

MEDWISH

REPURPOSE. SAVE LIVES.

2019 YEAR-END NEWS

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.



**PROVIDING
MORE THAN
MEDICAL SUPPLIES**

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Listed as of December 3, 2019. To see a full staff list, visit www.medwish.org

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

As we reflect on MedWish International's successes in 2019, we are moved by the support and generosity of committed stakeholders like you who have made our accomplishments possible. This holiday newsletter highlighting some of the year's accomplishments will provide you with a glimpse of what has been possible because of your support.

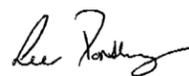
Whether your contribution was in the form of volunteered time or donated funds, you helped MedWish fulfill its mission to save lives and protect the planet. With your support, so far in 2019 we were able to divert 365,000 lbs. of donated medical supplies and equipment from landfills, and ship 185,000 lbs. of vital supplies and equipment to those who need it most.

Your generosity meant that MedWish was able to help save lives, such as patients treated in a clinic in Lesotho (an enclaved country within the border of South Africa) that is now equipped with essential medical supplies. It also meant we could change lives, like that of the child from Jamaica, who can now sit upright after receiving a wheelchair from MedWish.

If you are inspired by the work of MedWish, we hope you will continue to support our mission in 2020. Whether that support comes through volunteering in the warehouse, participation in a medical brigade, or a gift in the form of a corporate/individual donation or through a donor-advised fund, we are grateful.

As you read about our amazing year, we want you to know how much your generosity means to our recipients around the world.

With much appreciation, and on behalf of the MedWish family,



Lee Ponsky, MD
MedWish Founder
and Board President



Carolina Masri
Executive Director

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL



If you are associated with a local or domestic social agency or foundation making a request on behalf of a recipient, please contact us at domesticaid@medwish.org.

[Picture Above] Pammy McCarthy lost her home and her wheelchair in one of the horrible wildfires that went through the state of California. With the help of the KK Free Spirit Fund, a fund created by Lori and Joe Patterson to honor their daughter Kayla, MedWish was able to help Pammy by sending her a new wheelchair.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT HOME

There is no question that the work MedWish International does throughout the year makes the world a better place, but the need for humanitarian services is not isolated to developing countries. This is a reality for many people in the U.S. too, including right in our own backyard.

MedWish's Local & Domestic Giving Pilot Program was developed to meet this need, and in 2019 the program was extended beyond its pilot status in order to reach the needs of thousands within our own community and domestically.

Dr. David Rosenberg was recently appointed the Chair of the Local and Domestic Giving Program. He believes that MedWish's mission and unwavering efforts truly make the world a better place, across the globe, in the U.S., and right here at home. He aims to grow and expand this Program, so it can be replicated in cities throughout the country.

OUR INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

As we get ready to close our fiscal year, we are pleased to announce that in 2019 we've sent over 140 shipments to 38 countries: Armenia, Bahamas, Benin, Bolivia, Cambodia, Chad, Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Mauritania, Mexico, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Somalia, St. Vincent & The Grenadines, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Ukraine, Venezuela and Vietnam.

Also, in September, MedWish was part of the humanitarian assistance efforts sent to the Hurricane Dorian victims in the Bahamas. With community support, we collected over 3,000 lbs. of much needed supplies.

Special thanks to all the NEO healthcare institutions and individuals who donated supplies and equipment throughout the year, and to the thousands of volunteers who helped us sort, process, and pack the shipments.



365,000
Pounds Diverted
from Landfills



185,000
Pounds
Shipped



IMPACTFUL INVOLVEMENT

MEDWISH MANUFACTURER PARTNERSHIPS

MedWish is honored to have been selected as a charity partner of Cardinal Health At-Home Solutions. This collaboration will include employee volunteering and delivery of medical supplies and equipment to under-served communities.



MedWish is also pleased to welcome our newest manufacturer partner, Owens & Minor. A global leader in healthcare services, Owens & Minor's business aligns with MedWish's mission to connect surplus medical supplies to areas of high need around the world. MedWish Champion, Jim Christensen, and his team at Owens & Minor's Cleveland distribution center have donated more than 580 pounds of supplies. We greatly appreciate their generosity.

CHAMPION APPRECIATION SOCIAL

MedWish is thankful for our amazing champions!

These individuals take time to spread awareness and lead collection efforts at more than 120 partner organizations. In November, we took a moment to celebrate these champions at a wine and cheese social event at our world headquarters. What a great time we had!



JOIN OUR MEDICAL BRIGADES PROGRAM

Whether you are a lay volunteer, a medical student or healthcare working professional, we need you!

Kenya

June 16 to 27, 2020

Honduras

July 8 to 13, 2020

Dominican Republic

July 31 to Aug. 5, 2020

To learn more about our 2020 Brigades, please contact Britta Latz at blatz@medwish.org



Consider including the life-changing experience of a MedWish Medical Brigade on your holiday gift list this year!

To help you fund your trip, MedWish has launched an online giving campaign and fundraising toolkit. On the fundraising site, you can create a profile and set a goal, so your family and friends can donate directly to your trip fund. What better way to celebrate the season of giving?

To create your own fundraising profile and receive the toolkit, email blatz@medwish.org.



The 2019 MedWish Gala

Our 2019 Gala was a celebration of the compassion and generosity of MedWish's dedicated supporters and sponsors.

More than 350 guests joined us for an inspiring evening at The Madison in Cleveland last September. With the support and presence of more than 100 host committee members, we raised more than \$261,000 for MedWish International's mission to save lives and preserve the environment.

Because of the supporters and sponsors who believe in our important work, we are able to help millions of men, women and children in need throughout the world.

The event Co-Chairs were Mrs. Susan Ratner and Mrs. Karry Carrasco. The evening included the presentation of MedWish's 2019 Humanitarian Award, presented in memory of Dr. Carmencita Damian and the 2019 Kayla N. Schwartz Award to Arabella Baer. During the celebration we also recognized the Chair of our Local Giving Program, Dr. David Rosenberg and his wife Mrs. Enid Rosenberg.

CHEERS MEDWISH!

Save the date for the 2020 Gala on Friday, October 9th.



MISSION MOMENT

CHANGING LIVES, ONE WHEELCHAIR AT A TIME

Desmond is a 10-year-old boy who lives at Westhaven Home for Disabled Children in Jamaica, which is located 30 miles from Montego Bay in Copse, Jamaica. Like many of the 90 orphans living there, Desmond has cerebral palsy and needs a pediatric reclining wheelchair. Unfortunately, Westhaven only has one wheelchair for every four children who need one. That means Desmond and many others must stay in their beds all day.

Esmine was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes as a teenager. Unfortunately, she lost both legs as a result of her disease. Esmine has lived at Sweet Harmony Nursing Home in Mount Salem, Montego Bay for the past two years, and because the nursing home does not provide wheelchairs for its residents, she has been bedbound for the past 19 months.

Now both Desmond and Esmine are out of their beds with the assistance of wheelchairs provided by MedWish.

Desmond is able to join in recreation and social activities. He loves to sit outside to greet volunteers and sing along with them. With the use of his wheelchair, he has gained a new favorite activity: visiting the hens and pigs at the children's home.

Since she received her wheelchair, Esmine has been in the courtyard every day. She is especially grateful that she is now able to join her fellow residents for meals and worship.

Some may see wheelchairs as medical equipment. But in Jamaica, as in other underserved areas of the world, wheelchairs are life-changing gifts. They offer a chance to talk, laugh or share a meal with other people. They provide opportunities for their users to be outside and feel sunshine on their skin.

For Desmond, Esmine and many more like them, wheelchairs provided by MedWish represent more than mobility; they represent joy, friendship, independence and dignity.



GIVING BACK WITH LOVE

OUR SPECIAL NEEDS VOCATIONAL PROGRAM



Kendal volunteered with MedWish for almost two years when she was a student in the Solon High School Vocational Program. While at MedWish, Kendal sorted expired medical supplies that would either become available to MedWish's international recipients through our Humanitarian Aid Program, or MedWish's local recipients through our Alternative Recycling

Program. During an interview with Cheryl Massey, Job Training Coordinator at Solon High School Vocational Program, Cheryl indicated that MedWish's Skill Building Program had helped Kendal, along with other participants, in many ways. This program allowed Kendal to gain skills and grow in areas such as sorting, being detailed oriented, staying on task, and completing a task in a given amount of time.

While at MedWish, Kendal also had the opportunity to interact with new people and ask questions about things she didn't know. These are two simple actions that were challenging for her in the past. "[Kendal] loves coming to MedWish, and if she could come to MedWish every day, I think she would," Cheryl said. She went on further to express that MedWish is a great place for people of all abilities to be able to take pride in their work and to see a result from what they've done. "MedWish has been an excellent partner, providing an environment where everyone can actually feel that they can contribute."

Last January, Kendal was placed as a formal employee at Marshalls. In her new associate role, she works in the backroom where she helps unpack boxes, sort clothing, and lay the merchandise out for display on the floor. Kendal exited Solon High School Vocational Program in June, and the team at MedWish certainly misses seeing Kendal, but we wish her all the best!



VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

We aren't sure what we would do without Alex. A recently retired clinical engineer, he was seeking opportunities to become involved in the community when he found MedWish International.

With his professional knowledge and skill set, Alex has streamlined and strengthened our Biomed Program. He works to diagnose, maintain and ensure proper function of machines and devices, but he also tracks down user manuals and handbooks to send along with this life-saving equipment when it is shipped.

During his nearly 300 hours of volunteer work, Alex has made significant improvements in how we inventory and catalog our biomedical devices. He works closely with students from Case Western Reserve University and educates them on troubleshooting, testing and maintenance.

With Alex's hard work and dedication, we have been able to send roughly 75 biomedical machines to people in need throughout the world. We are grateful for his time, efforts and expertise. Thank you Alex!

Helps us pack, ship and distribute 4 boxes of examination gloves.

\$25



\$50

Helps us put two stethoscopes in the hands of doctors and nurses in countries in need.

Covers nearly \$1,600 worth of medical supplies. Every dollar sends \$16 worth of medical supplies.

\$100



\$250

Helps us cover the shipping of 12 vital sign monitors.

Covers 8 duffel bags of medical supplies for a 2-day clinic in a remote village.

\$500



\$1,000

Covers the handling fee of 4 infant incubators to stock a rural medical clinic.

MEDWISH

GET INVOLVED!

VOLUNTEER

BECOME A COMMITTEE MEMBER

PARTICIPATE IN A MEDICAL BRIGADE



TOO MANY REASONS TO CELEBRATE!

MUSIC FOR MEDWISH RAISES OVER \$100,000 IN 2019!

In 2019, this unique engagement that features Betsy Werbel, direct from the Broadway stage in New York City, raised over \$100,000 to support MedWish's humanitarian efforts. In the past 12 months we've had over 12 performances in New York, D.C., California, Colorado, New Jersey, Illinois, and Ohio .



At the events, which take place in the beautiful homes of generous hosts, Betsy is joined by some of her Broadway and national touring company friends from *Wicked*, *Les Miserables*, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, *The Band's Visit*, *Frozen*, *The King & I*, *Waitress*, *Chicago*, and many more.

If you are interested in hosting a Music for MedWish event, please contact us at music@medwish.org.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

This past April, our founder Dr. Lee Ponsky received BBB's Champion of Integrity award. The Better Business Bureau serving Greater Cleveland presented its Champion of Integrity award to Dr. Lee Ponsky at its annual Celebration of Integrity event. BBB President Sue McConnell said Ponsky "embodies the principles and actions that are at the core of the BBB Champion of Integrity recognition. We are proud to add him to the list of recipients whose contributions to our community are immeasurable."

In August 2019, MedWish's Executive Director, Carolina Masri, was recognized in Crain's as one of Cleveland's Notable Women in Nonprofits. Carolina has been a transformative leader for MedWish over the last four years, and we are proud to have her receive this well deserved accolade! "Carolina works tirelessly to push MedWish to the next level and achieve the ambitious goals we wish to accomplish," said MedWish founder and board president Lee Ponsky.

