

## How You Can Help

### **Make a financial contribution**

through our website, or by sending a check. Charity Navigator gives Global Links four stars.

**Volunteer** to help sort and pack supplies or prepare furnishings. Email [glvolunteer@globallinks.org](mailto:glvolunteer@globallinks.org) for details, or register on our website, [www.globallinks.org](http://www.globallinks.org).

**Organize a fundraiser** to support our International Medical Aid program.

**Support new mothers** with our New Baby collection, even easier now that we have a Target wish list. Visit [Target.com](http://Target.com), hit Advanced Search, and enter Global Links in the Organization field.

**Invite us to speak** at your next event and introduce your friends and colleagues to Global Links.

## Attend a Tour

Global Links invites you to attend an introductory session to learn more about our work and mission, and meet key staff members. We are also looking for current volunteers and supporters to "host" a tour and invite friends and/or colleagues. Please sign up for an hour-long session on our website, [www.globallinks.org](http://www.globallinks.org), or by emailing community outreach manager Jennifer Novelli at [jnovelli@globallinks.org](mailto:jnovelli@globallinks.org) or by calling 412-361-3424 ext. 204. Additional dates/times can be arranged.

## Rebuilding in Guatemala

When a community is destroyed – by natural forces, violence, or poverty – rebuilding the healthcare infrastructure is a priority. After the immediate needs of food and housing are addressed, over-burdened or damaged hospitals and clinics must restore function, replace depleted supplies, and replace ruined furnishings and equipment.

Last summer, Guatemala suffered a double blow when the Pacaya Volcano violently erupted, raining ash and rock on Guatemala City and its surroundings, followed in a few days by severe flooding from tropical storm Agatha. Over a meter of rain fell in some places. The area was ravaged by dengue fever, a virus-based disease spread by mosquitoes and characterized by sudden high fever.



According to a United Nations report in September, "The accumulation of natural disasters has had a significant negative impact on the health of 282,962 people and short term prognostics are not favorable. The affected areas are among the poorest in the country, with limited access to health services, high levels of malnutrition and low access



Photo Rebecca Droke

to safe water and sanitation."

The Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) turned to Global Links to address the healthcare crisis. In less than a month, the first of four 40-foot sea containers was on its way to the affected area. The donations included basic furnishings and supplies needed to set up primary care centers and refurbish damaged clinics, following lists provided by PAHO of urgently needed materials.

The items ranged from the most basic of clinic equipment, such as blood pressure units and thermometers, to OR tables, beds, linens and stretchers. Office furnishings were included to improve medical records maintenance and overall hospital administration.

(continued on page 4)

---

## Staff

**Kathleen G. Hower**

CEO and Co-founder

**Angela Garcia**

Deputy Director

**Don Tinker**

Bookkeeper

**Henry Goodwin**

Custodian

**INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL AID****Sally Fishback**

Inventory Specialist

**José Henríquez**

Program Officer, South and Central America

**Marisol Wandiga**

Program Officer, Caribbean Region

**Ellen Wilson**

Suture Program Manager  
Website Administrator

**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP IN HEALTHCARE****David Davis**

Warehouse and Logistics Manager

**Hayley Doering**

Medical Outreach Manager

Warehouse Assistants:

**Robin Checkley****Jason Katsos****Corey Moore****Mike Smith****COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION****Christina Gerstel**

Volunteer Program Manager

**Jennifer Novelli**

Community Outreach Manager

**Eric Tans**

Volunteer Coordinator

**Sarah Ubinger**

Administrative Assistant

**Eileen Weiner, Esq.**

Director of Organizational Initiatives

Health Corps Members:

**Abdul Ahmed****Sarah Voorhees**

## International Medical Aid Projects

### Haiti

As the one-year anniversary of Haiti's devastating earthquake approaches, there is visible progress toward restoring and improving the destroyed healthcare infrastructure. In July, Global Links CEO Kathleen Hower and Program Officer Marisol Wandiga traveled to Haiti to discuss collaborative projects addressing the country's healthcare needs with PAHO and other organizations. PAHO is coordinating the work of all the non-governmental organizations addressing healthcare needs as Haiti rebuilds.

Global Links is focusing on strengthening healthcare institutions outside the capital of Port-au-Prince. With the devastation in the city, healthcare facilities in outlying areas have become even more critical. In particular, the need to address the cholera outbreak in the Artibonite valley has fallen to these already heavily burdened facilities.

Because of our previous work with PAHO, Global Links was able to respond immediately to the new disaster, answering the urgent need for hospital mattresses, IV supplies, soap and linens.

More broadly, through a partnership with Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba (MEDICC), Global Links' projects will be directed to hospitals and clinics where Haitian graduates from the Latin American Medical School (ELAM) in Cuba are working with Haitian and Cuban medical staff.

Working with the established medical community promotes a sustainable approach to medical relief and reconstruction by empowering highly trained healthcare professionals who are already in place. The rehabilitation and rebuilding project is a huge effort supported by the governments of Haiti, Cuba and Venezuela, and involves 22 community reference hospitals and 30 rehabilitation centers.

The public health system that should result from this multinational healthcare project will address health needs of the entire population, and contribute to a long-term improvement in quality of life.

### Honduras

Sending 50 electric beds to Instituto del Torax in Tegucigalpa – the main hospital for thoracic and cardiovascular surgeries – provides some of the most fragile patients with a safer and better place to recover. While many hospitals are unable to use these very sophisticated beds, our collaborative approach enables Global Links to identify a hospital where they are not only usable, but will make a marked improvement in patient comfort.

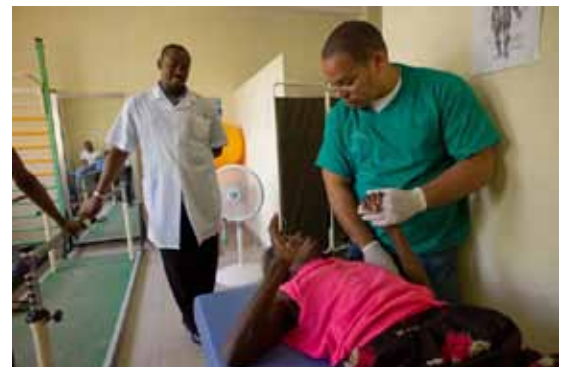


Photo Lynn Johnson  
Haitian and Cuban doctors tend to a patient in  
Hôpital Universitaire de la Paix.

---

## Cuba

This year marks the 16th anniversary of Global Links' collaborative work in Cuba, an achievement commemorated in a special ceremony when CEO Kathleen Hower, Program Officer Marisol Wandiga, and Board Member Mimi Falbo visited Cuba in June. While health statistics from Cuba are impressive, there are still many shortages and areas of need.

Global Links has made 20 shipments of targeted disaster relief to the provinces of Pinar del Rio, Isla de la Juventud, Camaguey and Las Tunas to replace equipment, furnishings and supplies ruined by the hurricanes and flooding. Global Links visited hospitals in these provinces in June to assess the impact of relief efforts and plan future projects.

Since October of 2008, after hurricanes Gustav and Ike devastated Cuba's healthcare infrastructure, Global Links has focused on areas that received the most damage, and on projects which would most quickly improve hospitals' and clinics' abilities to provide patient care.

"It's gratifying to see the difference we've made in Cuba," says Global Links CEO Kathleen Hower. "Partnering with PAHO has enabled us to work through the challenges that result after any national disaster and send exactly what was needed. There is so much more we can do to help – and we look forward to many more years of this effective collaboration."



Conditions at Hospital Raymundo Castro improved after receiving a donation from Global Links.

## Nicaragua

Global Links' most recent project in Nicaragua focused on improving the "critical path" between the operating room, emergency and high-risk pregnancy area, labor and delivery, and neonatal unit at Bertha Calderón hospital. Located in Managua, Bertha Calderón is the national reference hospital for women's health, including obstetrics, gynecology and oncology. The medical staff articulated the need for improvements in this "Ruta Critica" when Global Links staff visited the hospital in March 2010.

Previous donations from Global Links were still in use in this well-organized institution – a clear indication that this is a hospital where we can and are making a difference. This latest donation included critical items such as gynecological exam tables, an OR table, OR lights, hydraulic gurneys, IV poles, infant incubators and an X-ray film developer. Fetal dopplers, blood pressure units, surgical instruments and almost 200 boxes of medical supplies should help the hospital meet its goal of improved healthcare for women.

## Bolivia

One of Global Links' recent projects in Bolivia focused on improving surgical capacity in the Hospital Robert Galindo, a regional reference hospital in the department of Pando, in the north of the country far from La Paz. Because of its remote location, Pando suffers from a 72.4% poverty rate, according to a report by the Millennium Foundation.

"This was an extremely effective – but complicated -- donation," said Global Links Program Officer Marisol Wandiga. "Everything had to be packed for air transport once it got to Bolivia, because the area is so remote and mountainous. The donation was considered of such high value that it was presented in Pando by President Evo Morales during the celebration of the 198th Anniversary of the "Batalla de Bahía" (Battle of the Bay)."



Global Links also provided a Bolivian social service agency with hundreds of walkers and crutches for distribution to low-income Bolivians. This important donation would not have been possible without the enthusiastic participation of our partners in Pittsburgh, who donated, gathered and prepared the walkers and crutches we sent to Bolivia.



---

## Board of Directors

**Margaret Larkins-Pettigrew, MD, M.Ed**  
**Chair**

Assistant Professor, Global Health  
OB-GYN and Reproductive Biology  
UH MacDonald Women's Hospital

**Jeffrey Ford, C.P.A.**  
**Vice Chair**

Partner, Grossman Yanak & Ford LLP

**Charles Vargo**  
**Treasurer**

Executive Director, The Washington  
Physician Hospital Organization, Inc.

**Eugene F. Lauer, S.T.D.**  
**Secretary**

Pastoral Ministry Consultant,  
Diocese of Pittsburgh

**Lauren Ackerman**

Johnson Institute, GSPIA,  
University of Pittsburgh

**Amy Davis, CPA**

Corporate Controller,  
Dynavox Mayer-Johnson

**Mimi Falbo, DNP, RN**

Executive Consultant, Mimi Falbo LLC

**Kathleen G. Hower**

CEO, Co-founder, Global Links

**Daniel Kovalik**

Associate General Counsel,  
United Steelworkers, AFL-CIO (USW)

**Miguel Marquez, M.D.**

Pan American Health Organization,  
retired

**Gregory K. Peaslee**

Senior Vice President, UPMC  
Chief Human Resources and  
Administrative Service Officer

**Patricia Rambasek, CFRE**

Community Leader

**Robin Sheldon**

Associate University Counsel,  
Thomas Jefferson University

**Barry L. Silverman**

Technology Consultant

**Mahmood Usman, M.D., M.M.M.**

Psychiatrist

**Daniel T. Wagner, R.Ph., MBA, Pharm. D.**

Owner, Nutri-Farmacy

*(continued from page 1)*

The four containers held several hundred thousand dollars' worth of medical aid – all of it fulfilling specific needs.

"A tremendous amount of meticulous planning and care go into preparing every shipment we send," says Global Links Chief Executive Officer and Co-founder Kathleen Hower. "Our work supports Guatemala's health planning strategy. By partnering with the Ministry of Health and with PAHO, we are able to make sure every donation has the maximum impact possible for the communities we are supporting."

Global Links has assisted in refurbishing health centers affected by the storms in the regions of Sololá, Suchitupéquez, Retalhuleu, Escuintla and Santa Rosa, among others. In addition, since roads have been damaged and are often impassable, the first shipment included backpacks stocked with minor surgery kits and oto-ophthalmoscopes for healthcare workers who must hike or bike into remote areas.

This coordinated and organized response mitigates the impact on healthcare in the areas affected by the double disaster. Access to healthcare will help the communities recover and focus on rebuilding better and stronger – an important consideration in countries that are regularly affected by natural disasters. Tropical Storm Matthew hit the same region in October.

## Suture Program Update: African Burn Relief

According to the World Health Organization, 95% of burn deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries. African Burn Relief, one of the newest recipients of Global Links Suture Donation Program, is based in Malawi and seeks to address the widespread problem of severe burns, especially among children, by providing prevention education, wound care training and surgical intervention.

Jennifer Wall-Dean, a physician's assistant who founded ABR, explains that burns are a common hazard in Malawi because families use open flame to heat their homes and to cook. In addition, very young children are often left in charge of baby siblings while the parents work, and tragic accidents are all too frequent.

One example that Jennifer shared was of Baby Victor, who, at age four months, suffered third-degree burns on his feet and legs. He had three rounds of skin grafts, all sutured in place. Without the suture, the chance of graft loss is very high, increasing the number of surgeries he would have needed and exposing him to potentially dangerous anesthetics.

While Victor's accident happened before Global Links learned of ABR, we are glad we have been able to replenish their supply of the type of suture that is appropriate for delicate, damaged skin around a graft.



Photo Rebecca Droke

---

## Volunteer Update: Revamped Warehouse Leads to New Efficiencies



How can paint and drywall make an organization more efficient? At Global Links' warehouse, the new walls help moderate the sometimes extreme summer and winter temperatures, and keep the work space cleaner, explains Volunteer Program Manager Christina Gerstel. "The newly finished workroom makes it a much nicer place to spend time," she adds.

This recent renovation by Global Links' warehouse team allows us to welcome our valued volunteers in a dedicated work space. The spruce-up, part of our ongoing process improvement efforts, allows Global Links to accommodate up to 20 volunteers at the warehouse for projects that include packing, painting, cleaning and repairs of larger medical furnishings. More efficient packing means smoother work flow for the entire organization, allowing for increased

input and output. Volunteers do so much for Global Links – we are happy to be able to work with bigger groups of dedicated volunteers at both of our locations. If you are interested in volunteering your time at Global Links, please visit our website, [www.globallinks.org](http://www.globallinks.org) or email our Volunteer Program Manager Christina Gerstel at [glvolunteer@globallinks.org](mailto:glvolunteer@globallinks.org).

## Worldwide Medical Service Trips Bring Healthcare to Underserved

Global Links regularly provides medical materials for individuals from southwestern Pennsylvania who volunteer on medical service trips. In 2010, Global Links donated supplies to almost 50 trips, sending valuable medical materials to 19 countries.

Volunteers travel with non-profits or faith-based groups to countries within our hemisphere such as Haiti, Honduras or Nicaragua, and farther afield to Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Nepal and Uganda. Most groups provide primary care clinics and/or dental clinics in impoverished areas, and may also offer other types of assistance, such as clean water wells and education materials.

Medical care is difficult to access, and only sought in emergencies.

One recent trip Global Links assisted with was sponsored by Sixth Presbyterian Church, whose members volunteer with Global Links every month, sorting and packing medical supplies. The Sixth Presbyterian volunteers traveled to El Porvenir, a small organic coffee-farming community in Nicaragua. Building New Hope, another Pittsburgh non-profit organization, markets the coffee from El Porvenir. Global Links provided blood pressure units, gauze and bandages, wound dressings and other healthcare supplies for the clinic.

Sara Berg from Sixth Presbyterian Church wrote, "Due to the rains, people were also suffering a lot from fevers, upper respiratory infections, body aches and skin infections/rashes. The thermometer donated by Global Links was a God-send. The community did not have a thermometer, and had to guess at how severe fevers were and what type of medication to treat patients with.... Several children in the community have suffered severe burns in the past, and they have not had any of the materials necessary to treat these burns properly. A little girl, around the age of 4, fell into a fire pit where they were burning trash, causing severe burns from her foot up to her hip. Although she has healed well, others have suffered infections and even death due to the lack of treatment for such incidents."

As is typical of so many areas where Global Links works, the group noted that "Medical care is difficult to access, and only sought after in emergencies."

At Global Links, we've always believed in the importance of supporting local efforts to bring healthcare to vulnerable populations, wherever they are. Residents of southwestern PA taking part in medical service trips who would like to request supplies should email Jennifer Novelli, Global Links Community Outreach Manager, at [jnovelli@globallinks.org](mailto:jnovelli@globallinks.org).



4809 Penn Avenue  
Second Floor  
Pittsburgh, PA 15224  
Phone 412.361.3424  
Fax 412.361.4950

[globallinks.org](http://globallinks.org)

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 3272  
Pittsburgh, PA



## Juan and John

February 18-19, 8 pm

Tickets: \$20

### Learn about Global Links' programs of medical aid in the Dominican Republic and beyond.

It's 1965 and there's a riot going on. Watts and Vietnam are burning, and so is La República Dominicana. In California, it's Major League Baseball pitcher Juan Marichal and the San Francisco Giants vs. catcher Johnny Roseboro and the Los Angeles Dodgers. Roger Guenveur Smith and Marc Anthony Thompson, the Obie-winning creators of *A Huey P. Newton Story*, return with new work inspired by the ancient themes of rage, retribution and redemption.

For more information, visit [www.augustwilsoncenter.org](http://www.augustwilsoncenter.org).

**Created and Performed by Roger Guenveur Smith.**

