

Local hospitals meeting significant global health needs through MedWish *Ohio's largest Medical Surplus Recovery Organization releases 2012 impact report*

Cleveland, Ohio – MedWish International released its hospital impact report on the collection and distribution of usable medical surplus for international aid during 2012. The Cleveland-based nonprofit partners with more than 50 Ohio hospitals, diverting usable medical surplus to address global scarcity. The report is available on the organization's website at www.medwish.org.

More than 350,000 pounds of durable medical equipment and consumable medical supplies were recovered, with more than 134,000 pounds from the Cleveland Clinic system. Another 38,000 pounds of surplus came from University Hospitals, with the remainder donated by regional hospitals, nursing homes and private gifts-in-kind.

“Our hospital partners are a key element to the organization's success,” said executive director Josh Kravitz. “Our partnership allows health systems to divert usable surplus from their waste stream -- which supports their environmental stewardship efforts -- while addressing critical global health issues all over the world.”

MedWish is Ohio's largest medical surplus recovery organization, and since 1993 has been partnering with humanitarians and non-governmental organizations all over the world to provide surplus medical goods. The organization adheres to World Health Organization and industry standards for quality, ensuring that expired and broken equipment is not sent overseas.

In 2012, MedWish fulfilled 252 shipment requests reaching more than 50 countries. The top countries receiving shipments were Haiti, Peru, Guatemala, Ecuador, Ghana and Honduras. This exceeds MedWish's previous single-year shipment record and positions the organization to increase capacity in the future.

MedWish's impact is not strictly international, however. The organization facilitates vocational training opportunities for more than 70 youth and adults with autism, disabilities and other barriers to employment, acting as a workforce development engine in a region that is still recovering from significant economic challenges. MedWish also repurposes surplus that is inappropriate for humanitarian aid by donating it to local nonprofits like animal shelters, youth programs and schools, diverting an additional 30,000 pounds of surplus from local landfills.

About MedWish International

MedWish International is a Cleveland-based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that recovers usable medical surplus from health care systems and distributes these vital supplies to doctors, nurses and humanitarians to improve health care around the world. Since 2003, MedWish has kept more than 2.75 million pounds of medical surplus out of landfills and has sent much-needed supplies to more than 90 countries all over the world. For more information about MedWish, please visit www.medwish.org or call (216) 692-1685.