Dr. Vallajos and the staff at El Bagual Healthpost serve remote communities in Chaco, Bolivia.

On the Front Lines of Community Care

INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC MEDICAL AID

The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.

CONSTITUTION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Health as a Human Right. Universal Health Coverage. Comprehensive Care. To many, these seem like visionary ideas. Grand statements of a scope so large they seem impossible to tackle. Governments and public health systems face tremendous challenges ensuring that their populations have access to skilled healthcare, even when universal access is a constitutional right as it is in some of the countries where we work.

Progress is being made, though, every day, in the clinics, health posts and mobile brigades that Global Links supports. Dedicated doctors, nurses, midwives and volunteers are working toward ‘health for all’ on front lines of community care throughout Latin America, the Caribbean and here in Pittsburgh.

continued on page 2
Currently, there are 18 states that have not expanded Medicare to provide health coverage for low-income families. Virginia is one of those states. Communities there depend on the work of clinics offering free or reduced-cost primary healthcare services to medically underserved and uninsured residents. In 2015, Global Links began collaborating with the Virginia Health Care Foundation through our Community Partners Program to provide these clinics with nebulizers for their patients suffering from asthma, COPD and other pulmonary conditions.

Without medical coverage, a patient would be responsible for purchasing a nebulizer, and for many, the $40–$50 price tag was too costly, and many go without. Through our partnership with the Virginia Health Care Foundation, Global Links is now able to provide home-use nebulizers for clinics to distribute directly to patients at no cost. In the first 5 months of the partnership, Global Links delivered 264 nebulizers to clinics throughout the state.

Through Global Links’ Breathe Hope Project, Community Partners such as the Virginia Healthcare Foundation are helping their residents breathe easier. Every donated nebulizer can help save a life.

Help a neighbor by donating your no longer needed nebulizer! Visit globallinks.org to learn more.

We see, firsthand, the positive impact that healthcare workers have on a community. Global Links is committed to supporting them and the health system with the materials and equipment needed to treat people where they live. Here are just three examples of outstanding doctors on the front lines of community care:

**Dr. Jean Douly Caillot**
**COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER PROJECT CARREFOUR, HAITI**

In 2011, Global Links helped Dr. Caillot outfit an ambulance with medical equipment and supplies that he is using to provide emergency and clinical services to his community. In 2015, we helped Dr. Caillot expand the project by providing essential tools—microscopes, blood pressure units, fetal dopplers and other medical supplies—needed to maintain the quality and continuity of his health services. Today Dr. Caillot leads the Ministry of Health’s Multi-skilled Community Health Worker Program in Haiti.

**Dr. Darguin Sanku Vallejos**
**EL BAGUAL HEALTHPOST CHACO, BOLIVIA**

In 2013, Global Links provided medical supplies, equipment and clinic furnishings for the El Bagual Healthpost in a remote region of Chaco, in Southern Bolivia. Road conditions in the area often make it difficult for patients in isolated communities to access the clinic, so Dr. Vallejos, along with a nurse and another doctor, travel into the indigenous communities 4 days a week in weather that often tops 100 degrees. As a graduate of the Latin American Medical School in Cuba, Dr. Vallejos has committed to practice medicine in underserved areas.

**Dr. Jim Withers**
**OPERATION SAFETY NET PITTSBURGH, PA**

Since 1992, Dr. Withers has been providing primary care and social services to Pittsburgh’s unsheltered homeless population. Today, Dr. Withers’ brand of Street Medicine has become a global movement bringing care to the world’s homeless. For the past three years, Global Links has been providing Dr. Withers and his team of clinical volunteers with medical supplies for their traveling care team and their severe weather emergency shelter. In 2015 Dr. Withers was honored with a CNN Heroes award.

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**Breathe Hope in Virginia**

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

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“What a joy it was to be able to provide {the patient} with a free nebulizer that same day. We did not have to scramble to try and change any medications, and she did not have to worry about her breathing worsening without her machine.”

Case Manager

LACKEY CLINIC

Support for our Community Partners Program comes from our donors and Highmark.
Caring for the Caregiver

When you are an anesthetist and midwife at a community healthcare clinic, your own health is of utmost importance. For Christine, her position at a clinic in eastern Uganda is pivotal to the daily operations of the facility, but her skills reach far into the community as the organizer of 390 traditional birth attendants (midwives). As the referring agent, Christine has had a hand in the safe births of thousands of babies in surrounding communities. Maintaining her health is vitally important to the health of everyone served by her clinic and her team of midwives.

Last November, Christine found herself in need of surgery to repair a prolapsed bladder and rectum that were causing much discomfort. Our Suture Donation Partner, Global Health Educators, was able to perform the surgery using sutures from Global Links. During the surgery, which was done under a spinal anesthetic, doctors gave Christine a smartphone with anesthesia and pulse oximeter apps to help track her vital signs. Global Health Educators reported that her recovery was quick and they were able to walk her home just 4 hours after surgery. With the help of sutures from Global Links Suture Donation Program, Christine is back to her busy schedule helping to provide care for her entire community.

You can help! If your company or facility has any surplus sutures to share, please contact Medical Outreach Manager Matt Fuller at 412.361.3424 x213 or mfuller@globallinks.org. Every single packet can save or improve a life!

Support for our Suture Donation Program comes from our donors and GSK.

Global Health Educators doctors show Christine how to use the pulse oximeter app on a smartphone.

Setting New Goals

FROM THE CEO

Where does the time go? We’re 15 years into the new millennium. The global community has completed the first iteration of a cohesive plan to solve some of the world’s most pressing problems. The Millennium Development Goals or MDGs were established in 2000 with an ambitious 15-year timeframe to address eight significant challenges:

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other disease
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Develop a global partnership for development

Much progress has been made in reaching these goals, and despite falling short on some of the targets, everyone is in agreement that if we all
concentrate our efforts and continue to work together, we can reach the goals.

Following on those successes and to revisit old and new challenges, more than 190 world leaders came together in 2015 to continue their efforts toward MDGs and commit to an additional 9 goals for the next 15 years. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) expand and build on previous work with 169 specific targets, including a number of new environmental goals.

Our Commitment

Global Links has committed itself to working toward Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Through our Medical Aid Programs and Signature Projects we are directly supporting 8 of the 13 targets in Goal 3:

- Reduce the maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births globally (in developing countries it is 239/100,000) (in developed countries it is 12/100,000)
- An end to preventable deaths of newborns to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births (currently 32/1,000), and under-5 deaths to at least 25 per 1,000 live births (currently 43/1,000)
- Reduce by 1/3 premature death from noncommunicable diseases through prevention and treatment.
- Reduce by ½ the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents
- Achieve universal health coverage and access to quality essential health-care services
- Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing states
- Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

The Importance of the Goals

Whether it’s working with a Ministry of Health to furnish new rural primary care facilities, outfitting maternal homes, providing clinical furnishings for emergency services, or providing much-needed supplies and furnishing to health training institutions, all of our work seeks to support the systematic improvement of health services and universal access to health in the countries we serve.

The SDGs help to guide our work so we can have the most impact in support of each country’s efforts toward universal health. When basic needs are met, communities and society can move forward. The SDGs concentrate on answering those basic needs – food, water, housing, health, education, along with targeting the systems and the necessary infrastructure to meet and exceed them so we all might live in a secure, healthy and fulfilling environment.

It’s good to have a plan; the SDGs give us a direction.
Why not add your company’s name to the growing list of corporate groups volunteering at Global Links? More and more corporations are looking for ways to engage their employees in socially responsible volunteer outings and unique team-building experiences and Global Links has quickly become the ‘go-to’ organization to meet those needs.

We provide a supportive and educational environment and a variety of shift lengths for groups of various sizes. Corporate volunteer days with us begin with a tour and discussion of Global Links’ work. We then put our words into action as, together, we sort and pack medical supplies. Your team may take a break in our volunteer cafe, where you can bring in lunch and enjoy some team-building time together before we put you back to work. Whether employees are preparing items for disaster relief or tackling a pallet of crutches, their work is having a profound impact on the lives of those in need.

To learn more about corporate volunteering and service projects contact our Community Engagement Manager, Stacy Bodow, at 412.361.3424 x205 or sbodow@globallinks.org.

Global Links’ Breath Hope Program is in need of that gently used nebulizer you may have sitting in the closet. Clean, functioning, non battery-operated nebulizers can be dropped off or mailed to our facility or taken to a Southwestern PA Goodwill.

More info at globallinks.org.

A recurring gift of $25 a month will provide a Suture Donation partner facility an annual allotment of Global Links donated suture.

Sign up at globallinks.org.
EAT. DRINK. DO. GOOD.

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