

# medicine for the World

Our mission: To provide medicines and health supplies to those in need around the world so they might experience life to the fullest. Spring 2020 | Volume 48

## Thanks To You, When Disasters Strike, MAP Is Ready!

When disasters hit, MAP mobilizes quickly, knowing that every minute counts in the race to save lives and stop suffering. MAP has responded to back-to-back emergencies in a number of countries, rushing life-changing—and in many cases lifesaving—essential medicines and critically needed relief supplies to treat the injured, care for the sick, and prevent the spread of disease. Here are just a few of the relief efforts you have helped support this year alone:

**Hurricane Dorian:** When Hurricane Dorian—one of the most destructive storms in recorded history—hit the Bahamas in September 2019, MAP responded quickly with clean water filters and 14,000 Disaster Health Kits (DHKs). Even now, more than six months later, MAP continues to be involved, shipping seven pallets of medicines and recovery supplies to areas still struggling with the devastation.



**Coronavirus:** In addition to monitoring the spread of coronavirus in the United States since January, MAP airlifted more than 3,000,000 masks, 300,000 pairs of nitrile gloves and more than 10,000 protective suits to our partners serving communities impacted by the coronavirus in China and several other countries to try and stop the spread of the virus shortly after it surfaced.

**Philippines:** Following two typhoons, an earthquake and volcanic activity that rocked the Philippines, MAP

responded with thousands of DHKs, medical supplies and personal protective equipment, serving the needs of up to 1.6 million people.



**Puerto Rico:** After a major earthquake and a string of aftershocks hit Puerto Rico in early January 2020, MAP responded quickly by sending personal protective equipment and more than 8,000 DHKs to first responders and people affected by the disaster.

*"We are grateful to MAP for the help we have received for all the families affected by the earthquake. The mosquito nets, filters and medicines we received for families still living in tents were a good help. God bless you." — Father Enrique Camacho, the head of Caritas (Catholic Charities) for Puerto Rico.*

To learn more about MAP International's Disaster Relief efforts and how you can help, please visit [map.org/disasters](http://map.org/disasters). +

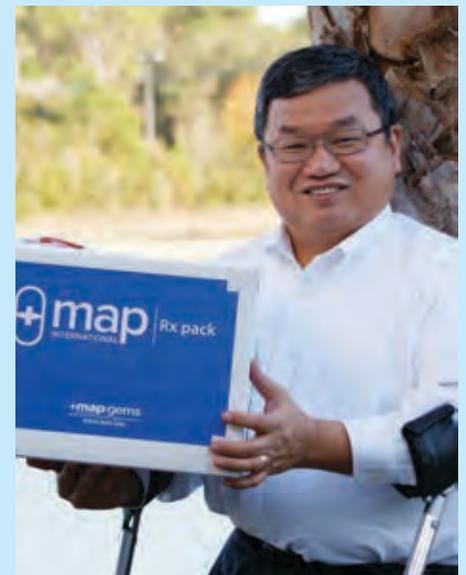
### A special message from MAP President and CEO, Steve Stirling on COVID-19

As of March 16, more than 117 countries are reporting confirmed cases of COVID-19 (coronavirus), including the United States.

MAP International is continuing our critical operations to serve those most in need of medicine and health supplies.

While many businesses have been affected by this pandemic, MAP's medicine shipments will continue as planned.

We will continue to assess the needs of our partners here in the United States and those abroad as they respond to the coronavirus, and we will keep you and your family in our thoughts and prayers. God bless you.



# “Medications...Straight From God!”

It had already been a long day for 13-year-old Jaica...and it was about to get much longer.

By the time she came home from school that fateful day, the sun was already setting. Unlike other kids, Jaica didn't mind staying late at school, as she loved learning. Tired from the long walk home, she decided to take a bath.

In the desperately poor area in Haiti where Jaica lives, taking a bath doesn't mean turning on a faucet. It means starting a fire and heating some water.

So, she started a fire and filled an old metal pot with water. But soon

after the water began to heat up, Jaica thought she heard someone calling her name. Quickly, she jumped up...and in the process knocked over a large pot of boiling water.

The agony of the 2nd and 3rd degree burns she received on her upper thigh must have been indescribable.

Her burns would require emergency treatment...but how could her parents even begin to afford medical care and medicines? Her father had been a driver, but when political violence broke out — and vehicles were being hijacked at gunpoint and their drivers killed — he was no longer able to find work. Her mother tried selling items in the street, but it was very difficult.

Jaica's mother rushed her to a clinic at Love A Child's Jesus Healing Center. Thanks to a quick-acting clinical staff and life-changing medicines provided by MAP International, Jaica was treated for her burns right away.

“The medications made her feel so much better,” said Jaica's mother. “They came straight from God.”

“Thank you, everyone at MAP, for all your hard work acquiring these wonderful medicines, packing them, and getting them to partners in poor countries like Haiti,” said Bobby and Sherry Burnette, founders of Love a Child. “We can see the great results for Jaica from the time she was burned until now...and, yes, it looks like the medication came straight from God!” +





## Gratitude In Guatemala

Fixing a child's cleft lip or palate...or re-setting broken limbs that never healed properly...

In the United States, these would be considered minor operations, but in the highlands of Guatemala, they are life-altering and simply beyond reach for most people.

So, when an all-volunteer team of 93 healthcare and logistics professionals from the non-profit Health for Humanity (H4H) set up shop at the Obras Sociales del S. Hermano Pedro Hospital in Antigua, Guatemala, it must have seemed like a godsend.

When that team performed more than 350 surgical procedures—everything from fixing cleft palates to complicated orthopedic work to routine urological and gynecological surgeries—there were tears of gratitude.

"MAP's donation of sutures and endoscopic instruments constitutes an essential component of what H4H needs to provide life-changing surgical service to those in Guatemala with the greatest needs," says Joe Delvicario, MD, and president of H4H.

The group is already planning their next Guatemala trip in November 2020. "We hope that we will have MAP's support again," says Delvicario.

Would you consider a generous gift today to help equip doctors like Dr. Delvicario with the medicine and supplies they need to serve those in need? +

## For The Gustavsens, Helping Others Runs In The Family!

When MAP Board member Ken Gustavsen's wife Claudia was looking for a community involvement project for the Kids Mission club she leads at their church, Ken suggested packing Disaster Health Kits (DHKs) for MAP International.

"I knew about the Disaster Health Kits not only from serving on the Board of MAP for six years, but from my prior work with a Christian organization," says Ken. "I also ran a corporate DHK packing event at Merck, where I work, and employees really connected with it."



Ken's idea resonated with Claudia and eleven-year-old Nina, the Gustavsens' daughter. "We thought it was something that the kids might enjoy, and we could talk to them about the people the kits would help," says Claudia.

The Gustavsens were galvanized into action and word quickly spread at their church. "Pretty soon, we had kids from other clubs in the church volunteering to help us," says Claudia.

Containing a toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo and other personal hygiene items, the DHKs are distributed to individuals and families who have been displaced from their homes or lost everything due to natural disasters or armed conflicts.

"It made me feel good to know we were going to be getting people something they needed," says Nina. When Nina is older, she would like to go on a mission trip and see for herself the difference efforts like hers make for some of the world's poorest people. +

# “God Placed Angels Around Elina”

When sixteen-year-old Elina came into the medical mission at the Caserío Las Casitas de Turen, Portuguesa State in Venezuela, the pediatrician was shocked.

Elina weighed just 57lbs and stood at a height of 4'3".

Seeing her condition, the team immediately had Elina transported to the Central Hospital Casal Ramos in Acarigua, Venezuela. It was quickly determined that she was suffering from uncontrolled Type 1 Diabetes and chronic malnutrition, and needed diabetic supplies and supplements.

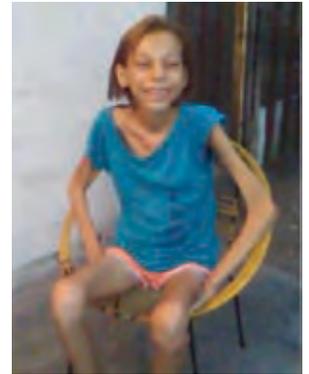
Thanks to medicines and health supplies MAP provided to our local partner on the ground, Saludos Connection, Elina received both.

“When we first met Elina, we were able to provide her with acetaminophen for

headaches, antibiotic Cephalexin, and a triple antibiotic ointment for an abscess in her arm,” said the president of SOS Somos Portuguesa (SSP), the nonprofit that provided the initial treatment for Elina. “This was possible thanks to having the supplies and medicines from a recent shipment received from Saludos Connection and MAP. God placed angels around her.”

With the support of Saludos Connection and MAP, SSP is working to ensure that Elina has access to medicines, health care and nutritious food.

While Elina has had a few setbacks with the death of her father, she still smiles with hope. The SSP team continues to be optimistic about her recovery. Thanks to generous donors, MAP medicines and health supplies were there when Elina needed them most. +



## Q&A: Meet Jason Elliott, MAP's Disaster Relief Manager

Whether it's a devastating natural disaster, an epidemic or armed conflict, when emergency assistance is needed most Jason Elliot, MAP's Disaster Relief Manager, stands ready to mobilize and coordinate MAP's response.

### Q: How did you come to work at MAP International?

A: I was a police officer for 14 years, including a three year-stint with the United Nations police in Haiti. The experience changed my life. From there I decided I wanted to do humanitarian work. I have been at MAP since 2014 in several roles. For the past two years, I have been focused on building our relief program.

### Q: How do you get shipments to where they are needed?

A: We have a 40,000 sq. foot distribution center in Brunswick, Georgia that holds our donated medicines and supplies. The center is designated as a Foreign Trade Zone with US Customs, and there is an airport across the street from us, so when we have to airlift medicines and supplies, we can do it pretty quickly.

### Q: What do you want donors to know?

A: We could not do this work without them! Many of our mission partners do not have the funding available to ship supplies to relief zones. So many times, we step out in faith to send urgently needed supplies. To learn more about how you can help, visit [map.org/disasters](http://map.org/disasters). +

