

MEDWISH

REPURPOSE. SAVE LIVES.

MedWish International is a not-for-profit organization that saves lives and the environment by repurposing discarded medical supplies and equipment to provide humanitarian aid to people in need.

2020 SPRING NEWSLETTER



PROTECTING THOSE ON THE FRONT LINES



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Listed as of May 2020. To see a full
staff list, visit www.medwish.org

GREETINGS

MEDWISH STEPS UP IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS

During times of adversity, we have the opportunity to rise and show our strengths. That opportunity has never been greater than it has been over these last few months amid the COVID-19 pandemic and the global health crisis it has unleashed. Stay-at-home orders, shuttered businesses and frightening news of the outbreak's spread have affected us all.

But these extraordinary challenges have brought out the best in us. Neighbors look out for neighbors. Front line workers put themselves at risk to care for the most vulnerable. Here at MedWish International, our staff, board and committee members respond creatively and tirelessly to assist where they can. Our donors and partners stand beside us and help us as we answer the overwhelming need. Their eagerness to contribute has been an inspiration.

Since 1993, MedWish has been saving lives and the environment by repurposing medical supplies and equipment to provide humanitarian aid in underserved communities throughout the world. When the COVID-19 outbreak created a critical shortage of essential Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for front line workers, we moved quickly to help collect PPE and distribute it to medical and social service providers in our communities.

Most recently, MedWish collaborated with the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, Cleveland Foundation, Factory Direct Health, Jewish Federation of Cleveland, Oswald Companies and United Way of Greater Cleveland to secure and distribute an estimated 100,000 critically needed KN95 face masks to nearly 100 Cleveland-area organizations serving the community.


Even as we rush to respond to the crisis in our country, we face the impact it has had on our own operations. We acted immediately to develop protocols to protect MedWish staff as they work in our warehouse and remotely.

The need to socially distance means we face the loss of annual fundraising events that are critical to our ability to fulfill our mission. We are working hard to create other ways to raise those critical funds, so we can continue to save lives around the world and right here at home.

The MedWish Miles 2020 virtual race, for example, allows participants to complete a one-mile, 5K, 10K or half-marathon experience anytime over the last weekend in May to raise funds in support of MedWish. Many participants' fundraisers honor friends or family members working on the front lines of the health crisis.

These are uncertain times, and our work has never been more critical. We want to thank you for all that you do to support MedWish as we continue to meet the great need both at home and throughout the world.

With gratitude on behalf of the MedWish family,



Carolina Masri
Executive Director

THE MEDWISH DIFFERENCE

COVID-19 RESPONSE

For more than 25 years, MedWish International has provided medical supplies and equipment to desperately underserved communities throughout the world. Based in Cleveland, MedWish has benefited from the generosity of world-class medical institutions in the US. Now, during the global health crisis presented by COVID-19, MedWish is stepping up to give back to the local healthcare communities in the nation.

Essential equipment to protect front line healthcare workers in our community is in critically short supply amid the outbreak. MedWish is working closely with local healthcare and county leaders to support these teams by providing donations of masks, gowns, goggles, face shields, respirators, respiratory supplies and hygiene supplies.

LOCAL SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED

- 176,325 masks
- 12,161 gowns
- 108,001 gloves
- 11,934 eye shields & other PPE
- 16,865 pediatric & adult respiratory supplies
- 5 thermometers
- 2 ventilators

RECIPIENTS OF SUPPLIES

- A Vision of Change, Inc.
- Akron Children's Hospital
 - All Faiths Pantry
- American Red Cross, Greater Cleveland Chapter
 - Another Chance of Ohio
 - ASIA, Inc.
 - Bellefaire JCB
 - Black United Fund
 - Boys Hope Girls Hope of Northeastern Ohio
- Care Alliance Health Center
 - Catholic Charities
 - City of Brecksville
 - City of Cleveland
 - City of Kent
 - City of Lyndhurst
- Cleveland Christian Home
 - Cleveland Clinic
- Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center
- Cleveland Pandemic Response
- Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
 - Cleveland Clinic Clinical Engineering
- Community Partnership on Aging
- Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility
- CWRU Geriatric Dental Program
 - Eliza Bryant
- Emerald Development and Economic Network, Inc.
- Family Promise of Greater Cleveland
 - Friendly Inn Settlement
 - FrontLine Service
- Harvard Community Services Center
- Hospice of the Western Reserve, Inc.
- Indian River Juvenile Correction Facility
- Jewish Family Service Association of Cleveland
- Jewish Federation of Cleveland
 - Joseph's Home
- Lake Health Foundation
 - Lifeworks
- Light of Hearts Villa
- Lissette Quinones Ministries, Inc.
 - Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry
 - Malachi Center
 - May Dugan Center
 - Menorah Park
 - MetroHealth
 - MetroHealth Autism Assessment Clinic
- Milestones Autism Resources
- Monarch Center for Autism
- Monarch Boarding Academy
 - Montefiore Home
 - MyCom
- Neighborhood Connections
- North Coast Community Homes
- Northeast Ohio Coalition of the Homeless
- Northern Ohio Recovery Association
- Ohio Living Home Health and Hospice, Greater Cleveland
- Paragon of Virtue Foundation
 - Peace by Piece Cleveland
 - Police Pictures / Frontline United
- Portage/Geauga Juvenile Detention Facility
- Positive Education Program
 - Ravenwood Health
 - Recovery Resources
 - Research Center for Educational Technology
- Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland, Inc.
 - Salvation Army
- Semach Sedek R.I.A.S. Kosher Food Bank Pantry
- Sewa International
- Shaker Heights, Beachwood Meals on Wheels
- Smart Development, Inc.
- Society of St. Vincent De Paul
- St. Augustine Health Ministries
- St. Herman House - FOCUS Cleveland
- St. Vincent Charity Medical Center
 - Starting Point
 - Stella Marris
 - Stone Soup CLE, Inc.
- The Centers for Families and Children
- The Cleveland Foundation
- United Way of Geauga County
- United Way of Greater Cleveland
 - University Hospitals
- Urban League of Greater Cleveland
- Vocational Guidance Services
 - Village at Marymount
 - Welcome House
 - West Side Catholic Center
 - West Side Community House
 - Wingspan Care Group
 - WomenSafe Inc. (Gauga)
 - YWCA Greater Cleveland



HELPING HANDS

MEDWISH MASTERPIECE

MedWish sent non-medical supplies to local Pandemic Childcare Centers with a challenge to create a MedWish Masterpiece using items from our Alternative Recycling program. The participants were provided expired gauze and syringes, cups, measuring tape, paper rolls, socks, foam, tape and teddy bears, and were asked to use at least one of each item when creating their MedWish Masterpiece. The children did not disappoint! Here are some photos of their thoughtful creations. Thank you to all who participated!



ALTERNATIVE RECYCLING PROGRAM

MedWish is spreading the love with non-medical supplies available in our Alternative Recycling Program. Earlier this month, our friends at **Northeast Ohio Coalition of the Homeless (NEOCH)** received much-needed donations of toilet paper, soap, hand sanitizer and paper towels. **Jewish Family Service Association of Cleveland** also picked up plastic bottles that are being used to distribute hand sanitizer to adults in group homes. We are grateful for the incredible work these organizations are doing to care for vulnerable and at-risk populations across Northeast Ohio.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM UPDATE

Please note that the MedWish Volunteer Program is on hold as we work to identify necessary steps to resume the program safely. Volunteers who have an upcoming scheduled shift will be contacted directly.

MedWish has been working to establish guidelines that limit physical contact and maintain the health and safety of all volunteers, guests and staff. We have taken the following steps, effective May 4th:

- All visitors entering the building will be required to proceed to the sanitation station, and will be required to wear face masks at all times in our facility. Masks and gloves will be provided upon arrival.
- Visitors will be asked to review a Visitor Health Questionnaire to identify potential risks.
- During their time at the warehouse, visitors will be asked to adhere to all posted signage and floor markings. As a health-focused organization, we are working diligently to maintain physical distancing (at least six feet) in accordance with the Ohio Department of Health requirement.

We can't wait to welcome you back to MedWish!



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCEMENT



We are excited to announce that MedWish has selected Alex Massiello as the 2020 Volunteer of the Year. In his first year as a volunteer with MedWish, Alex has contributed more than 350 service hours. With his biomedical engineering experience, Alex has worked tirelessly to organize, refurbish and troubleshoot devices, allowing us to send vital medical equipment to those who need it all over the world.

Alex's dedication to MedWish is evident through his consistent service as well as his initiative to mentor students in the CWRU MedWish program. We are extremely grateful for Alex's hard work, and we would like to extend our sincere thanks and congratulations to him for this notable accomplishment.

You can read more about Alex at: <https://bit.ly/AlexMassiello>

We would also like to thank **Dr. Colin Drummond** for his oversight of the CWRU MedWish program at Case Western Reserve University, as well as the student-leader volunteers who visited and helped make a difference this past year.



MEDWISH MOMENT DELIVERING SUPPLIES TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY



More than 80 social and community service organizations and healthcare institutions throughout Northeast Ohio benefited from MedWish's response to the COVID-19 healthcare emergency and its distribution of essential PPE, including face masks, gloves, gowns, eye shields, respiratory supplies, thermometers and even ventilators.

"MedWish came through with masks, gloves, gowns and other equipment that will help doctors, nurses and other caregivers stop the spread of COVID-19. Without being asked, MedWish made sure the healthcare institutions in Cleveland were even better prepared to provide this life-saving care. We are grateful for their generosity and commitment to our community."

- Dr. Akram Boutros, MetroHealth President & CEO MetroHealth System

"In a critical moment, when precious PPE for first responders, hospitals and long-term care facilities was in very short supply, MedWish International was there for Cuyahoga County. MedWish provided surgical masks, N95 respirators, gloves, surgical gowns and a range of other essential equipment to protect those that protect all of us. We are eternally grateful for their giving spirit."

- Terry Allan, Health Commissioner, Cuyahoga County Board of Health

"This generous donation will help keep our residents and staff safe and help ensure that we are even better prepared during this challenging time. Thank you for your generosity and for your commitment to protecting the health and safety of the older adults, who are among the most vulnerable to COVID-19, and the aging services workers who provide their care."

- Sheryl Sereda, VP of Advancement, Eliza Jennings Devon Oaks Assisted Living Community

MEDWISH SPOTLIGHT

MedWish International Awarded \$70,000 Grant from Greater Cleveland Covid-19 Rapid Response Fund

A coalition of Northeast Ohio philanthropic, corporate and civic partners have joined together to create the Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund, an initiative to deploy resources to nonprofit organizations serving on the front lines of the pandemic in our region.

MedWish International was among the first group of nonprofits to receive a grant from the fund. This funding allowed MedWish to continue to collect and distribute PPE and other in-demand medical supplies for local healthcare institutions, social agencies and front line workers. MedWish gathered the most in-demand items from its inventory, including ventilators, PPE and respiratory supplies, to make them available as quickly as possible upon request.

From WKYC/Channel 3: "MedWish International Protecting Local Health Workers on the Front Lines"

... The need for personal protective equipment, or PPE, for local health workers is great as they battle the coronavirus. One non-profit is helping to answer the call, while trying to overcome the challenges this pandemic has dealt them. ...

"This is a time where we understand, and we see the need locally and we are ready to return the support through our local and domestic giving program," said Carolina Masri, the Executive Director of MedWish International. ...

MedWish is currently sorting about 16 pallets a day. The work is getting done, much to the gratitude of the area's healthcare workers.

"They are just so appreciative, and they are thanking us for allowing them to be even more prepared to fight this pandemic," said Masri.

From Crain's Cleveland Business: "MedWish International Working to Support Local Hospitals"



... Now, as the COVID-19 pandemic puts hospitals and their supply chains under significant stress, MedWish is working to shift its focus to support the local healthcare community.

"We must do everything we can to help our healthcare providers stay safe," MedWish executive director Carolina Masri said in a prepared statement. "This is the work we do every day, but typically the

need for these items is in remote villages around the world, where medical care is perpetually in short supply. We are grateful that we are in a position during this historic crisis to help the institutions here in Northeast Ohio that have shared their surplus with us over the last two and a half decades."

OUR CHAMPIONS

KENT STATE 3D PRINTING PROJECT



For several weeks, an interdisciplinary team of Kent State University faculty, staff and students have been busy designing, 3D-printing, laser cutting, sewing and testing various forms of face shields and masks. MedWish is proud to be a distribution partner for this project.

To date, MedWish has received approximately 1,600 face shields produced by this innovative team. Of these, the following have already been distributed to workers on the front lines of the pandemic:

- 100 face shields to Case Western Reserve Geriatric Mobile Dental Unit
- 25 face shields to Police Pictures
- 100 face shields to Care Alliance
- 25 face shields to Wingspan Care Group

Read more about the project here: <https://bit.ly/3aipxgc>

Photos by J.R. Campbell

SPECIAL EVENTS

MEDWISH MILES 2020

MedWish International launched a virtual "race" to raise funds in support of the organization's mission to bring critical medical supplies and equipment to those in need. The socially distanced fundraiser honors the front line workers serving amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

During the weekend of May 29-31, runners, walkers and riders complete a one-mile, 5K, 10K or half-marathon experience anywhere they choose. Participants, fundraising individually or as a team, could dedicate their fundraising efforts to a front-line worker of their choosing.

Visit medwish.org to learn more about MedWish's Covid-19 relief efforts.



LIVE-STREAMED MUSIC FOR MEDWISH RAISED MORE THAN \$11,000

MUSIC FOR MEDWISH

In April, MedWish International hosted Music for Medwish, a LIVE-STREAMED event that featured some of Broadway's top artists performing from their own homes to benefit MedWish's work in support of healthcare workers at the front lines of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Shaker Heights-native and Broadway performer Betsy Werbel produced this free, live-streamed event, which featured music and storytelling by

Justin Guarini, Desi Oakley, Lisa Howard, Jason Graae, Caroline Bowman, Danny Quadrino, Joan Almedilla and Austin Colby. The event raised over \$11,000 toward MedWish's life-saving mission. Thank you to all who attended the virtual event!



HEALTHCARE HEROES

Healthcare Heroes cannot stay home with their loved ones. They cannot stay six feet away from their patients. At the front lines of this crisis, they put themselves at risk during every single shift. They respond to these enormous challenges with courage, determination and professionalism. For this, we thank them - today and every day.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE FROM A DISTANCE



\$50

PROVIDES MORE THAN 1,250 SURGICAL MASKS TO HOSPITALS AND CLINICS



\$100

COVERS A CASE OF GLOVES FOR CAREGIVERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS



\$250

SUPPLIES HEALTHCARE WORKERS WITH 550 ISOLATION GOWNS



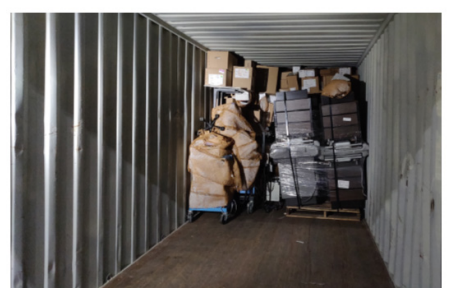
\$500

DELIVERS ONE PALLET OF LIFESAVING RESPIRATORY SUPPLIES



\$1,000

DELIVERS TWO PALLET OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES



\$2,500

COVERS 1/2 THE COST OF A 20 FT CONTAINER OF SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT

The above are representative services and supplies that are part of the different programs we offer. The cost of each item or service is an approximation and will vary based on actual costs incurred and needed. Your donation will be used for the general operating needs of MedWish International.

HOW TO DONATE:

Your financial contribution will help us continue the work of supporting the local and global medical community during this unprecedented health emergency and beyond. You can help us raise these critical dollars by donating TODAY!

In an effort to save critical dollars and conserve resources during this challenging time, MedWish has discontinued its practice of providing return envelopes for donations. Thank you for your understanding and support.

MedWish is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization and your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please keep your donation receipt for your tax record.

ONLINE: www.medwish.org/donate

TEXT: Text "MEDWISH" to 243725

PHONE: (216) 692-1685 x 11

MAIL: Please mail your check, made payable to MedWish, to 1625 E. 31st St., Cleveland, OH 44114.



MedWish International

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