

Cuba  
March 30, 2007

This container, the seventh of the year, will primarily benefit a pediatric teaching hospital in Santiago de Cuba, Hospital Pediátrico Sur Docente. This 266-bed hospital is located in the southeastern part of the island, and serves over 97,000 patients per year. Global Links staff visited the hospital on an earlier trip to Cuba and compiled a list of the most urgently needed items.

The hospital specifically requested help for their neurosurgery department. On a previous shipment we were able to provide them with an operating room table and a surgical microscope. On this shipment we gave them 20 beds and mattresses, 10 over-bed tables, 10 bedside stands and 5 patient room chairs to re-outfit their patient recovery area. We also included a pediatric exam table, 2 pediatric gurneys, and other standard office furnishings. In addition, we sent them 6 boxes of specialized neurosurgical supplies. While the number of boxes may appear to be small, the supplies within them are extremely valuable. Dr. Julio Brossard, a neurosurgeon at this hospital and a good friend of Global Links, says that a donation of just 25 neurological shunts will serve his institution for nearly 2 years, yet these are the precise materials that are so difficult to acquire in Cuba. We gave him 11 shunts on this latest shipment, and on future shipments to Cuba we will send him more shunts and neurosurgical supplies.

The shipment also contained many boxes of specialized materials for the main health institutes in Havana, including 35 boxes of cardiology supplies and 31 boxes of endoscopy materials.

This is the 72<sup>nd</sup> container that we have sent to Cuba since 1994, and it shows what a successful country program can do. From the very basic to the highly specialized supplies and materials, Global Links strives to find the best recipients for each and every box of materials that we send. In Cuba, these materials are reaching all corners of the island and benefiting hundreds of thousands of patients.