

NEWS

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For Immediate Release

*Sharing surplus.
Saving lives.*

Global Links, Construction Junction Remove Medical Equipment, Supplies, Building Materials From Aliquippa Community Hospital

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20 Tons of Recovered Materials From Closed Facility to be Repurposed Rather Than Landfilled

(PITTSBURGH – March 1, 2011) -- Pittsburgh-based nonprofits **Global Links** and **Construction Junction** have been working side by side over the past few weeks to salvage medical equipment, furnishings and building materials from the site of the former Aliquippa Community Hospital. Both organizations work to recover still-useful materials for reuse or repurpose to reduce impact on area landfills.



Global Links and Construction Junction worked at the invitation of Charles J. Betters, the current owner of the facility, which closed in December 2008. Global Links removed stretchers, waiting room furnishings, night stands, medical supply cabinets and surgical supplies. Construction Junction removed light fixtures, ceiling tiles, and office furnishings. **In total, approximately 10 truckloads or 20 tons of materials were removed from**

the site for re-use.

“Because of the generosity of Mr. Betters and his willingness to give us access to the facility, all materials that can be recovered and salvaged are being removed,” says Global Links Deputy Director Angela Garcia. “The materials we are collecting will be used in humanitarian medical aid projects in Latin America and the Caribbean, where the lack of basic materials can impact the dignity of the patient or the ability of medical staff to provide care. It is common for patients and their loved ones to have no chairs in waiting areas or in patient rooms, and for nurses and doctors to have to wash and reuse gloves.”

“I was saddened to see the hospital close in 2008 and purchased it out of bankruptcy with the hopes of finding another end user that could serve the community,” says Charles J. Betters, chief executive officer, C.J. Betters Enterprises. “While it further saddens me to see the structure being razed, I am happy that a substantial portion of the supplies are being put to good use.”

About Global Links:

Global Links is an international medical relief and development organization based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Founded in 1989, Global Links is dedicated to improving health and promoting health equity in developing countries. Programs include the provision of high quality medical supplies and equipment that have been systematically recovered from U.S. hospitals. These valuable surplus materials which would otherwise be disposed of in landfills are channeled to public health systems in targeted countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Because poorly planned and inappropriate donations can cause more problems than they were meant to address, each donation is carefully tailored to meet the needs of the recipient institution. Dedicated volunteers help Global Links to maintain high quality standards and low costs. Since its founding, Global Links has provided more than \$160 million in critical medical aid to developing nations, including Bolivia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica and Nicaragua. More information at: www.globallinks.org .

About Construction Junction:

Construction Junction promotes conservation through the reuse of building materials and is Pittsburgh's only non-profit building material reuse retailer. More information at www.constructionjunction.org

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