

# MEDWISH

REPURPOSE. SAVE LIVES.

## SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER

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## MedWish Brigade: FIRST TIME IN AFRICA



This past February, a group of doctors, nurses and volunteers participated in the first MedWish Medical Brigade to Kenya.

This Brigade provided supplies and medical care to more than 450 people living in the Maasai Mara National Reserve. Back pain, eye problems, allergies and headaches along with more serious afflictions like Tuberculosis, Malaria, stroke and wounds were some of the symptoms and diseases found and treated during the clinic days.

Stay tuned for stories from our Honduras Brigade (June 26-July 2, 2018) Thank you to all of our humanitarian ambassadors of MedWish International!

## Operations Update

The first quarter was busy at Medwish. We are settled into our new world headquarters and our drivers are out in the community picking up donated supplies daily. These supplies are sorted, processed, and readied for shipment by our wonderful volunteers. So far, in 2018 we've served the following countries: Cameroon, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Lebanon, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo, Uganda, Ukraine, Venezuela and Vietnam.

**172,386**  
Pounds Diverted  
from Landfills



**80,641**  
Pounds  
Shipped



# MISSION MOMENTS

Brayam is a young boy from Venezuela with severe health needs. Although it is extremely difficult to secure transport of supplies into Venezuela, MedWish has established a connection with a group that has managed to get small boxes of supplies into the country. In the photo to the left, there is a suction machine located behind Brayam that was in the MedWish warehouse just a few months ago. With the addition of this new equipment, Brayam can now go home from the hospital to be with his family as his mother can now care for him at home.

## TWO NEW PROGRAMS

In celebration of MedWish's 25th anniversary, its board of directors has approved two new programs:

- 1. Domestic Aid Program:** This is a pilot program that will provide durable medical equipment to the local community. YES! MedWish will work in collaboration with local agencies in order to fulfill the needs of people in Cleveland.
- 2. Disaster Relief Program:** This program will allow MedWish to respond to the needs resulting from the devastation created by natural disasters. MedWish will deploy specialized volunteers that will help make an assessment of needed medical supplies in the affected areas, which will in turn be sent from MedWish's World Headquarters.

More details about these new programs will be shared in the next few months. For more information, please contact our Executive Director, Carolina Masri at [cmasri@medwish.org](mailto:cmasri@medwish.org) or via phone at 216.692.1685 x11.



## ORGANIZATIONAL FUND PARTNERSHIP

MedWish International was recognized during the Cleveland Foundation's "Organizational Fund Partner Appreciation Week" during April 30 - May 4.

Each day, as MedWish International fulfills its mission, dollars designated for our long-term needs are growing quietly in a fund that helps secure our future.

With the generosity of donors and the foresight of our board and leadership team, the MedWish International Fund was established with the Cleveland Foundation to help strengthen our long-term financial stability by augmenting external funding sources. With oversight from our board, the Cleveland Foundation stewards our fund and ensures that each dollar multiplies over time to generate revenues earmarked for MedWish International. The fund also provides peace of mind for our donors who recognize that MedWish and the majority of our programs operate with the goal of sustainability.

If you're interested in supporting our mission, please consider making a contribution to the MedWish International Fund. All gifts to our fund are tax deductible and the Cleveland Foundation will provide your tax receipt.

For more information, contact the Foundation's Advancement team at 877-554-5054. For additional information on other funds that could support MedWish and its mission, please contact us at [info@medwish.org](mailto:info@medwish.org)



## DEDICATE A BRICK



Last July, MedWish International closed on the purchase of their new headquarters at the corner of East 31st Street and Payne Avenue. With a permanent headquarters, MedWish is securing the future of its operations with a space that is dedicated and supportive of its mission.

This new space allows for dedicated volunteer, staff and shipping / receiving areas – a place we can invite our donors and supporters to visit so they can see first-hand the daily operations and understand the impact MedWish has locally as well as globally.

We invite you to strengthen our new home with the purchase of an honorarium tile to be displayed at our new headquarters. Create a permanent legacy in support of MedWish with your donation of \$500. A double impact during the July Match Campaign.

# VOLUNTEER TEAM NEWS

MedWish would like to highlight our Skill Building Volunteer Program. Last year, 16 community agencies partnered with us as part of this program. Our Skill Building Program is structured to offer opportunities to those with special needs who can benefit from off-site, structured activities to enhance fine motor skills, social skills, and vocational training skills.

We absolutely adore all of our Skill Building students, participants, group leaders and administrators! Their continued support is greatly appreciated as we strive to get one step closer to a society where those with special needs are truly valued for their unique talents and gifts.

One of these amazing groups visits from the Solon High School Vocational Program, and helps to sort some of our expired kits to collect supplies for our Alternative Recycling Program and divert usable items from landfills. They make a huge impact while they visit and we are so very grateful to have them each week during the school year!

THANK YOU to all of our Skill Building Groups who help to support our mission!

**MEDWISH**  
★★★

## GLOBAL PALLET

AN INTERNATIONAL FOODIE EXPERIENCE

EXPERIENCE AN EVENING OF MUSIC, FOOD, AND CULTURE FROM COUNTRIES THAT BENEFIT FROM MEDWISH'S HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS. IN THIS NEW CASUAL AND FUN EVENT.

**Tickets \$50**  
(Tasting + 2 drink tickets)

**SILENT AUCTION**

**Friday, August 10, 2018**  
**6:30—9:30 p.m.**

MedWish International World Headquarters  
1625 East 81st Street - Cleveland, OH 44114

RSVP by Friday, August 3rd  
[www.medwish.org/foodie](http://www.medwish.org/foodie) - (216)692-1685x44

★★★  
#FromCLEtoTheWorld

**CHINA**  
Li Wah

**MEXICAN**  
Momocho

**MIDDLE EASTERN**  
Mate's Deli and Restaurant

**PHILIPPINES**  
Mel's Kainan (APPO)

**UKRAINE**  
Brook of Hope

**VIETNAM**  
Superior Pho

**DESSERT**  
Peace, Love and Little Donuts

**BEER AND WINE**  
Heidelberg Distributing Co.



## UPDATES FROM THE TEAM

### CONGRATULATIONS BRITTA LATZ

*Associate Executive Director*

Britta Latz joined the MedWish team in November 2015 as the Director of Business Operations. In March 2018, she transitioned into the role of Associate Executive Director. In this role, Britta oversees business operations, including finances and human resources. She also works with the MedWish team on the internal operations of the MedWish warehouse.

### CONGRATULATIONS JENNIFER HESS

*Humanitarian Aid Program Manager*

Jen started her time at MedWish as the Inventory Specialist. In April she moved into her new role as the Humanitarian Aid Program Manager working on MedWish's shipments and programs. Jen works frequently within all parts of our supply chain; helping collect products for both standing and incoming applications, processing those shipments for international delivery, and preparing supplies for Medical Brigades. She also works closely with the alternative recycling and reprocessing associates to maximize MedWish's environmental impact.

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW ADDITIONS

Rondal Hightower joined the MedWish staff in May as the Inventory & Humanitarian Aid Associate. Daniel Cook joined in June with a dual role of Reprocessing & Sorting Associate and Administrative Assistant.

## MEDWISH

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

SEPTEMBER 25: Happy Hour at Platform Beer Co.

OCTOBER 31: MedWitches Halloween Sip & Sort

Join the YPG Today!

[www.medwish.org/ypg](http://www.medwish.org/ypg)

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS



MedWish 25th  
Anniversary Gala  
**October 27**

**MEDWISH**  
REPURPOSE. SAVE LIVES.

1625 E. 31st Street  
Cleveland, OH 44114

## CONNECT WITH US



## *Dear Friends,*

On behalf of the MedWish International team we invite you to celebrate with us! July marks the one-year anniversary of our move to our new home in Midtown and we are excited to bring our newsletter back to you. So many wonderful things have been happening lately and we cannot wait to share all of our plans and accomplishments throughout this very important 25th year.



We have an amazing community and an inspiring, lifesaving mission, the perfect combination to make the world a better place. We hope you **MAKE YOUR MARK**, and stand with us as we support millions of people who are in need all over the globe.

Thank you for your constant support,  
The MedWish Team