

## NEWS

### For Immediate Release

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### URGENT NEED:

## Global Links asks public for donations of home healthcare items to support seniors in Western PA as well as Iraq, Dominican Republic and Mexico

*Items needed include walkers, crutches, shower benches/stools, wheelchairs*

(PITTSBURGH) October 13, 2021 -- Local humanitarian aid organization Global Links has issued an urgent call for donations of new and gently used home healthcare equipment and supplies to support the needs of seniors in Western Pennsylvania, including Allegheny, Erie, Mercer, Lawrence and other counties, as well as Iraq, the Dominican Republic and Mexico.

Items most needed include **walkers, rollators, wheelchairs (non-motorized), transport chairs, canes, crutches, and shower/bathing benches/seats/stools, as well as sealed packages of adult briefs and incontinence products.**

A contact-free, outdoor drop off area has been established for donations alongside Global Links' building at **700 Trumbull Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15205**. Individuals dropping off items will see bins placed under a tent, near the large warehouse garage doors. Global Links will be accepting donations seven days a week through November 15.

In the United States, many home healthcare products are not covered by insurance, Medicare or Medicaid; others are out of financial reach for those on fixed incomes who are un- or under-insured, or who cannot afford the copays associated with purchasing home care equipment.

Global Links regularly collects and distributes surplus and donated home health equipment to agencies and organizations serving senior citizens throughout Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania, as well as in the Dominican Republic and other countries in Latin America. Most recently, Global Links was made aware of the urgent need created by economic hardship and increasing numbers of struggling seniors in Mexico and Iraq through its collaboration with CHOSEN IMA, a nonprofit based in Erie, that also distributes healthcare equipment domestically and internationally. CHOSEN IMA program staff on the ground in Mexico and Iraq have seen the suffering of seniors who lack any type of mobility equipment and have issued an urgent request for support.

Global Links is also working with CHOSEN IMA to reach and serve seniors living in rural, low-income communities throughout Western Pennsylvania.

“While many of us take our independence – and our access to any medical equipment we might need – for granted, for many seniors, the ability to leave their homes, to shower or bathe, or to get to a doctor’s office or a grocery store directly depends on mobility,” says Angela Garcia, executive director of Global Links. “Something as simple as a shower bench or a walker can radically improve the life of a senior who cannot afford to purchase these basic items. The impact that access to incontinence products or a wheelchair can have on an individual who is shut in and struggling is beyond measure, because they restore dignity and independence to those who have lost both.”

For more information, email [info@globallinks.org](mailto:info@globallinks.org) or call 412.361.3424, ext. 214.

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### **About Global Links**

Global Links is a Pittsburgh-based non-profit dedicated to improving health in communities with need. Global Links collaborates with U.S. healthcare institutions and the community to rescue hundreds of tons of high-quality surplus medical materials every year that would otherwise be discarded. These materials are shared with public health facilities around the world and with non-profit organizations in Western Pennsylvania that are providing care for their community’s most vulnerable people. For more information, visit [www.globallinks.org](http://www.globallinks.org). Global Links. Sharing Surplus. Saving Lives.