When I look back at 2013, the biggest event was the consolidation of our warehouse operations and our administration and volunteer facilities into one building. No move on that scale can ever be easy, but this one was fueled by the need to expand our international collaborations and our local partnerships, and to more efficiently recover medical surplus throughout the mid-Atlantic region. Global Links was doing more – and we needed to pause, move, reorganize, and get back up to speed. And we did!

I have two favorite new views. My first runner-up is from a catwalk looking over the new skylit warehouse. From up there, I see recovered hospital beds ready for shipment, high racks full of great materials for our partners, and thousands of boxed medical supplies. But my very favorite is our new volunteer center – taking the long view from our volunteer café down through the small equipment and instrument workshops, past sorting tables and newly organized shelves, every area filled with volunteers sorting, packing and preparing. What a beautiful sight! For me, it always comes down to the people, sharing their time, skills, and goodness on both sides, the givers and the receivers.

What’s especially meaningful is that, in this work, each of us is both. On this side of the donation, givers receive the gift of seeing their efforts bear fruit, bettering the lives of people and preserving our planet. On the other side, recipients have a chance for better health, sometimes even life itself. In return, they give the privilege and satisfaction of making a difference, as well as the inspiration and the will to do even more.

This newsletter contains a look back at an eventful year. Numbers tell one side of the story, and the faces of those touched by our work tell the other. I hope you are inspired by this report. I encourage you to join the Global Links community by joining an upcoming monthly tour, volunteering, supporting our projects, or following us on social media. While the new warehouse is a beautiful sight, the human community we serve is what makes it look so bright.

– Kathleen Hower, Co-founder & CEO
Latin America and Caribbean Program

Last year is a story of lives saved, health salvaged, and people who can now take part in the life of their community. Nowhere was this more clearly illustrated than our collaboration in Haiti with the Office of the Secretary of State for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities (BSEIPH is the acronym in French). The mobility devices we provided enabled people to get out of their homes, return to work, return to life. Most of the devices were donated by western Pennsylvania residents, and cleaned and prepped by volunteers. Our role in linking the Haitian and Pittsburgh communities is gratifying.

Other highlights of the year include

- Hôpital Albert Schweitzer, Haiti (HAS). We are supporting efforts to renovate and replace outdated equipment and furnishings. HAS is a medical residency and employment site for graduates of the Latin American Medical School (ELAM), and supporting ELAM graduates and improving their working conditions is an ongoing priority for Global Links.

- St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Guyana. We concluded phase two of a multi-year project to re-equip the hospital after a fire.

- Santiago de Cuba. We continued to support the rebuilding of the health care infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Sandy in the fall of 2012.

- Hospital Roberto Calderon, Nicaragua. Our projects helped equip the emergency department of this national referral hospital in Managua.

- Roberto Suazo Córdova, Honduras. Beds and other furnishings from Global Links proved to be “a cause of great happiness and motivation to the staff,” in the words of sub-director Dr. Francisco Rodrigo Valenzuela.

- Gran Chaco, Bolivia. Our work there not only improved maternal-infant and primary care, it led to a new business endeavor for women in the area of Gran Chaco, who began producing baby bags based on the Global Links program.

- Department of San Marcos, Guatemala. Since 2007, our projects have followed the model established by the Pan American Health Organization, supporting community health centers that provide primary care for long-term improved health in the region.

Suture Donation Program

In many countries, resource-poor hospitals lack sutures – surgical stitching material – or they don’t have the right kind. Without sutures, surgery is impossible. Mothers who need cesarean sections have no other options. Without sutures, they die. With inappropriate sutures, wounds don’t heal well, infection sets in, and the patient can be worse off than before surgery.

Since 1989, Global Links Suture Donation Program has been collecting surplus sterile sutures from hospitals across the United States and sending them to underserved communities. By providing this single item, we are able to have a large impact on
the care a hospital can provide its patients. A few highlights from Global Links Suture Donation Program in 2013 include:

- Christian Hospital Mungeli, India. A woman whose massive thyroid tumor was safely removed with sutures from Global Links.

- Miraj Heart Institute, India. A baby whose heart defect was repaired, restoring him to good health. His family income is well below the poverty line, and sutures from Global Links helped make his procedure possible.

- Mulanje Mission Hospital, Malawi. Over 300 patients had surgery with sutures from Global Links. No other aid organization provides sutures to this hospital, which is dedicated to serving a resource-poor population.

**Medical Service Trip Program**

This worldwide program provides medical materials to residents of southwestern Pennsylvania for volunteer service trips. Trips must include a medical component, and offer free or greatly reduced medical care.

In some communities, the medical care these trips provide means the difference between life and death. In 2013, Global Links supported 49 medical service trips to 25 countries undertaken by people dedicated to sharing their skills and making a difference in resource-poor areas. Many of the teams drawing on this program for support travel to the same area year after year, establishing a relationship with local medical care providers and with the people they serve. Highlights from the past year include:


- Honduras. Crucial supplies for Operation Walk that supported their “most successful and efficient trip yet,” according to their evaluation form.

- Honduras. Support for a return trip to La Villa de San Francisco by Honduras Hope Mission Team. “For many in this town, these clinics are the only opportunity to have medical care,” said one team member.

**Community Partners Program**

The goal of Global Links Community Partners Program is to support health improvement and environmental initiatives in our local community. In 2013, Global Links donated $41,000 worth of materials to 28 organizations in western Pennsylvania. Partnerships include:

- Operation Safety Net. We provide hygiene and first aid supplies for this organization’s work with homeless populations.
• Medical Equipment Recycling of Pennsylvania (MERP). We share homecare items and mobility devices with MERP, which assists under- and uninsured patients in rural Pennsylvania.

• Genesis of Pittsburgh. We donate formula and other baby care supplies to this nonprofit that provides care for pregnant women, children and adoptive families.

• Pittsburgh Center for Creative Reuse. We donate materials that can’t be used for medical purposes to this organization that promotes resource conservation, creativity, and community engagement through material reuse.

• Animal shelters and animal-assistance organizations. We share medical supplies with local and international veterinary organizations.

While at Global Links, the term “community” can include anywhere in this hemisphere, we cherish our local community of southwestern Pennsylvania even as we reach out to those that are further afield.

Community Engagement: Volunteer Program

When Global Links was founded 25 years ago, we wanted to include the community as much as possible in our work. Last year, with our volunteer program inevitably on hiatus during construction and the move, volunteer labor took on a whole new meaning.

• More than 95% of the supplies we donate are sorted and packed by volunteers. We are known among our partners for the care with which our supplies are packed and labeled, testimony to the dedication of our impressive volunteer corps.

• A variety of businesses donate their time and talent to support our mission, ranging from accounting to web design to technical consulting and support.

• In a remarkable show of dedication and perseverance, the new 10,000-foot volunteer center was painted by volunteers, with the same attention to detail we appreciate so much in all the jobs they do.

• With the opening of our new volunteer center, we now have the physical space to accommodate 4 times as many volunteers. That’s a total of 80 volunteers at one time.

• In 2013, 1,700 volunteers contributed a total of 7,600 hours over a seven-month period. (Volunteer activities were suspended for five months during our move and construction of our volunteer center.)

Watch the video 2013: A Local Move, a Global Reach, and a New View on our Youtube Channel.
Environmental Sustainability in Health Care

Working with our growing number of health care partners in western Pennsylvania and the mid-Atlantic region, in 2013 Global Links kept nearly 290 tons of usable materials out of landfills for use in underserved communities. Hospitals, senior care facilities, and the community participate in Global Links’ medical surplus recovery program.

Please see the list of our current hospital partners in the insert.

- **Breathe Hope**, formally launched in 2013, collects nebulizers that are no longer needed and provides them to resource-poor areas, primarily overseas, where asthma is a growing problem and many communities have one nebulizer that everyone must share.

- **Save Your Scrubs** provides a way for hospital personnel around the country to engage in our programs and help their colleagues in underserved communities. Medical professionals need this hygienic professional uniform, and most hospitals we partner with are unable to budget for scrubs. Over 100 individual and institutional donors participated in this program.

- **Home Health Equipment**. These collections of wheelchairs, walkers, crutches and canes resulted in 6000 pounds of mobility devices for resource-poor communities both overseas and in western Pennsylvania. Hospitals in underserved areas are often unable to provide these items to their patients.
FINANCIALS

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents 836,988  
Investments, at fair value 888,093  
Accounts receivable 622,664  
Inventory 3,550,315  
Prepaid expenses 28,725  
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS 5,926,786  
Land and buildings 2,418,155  
Furniture and equipment 167,636  
Less accumulated depreciation (209,805)  
TOTAL PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT 2,375,985  
TOTAL ASSETS 8,302,771

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Accounts payable and accrued expenses 145,894  
Deferred revenue 592,758  
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES 738,652  
Long term debt 1,680,000  
TOTAL LIABILITIES 2,418,652  
Unrestricted net assets 5,352,850  
Temporarily restricted net assets 531,269  
TOTAL NET ASSETS 5,884,119  
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS 8,302,771

STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSES

REVENUES

Donated materials & supplies 3,330,278  
Grants & contributions 2,863,683  
Investment income 30,956  
Miscellaneous revenue 70,285  
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED REVENUES 6,295,202

OPERATING EXPENSES

Program services 3,820,538  
Management & general 229,543  
Fundraising 118,990  
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES 4,169,072

INCREASE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS 2,126,130

NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR 3,757,989

NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR 5,884,119

2013 Awards and Recognitions

Heinz Endowments Breathe Award

• Direct Energy “Reduce Your Use for Good”

GLOBAL LINKS NEWSLETTER, SPRING 2014
In Bolivia’s Amazon Basin, the only way to travel is by river. The roads are in poor condition or nonexistent, and most people don’t have vehicles. To improve access to health care in these communities, the Bolivian regional development agency ADEMAF is providing a health boat to travel up and down the Madre de Dios and the Orthon rivers, bringing primary care to the people of the area. Global Links is providing all the equipment as well as a reference library and medical kits so that the doctors and nurses can travel into the communities they serve.

In addition, Global Links is supporting Hospital Guayararkerin, the reference hospital for the area, for cases requiring more specialized care. This is an example of how Global Links makes a genuine and sustainable improvement in the health of a region, targeting specific needs, recognizing cultural influences, and working with local agencies. Other upcoming projects include:

- **Cuba.** Continuing to support rehabilitation of the health care system in Santiago, which was badly damaged by Hurricane Sandy in 2012. For Global Links, disaster relief is a long-term commitment and we have been working with Santiago, the Pan American Health Organization, and the Cuban Ministry of Health since immediately following the hurricane.

- **Guyana.** Working with the Ministry of Health to support hospitals in Georgetown, the capital, as well as in more rural areas, where access to health care is difficult.

- **Haiti.** Continuing our project to provide mobility-assist devices to the Office of the Secretary of State for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities, as well as supporting more public hospitals throughout Haiti where graduates of the Latin American Medical School are leading improvements to the health care system.

- **Honduras.** Supporting health improvement projects for the Lenca people in southwestern Honduras, the largest indigenous group in the country, with an estimated population of 100,000; and returning to the Garifuna region along the Atlantic Coast, where poverty and malnutrition cause serious health deficits.

- **Nicaragua.** Prioritizing maternal and infant health in Nueva Guinea, including one hospital that employs graduates of the Latin American Medical School (ELAM) in Cuba. Global Links has long been committed to improving conditions where ELAM graduates serve, due to their dedication to health care in underserved communities.

- **Guatemala.** Working to improve health conditions in an area of the country suffering from the consequences of years of drought. Limited resources have kept the Guatemalan government from being able to provide adequate assistance due to the extent of the poverty and malnutrition brought about by the extreme weather.

- **American Red Cross, Western Pennsylvania Region.** Working on disaster preparedness with this new community partner, emphasizing shelter needs, access and mobility.

- **Lunch + Learn.** This free monthly event features speakers on health, sustainability, and humanitarian issues.

People in other countries are literally dying for what we throw away.®
We cut the ribbon for our new headquarters last October 4, and celebrated with a festive Community Day on October 5. Consolidating our operations in one building enables us to have a more profound impact in every community where we work.