

Cuba  
July 30, 2007

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Since 1994, Global Links has sent 73 sea containers of medical aid to Cuba. The container shipped on July 30, our twelfth of the year, will benefit the Hospital Mariana Grajales Coello, a 164-bed maternity hospital in Santiago de Cuba, in the southeastern portion of the island. This teaching hospital serves a population of about 170,000 people and has seven operating rooms.

Global Links' Executive Director Kathleen Hower visited the hospital before the shipment and noted that their biggest need was for bedside stands and chairs. The beds were in good condition, but patients had no place to put their belongings and visitors had no place to sit. Among the hospital's other top requests were IV poles, x-ray view boxes, and a small refrigerator. We were able to provide them with some of each of these items on this container. These basic items make a big difference both in health services and patient comfort, even in a highly specialized hospital such as this. Because the hospital is an important surgical center, we also provided them with a box of high grade surgical instruments specific to gynecologic and obstetric procedures.

This shipment also contained numerous boxes of highly specialized supplies for the main specialty institutions in Havana and other key hospitals. For instance, we were able to include 22 boxes of supplies for endoscopy, 12 boxes of neurosurgery equipment, 14 boxes of nephrology supplies and 42 boxes of cardiology materials. The cardiology supplies packed by Global Links were in addition to a special donation we received of 74 boxes of new cardiac surgical packs from World Vision, which we are sending to the Cardiology Institute in Havana. This container also included 13 boxes of suture to be distributed to various hospitals throughout the island.

This single container illustrates the wide range of materials Global Links provides, from the very basic to the highly specialized, and also demonstrates our dedication to match supplies with those recipients that can best use them.