



*Sharing surplus.
Saving lives.*

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Dear Friends of the Suture Donation Program:

We've gathered our numbers from 2007, and found we shipped 75,000 packets of suture to 28 countries. These numbers are lower than last year, because our supplies are low. We did fulfill requests for suture from hospitals already in the program, but we were unable to take on new hospitals. The good news is, the steps we are taking to bring in more suture are already making a noticeable difference.

In early 2007, the suture program was given more prominence on our web site. The inventory staff at Boston Children's Hospital found our program on the internet, and when they switched out one type of suture for another later in the year, they sent Global Links the previous suture – six large bins of current, absorbable suture that, because it was sent to Global Links, will save hundreds of lives. It probably already has, since we packed donations for several recipient hospitals while we replenished our shelves.

In addition, Global Links staff have been working to educate hospital personnel in the area about the program, and to be sure they know how valuable a half-empty box of suture they no longer need can be on the other side of the world. Please take a moment to remind your colleagues of our program, and be sure they know Global Links will cover shipping costs if necessary for any suture with at least one year before expiration.

At the end of 2007, we received a compelling statement about the program's impact from Dr. Sue Makin, who works in Malawi:

Global Links suture is saving many, many mothers and children in Malawi. The sutures are used in hospitals that cannot afford to buy the necessary sutures. I've seen this every day for the past nine years in Malawi.

Your support makes this program possible. I look forward to writing to you later in the spring.

Sincerely,

Ellen Wilson
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