but these items are not covered by food assistance (SNAP) or other public programs. From January 1 to August 31 this year, Global Links distributed 9,135 kits to Community Partner Program organizations, reaching 2,284 households via 15 organizations.

PACK PERSONAL CARE KITS

Human Services Mon Valley shared, *"One client is a senior citizen living in a nearby senior high-rise. Her income is less than $1,000/month, and her SNAP benefits are approximately $20/month. With this income, she is unable to cover basic needs, even with the SNAP benefits. She relies on our pantry each month to reduce her food insecurity. Receiving the Personal Care Kits has allowed her to save about $50 in her monthly budget, and also gives her the opportunity to continue feeling good about herself, even when times are tough and the cost of living is unpredictable."*- Stephanie Eson, Operations & Community Programs Manager.

Global Links also works to increase our surplus rescue of **Home Medical**



Staff at Human Services Mon Valley receiving their quarterly delivery of Personal Care Kits from Global Links



The majority of our signature Personal Care Kits are packed by our volunteers

Equipment for Healthy Aging, focusing on mobility and bathing assistance, to supply Community Partner Program organizations that serve older adults, especially those at risk of falls. Likewise, we provide surplus incontinence supplies to our senior-serving partner organizations. These products are essential to living independently, in good health, and with dignity, but are not covered by public assistance programs for low-income seniors. From January 1 to August 31 this year, Global Links provided 601 neighbors with home medical equipment donations via our Community Partner Program organizations.

DONATE HOME MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Danielle Smith, Community Engagement Coordinator at Center for Life, shared, *"I was able to give a female veteran a very nice walker since someone had stolen hers from out front of her apartment building. She uses it a lot as she often walks to the store across the street from her senior high-rise to get cases of water to pass out to other residents. She is very kind, and that walker is helping her help others while helping herself."*



PAPCA came in September to volunteer in memory of their long-time group leader, Kay

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

We Appreciate Our Volunteers

Our Volunteer Center has been welcoming community volunteers for decades. We get to know them well as we sort and pack medical surplus, and they bring energy and enthusiasm to our mission to improve health in communities with need globally and locally. One group that has always "been there" for Global Links since the late 1990s is the Pittsburgh Area Peace Corps Association (PAPCA), an alumni organization for returned Peace Corps volunteers in the Pittsburgh region. Their group leader for decades, Kay Jennings, also volunteered on her own for many years. In September, Kay's family and PAPCA group members participated in a special memorial volunteer shift to honor her lifelong community engagement. We appreciate you, PAPCA, and remember Kay, and all the volunteers who have joined us for part of your life journey, whether that's been for a short stretch or a marathon path. You are all part of our story, and we value all the time and care you have given!



Staff member Herman has developed a process to transform gently used IV poles to like-new condition before they are donated to clinics and hospitals

MEDICAL SURPLUS RECOVERY PROGRAM

Our Talented Warehouse Team Repurposes IV Poles

Our warehouse team has developed a process to restore IV poles to like-new condition, preparing them for a second life in healthcare settings. After our warehouse team removes rust and dirt and repaints them, we provide IV poles to hospitals and clinics where essential medical supplies and equipment are in short supply, extending their usefulness and improving patient care and health outcomes.

In July 2026, we rescued nearly 200 IV poles from UPMC Washington Hospital that were being replaced. Some of these restored IV poles were already provided to hospitals and clinics in Bolivia this year, while others are staged and ready for our upcoming health improvement projects.

Photo Credit: Jim Harris/PBT



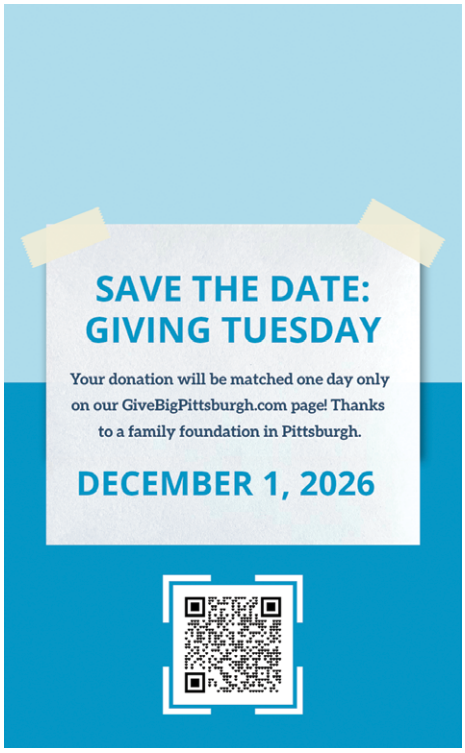
Thank you to our corporate sponsors, to the golfers, and to our volunteer organizers from our Young Leader Advisory Committee (YLAC) for our very successful first-ever June Golf Outing. Pictured here is staff member Cassidy with her family, improving health for all while golfing together!



We're proud to celebrate our Executive Director, Angela Garcia, for being recognized with two awards honoring her leadership, both of which were presented on the same busy night in May: the **Green Building Alliance Luminary Award** and the **Pittsburgh Business Times Women of Influence Award.**

Thank you to Big Burrito restaurant group and all our current and alumni Board, YLAC, staff, and volunteers who attended our first-ever alumni event at Alta Via Pizzeria in June. All tickets were sold, and we had a meaningful evening rooted in connection, community, and impact while catching up with each other and enjoying delicious food.







In July, Global Links and the Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank received a **Jefferson Community Collaborative Unified Voices Award** for our five-year collaboration on jointly led Diaper Distribution events.

Photo Credit: Jefferson Regional Foundation

Many Ways to Give

There are many ways to give, some of which can offer tax benefits. We appreciate Kathleen McDermott of McKinley Carter Wealth Advisors, who provided a summary of these ideas in her newsletter. **Donating appreciated securities such as stocks, bonds, or mutual funds** can be a tax-efficient way to give. By transferring them directly to a nonprofit, donors may receive a charitable deduction for their full fair market value while avoiding capital gains taxes on the appreciation.

A **Donor-Advised Fund (DAF)** is a charitable investment account that allows donors to make a contribution, receive an immediate tax deduction, and recommend grants to charities over time. DAF assets can be invested and grow tax-free, potentially increasing the impact of charitable giving, and may include cash, securities, and other appreciated assets.

A **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** is a direct transfer from an IRA to a qualified charity, available to individuals age 70½ or older. QCDs can provide tax benefits whether you itemize or take the standard deduction, and beginning at age 73, they can satisfy all or part of the required minimum distribution (RMD).

You can find more information on our website at GlobalLinks.org under the Other Ways to Give tab, or by calling Global Links' Director of Development, Kimberlee Love, at 412.361.3424 X 203.

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

GLOBAL LINKS

Sharing Surplus. Saving Lives.

Global Links
700 Trumbull Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

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ABOUT GLOBAL LINKS

Global Links is a 501(c)(3) Pittsburgh-based non-profit dedicated to improving health in communities with need locally and globally. We build partnerships with healthcare providers and share medical surplus to improve access to essential care.



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