Dear MAP Supporters,

I want to start 2018 off by expressing my deep gratitude for putting the people we serve first in your heart.

Because of your compassion ‘for the least of these,’ MAP International was able to serve more people in 2017 than ever in one year. This means more people received life-changing medicines because of you. Here are a few highlights:

- MAP International served the needs of more than 14 million people in 2017. About 10.8 million people received medicines and health supplies from MAP’s global distribution center. MAP International’s field offices in Africa and Latin America served another 3.4 million people living in impoverished communities in four countries.

- For victims of hurricanes last fall, MAP International supplied critically-needed antibiotics, bronchodilators, hypertension medicines, analgesic medicine, and hygiene items such as antiseptic wipes, soap for hand-washing and other basic disease prevention measures. More than 300,000 people were helped during this extremely difficult time.

- MAP International also provided relief for people fleeing violence in Syria, those trapped by the famine in East Africa, and victims of earthquakes and flooding in Guatemala, Mexico, and Sierra Leone respectively.

Because you made it possible for us to help so many, 2017 was an inspiring year for all of us at MAP International.

Also, because of your generous support, we are well-positioned to do more in 2018. Thank you for contributing to our $100,000 ‘Double Your Gift’ campaign in December. I cannot thank you enough for helping us achieve this extraordinary goal. Like you, I know the ‘cheerful giver’ who put forth this matching gift challenge will be thrilled to know how successful we were in this campaign.

On behalf of the MAP International board of directors and staff, I hope you experience an abundance of blessings in the new year. Please continue to pray for those we serve and that more will open their hearts to compassion in 2018.

With deep gratitude,

Steve Stirling
President & CEO
The Dangers of Counterfeit Medicine

Imagine your child is sick but the closest clinic is days away. That is the unfortunate situation for many people in developing countries. So when illness strikes they often turn to nearby traditional healers or unregulated “pharmacies” where medicines are dispensed.

Without the scrutiny of an organization like the FDA, or the infrastructure of regulated pharmacies, many countries have little control over medication sold on the street, over the internet, or even in so-called pharmacies. As a result, the “medicine” is often useless powder or worse, a compound that is watered down or inappropriate to the illness.

According to a recent study by the World Health Organization (WHO), “Falsified medical products may contain no active ingredient, the wrong active ingredient or the wrong amount of the correct active ingredient. They are also found to commonly contain corn starch, potato starch or chalk.”

Even worse, they may be “…produced in very poor and unhygienic conditions by unqualified personnel, and contain unknown impurities and are sometimes contaminated with bacteria.”

As a result, too many people in resource-poor countries are using medicine that is useless or even toxic to treat illness.

According to an NPR report, “Two hundred people died in Pakistan after taking a contaminated heart medication in 2011… more than a thousand people were hospitalized in the Democratic Republic of Congo after taking a fake drug in 2014 and 2015. It turned out to contain an antipsychotic used to treat schizophrenia.”

“One of the most important aspects of MAP’s work is delivering high quality, effective medicines to people in need,” said Steve Stirling, MAP’s President and CEO. “The medicine we provide can be trusted to treat illness effectively. It’s something we may take for granted in this country, but that is not the case in many countries.”

MAP’s own high standards have made it a leader in helping provide guidelines for other groups working in the developing world. As a founding member of the Partnership for Quality Medical Donations (PQMD), MAP shares more than six decades of experience in providing high quality medicines to those in need.

“Doctors often tell us they are so grateful that they can trust the medicine provided by MAP to truly help those in need,” said Stirling. “Thanks to our donors, pharmaceutical partners and partners on the ground, medicines coming from MAP are trusted around the world.”

“When I give a patient medicines from MAP International, I know they will work. I trust them to do what the medicine is intended to do,” said Dr. Michael Danger (pronounced ‘Don-Jay’), a physician who works with MAP partners in Haiti.
A Medical Mission Legacy

Drs. Naomi and Charles “Leslie” Archer were medical missionaries who did extraordinary work in Ecuador, then Panama, and later back in the United States. During their mission years they both served people in need while raising four children.

According to their son, Steven, also a physician, “They had long and fruitful careers. Their involvement in missions never wavered. Next to the dinner table was a bulletin board with the pictures of all the missionaries they personally supported financially and with prayer.”

Both known for their strong faith, Dr. Leslie Archer said, “I believe that a doctor must bring the patients, whose body he is healing, to the only Physician who can heal them spiritually.”

According to Dr. Steven Archer, his parents had a “deep and abiding love for MAP.”

After they both passed away in their nineties, their medical legacy continued through a generous bequest to MAP.

“We are so honored that these dear servants of God, who gave their lives to healing, would be so generous to MAP,” said Steve Stirling, MAP’s President and CEO. “Through their bequest, many more will receive medicine to bring them physical health. And we know that their spiritual legacy will live on as well through others who continue in medical missions.”

How To Leave Your Legacy

To learn more about including MAP in your will, go to www.map.org/legacy.

Dr. Naomi Archer provides pediatric care to children at the HCJB Hospital in Ecuador in 1954.

HOW TO MAKE ONE OF AMERICA’S TOP CHARITIES EVEN BETTER

For a growing number of donors, giving to MAP monthly makes the most sense for them and MAP. Wonder why? Here are just some of the reasons:

1. Monthly donations can be automatically paid from your checking account or charged to your credit card.

2. Monthly donations allow MAP to plan ahead, knowing that your gift is coming on a regular basis.

3. Monthly donors receive special updates from MAP but no longer receive monthly mailings. This helps us save in postage and mailing costs.

4. Monthly donations spread an annual gift over a greater period of time, making it easier to budget giving throughout the year.

5. Becoming a monthly donor is easy. Just go to www.map.org/monthly or call Lauren at (470) 275-6049.
Stories of Hope - Meet Carlos

Carlos is a 43-year-old bus driver with a big heart and steadfast faith. He prides himself on helping others and routinely drives people from his small village in rural El Salvador to a local clinic three hours away in Texacuangos. The drive on uneven roads and broken pavement is long but fulfilling.

For many weeks, Carlos suffered through the discomfort of driving with a hernia. His pain grew progressively worse. With his livelihood at stake, Carlos wondered how much more he could endure. As the breadwinner for his family, he feared the devastating result this would have for those who depended on him.

Knowing that his options were few, Carlos turned to God. Carlos prayed for his hernia to be healed. He kept faith. Recently, his prayers were answered in the form of a medical mission team carrying sutures, medicines and other supplies provided by MAP International.

In the peak of pain, Carlos drove his village neighbors to the clinic. As they exited the bus, Carlos saw the buzz of activity with the medical mission team. He parked the bus and hesitantly approached a physician standing inside of the remote clinic. Carlos shared his story and humbly asked, if he too could be evaluated for surgery. A proud man, Carlos felt odd asking for help.

After a brief examination, the surgeons on the team agreed to operate. They scheduled his surgery. Elated, Carlos drove his fellow villagers the three hours back home that evening, knowing in two days he could return for himself.

Carlos’ surgery and the many others performed that week were successes. These were prayed for miracles giving hope for people who share their hearts and livelihoods with others.

Nurses Jenny O’Neill and Betty Moriarity in recovery room with Carlos following a successful surgery.

MAP Receives Another Perfect Score

A commitment to accountability and transparency has earned Charity Navigator’s perfect score of “100” and its fifth consecutive four-star rating.

“Charity Navigator is a trusted source used by donors who want to ensure their gifts are being used as efficiently as possible,” said Steve Stirling, President and CEO. “We wholeheartedly welcome this review and we are honored to receive their highest rating,” Mr. Stirling said.

Each year, Charity Navigator evaluates the financial health, accountability and transparency of more than 8,000 of the largest non-profit organizations in the United States.