The Fruits of Your Support

How does MAP International touch so many lives and provide so much help? None of it would be possible without the support of donors like you.

In 2018 alone, medicines from MAP touched 13,648,909 lives. That means nearly two million pounds of medicine was distributed in 104 countries. The medicine includes antibiotics, wound care, oral rehydration solutions, pain relievers, decongestants, deworming pills, vitamins, and other life-changing treatments.

In addition, more than 30,000 Disaster Health Kits (DHK) were distributed during disasters overseas and abroad, including people in Lebanon who fled violence in Syria, victims of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and Dominica, Haiti, Guatemala, Liberia, and Romania. This also includes help provided to Americans in North and South Carolina following the damage caused by Hurricane Florence.

MAP’s new Pediatric Antibiotic Initiative (PAl) touched the lives of thousands of children, with 26,000 treatments already distributed. For those children, the antibiotics treated such conditions as strep, severe ear infections, skin infections, and kidney infections that might have never been treated otherwise and lead to life-long disabilities.

From the millions of people who have received treatment in 2018, we say thank you!

How Magdelena Came To Shine

“It started with a small sore on my face,” remembers Magdelena. “But soon my entire face was swollen and deformed.”

Magdelena lives in rural Haiti, far away from a clinic. So she suffered as the inflammation spread and her pain became almost unbearable. “It was very painful,” she says, “but I was also ashamed because I looked so ugly. No one wanted to look at me.

“I had terrible headaches and I couldn’t sleep because of the pain. Because of that I couldn’t work or care for my family. I thought I would die and I worried what would happen to my children.”

One day a mobile clinic came to Magdelena’s village. Her neighbors encouraged her to go but she felt so hopeless. Eventually, she gathered her courage and went to the mobile clinic where they welcomed her.
Dear Friend of MAP,

If you visited MAP International headquarters, you might be surprised. Our building is humble and is mostly a large warehouse where we sort and prepare medicines for the next shipment. Our staff is small—with fewer than 50 full time employees. There is nothing fancy about the MAP facility. It is efficient and effective for getting this important work done.

I can tell you what else is effective about MAP. It is our partnerships.

Our partnership begins with you. We consider you a partner with MAP because without your donation, we couldn’t do our work. This work starts the moment you visit our website to make a donation or sit down to write a check to support our mission. You truly begin the process of helping and healing.

It’s carried through with our faithful, diligent staff who assemble exactly the right medicines and health supplies that are needed in the mission field. This special partnership is then extended through dedicated organizations that share our passion for service as reflected in Matthew 25:36 and bringing these urgently needed provisions that last mile.

This includes organizations like Convoy of Hope, which you can read about on the back cover. Organizations like Convoy help transport our medicines to the front lines of need. Their staff and ours communicate regularly and they help us know exactly what type of medicine is needed so nothing is wasted.

The Carter Center is also an important partnership for us to reach those who need medicine and health supplies. One of the reasons President Carter is considered one of the greatest US Presidents is because of the extraordinary work done after he left the White House. The Carter Center team works effectively to meet the needs of people in West Africa who suffer from neglected tropical diseases and mental health issues. In places like Liberia, where civil war and the recent Ebola outbreak have taken their toll not only physically but also mentally, MAP provides medications through the Carter Center to help heal the body and the mind.

Another form of partnership is with doctors, nurses and other health workers who take mission trips to countries where medicines are desperately needed. As Dr. Gerhart explains on page 2, the medicines from MAP make all the difference in providing effective care in remote places. Every year, MAP provides mission packs to thousands of teams going overseas. The stories of healing they send back are breathtaking.

We also partner with many pharmaceutical companies who either donate medicines or sometimes make them available to us at a discount. These medicines are of the highest quality—the same treatments you would receive from your pharmacy—and are effective for many months or years to come.

Without all of our partners, MAP wouldn’t be effective. But with you, the results are nothing short of miraculous. As we celebrate more than 13 million people’s lives being touched in 2018, we bow our heads in thanks to the Lord and clap our hands, in thanks to friends like you. Please know that every single day, we give thanks for you, our partners.

On behalf of the millions whose lives have been changed—and saved—by your support, thank you!

With deepest gratitude,

Steve Stirling
President and CEO

If you would like Steve to share his story with your church or service club, please contact Rebekah Mobley via email at RMObley@map.org or call her at 912-280-6601.
PORTRAITS IN PARTNERSHIP

From Mission Trips to Facebook

Dr. Clark Gerhart has spent a lifetime meeting medical needs. For nearly three decades he has practiced as a surgeon in the U.S. while also serving those in need overseas on medical mission trips. It was on those trips that he began to understand the important mission of MAP.

"Even as a physician I cannot purchase large amounts of prescription medicine to take to those in need. And what I could buy was extremely expensive," he says. So he began taking donated samples from other physicians and pharmacies until he encountered another problem: "Even in a very poor country they had strict rules about expiration dates."

As he searched for a more effective way to acquire medicine inexpensively for mission trips, he found MAP International. "The medications provided were invaluable on these trips, allowing us to provide medical care to people who had very little access to medication."

"MAP packs are well organized with appropriate stock for the types of medical clinics we were working in. I experienced first hand what an incredibly important service MAP International is providing in meeting the medical needs of underserved people around the world."

In 2012, Dr. Gerhart's personal circumstances changed and he stopped taking medical mission trips himself. "I have not forgotten the needs of medical care around the world so I continued to support MAP. I became a monthly donor because the needs of people are ongoing so making a regular donation is important."

"Then, on my birthday, I decided to share this mission with my friends on Facebook, allowing them to participate in supplying medical care for people around the world as well. I also was able to confidently assure my friends that the vast majority of their donations would go directly to meeting the medical needs of people around the world due to MAP's extremely low administrative expenses."

For Dr. Gerhart, sharing MAP's mission on Facebook was a natural progression. "I often think of the people I have met in all the countries I have visited," he says. "They can’t reach into their medicine cabinets for medicine when they have a headache or cold. And it’s even less likely that they are getting the prescription medication they need for their chronic illnesses."

"The need is immense and overwhelming, but MAP is helping to address that problem and I intend to support MAP in that mission as long as I can in any way that I can. Even if it means using Facebook!"

To join Dr. Gerhart as a monthly donor to MAP, go to www.map.org/curepack

Dr. Clark Gerhart with his wife and children
Bringing Hope to Our Neighbors

During her worst times, the days were long and the nights seemed endless for Marcia Emerson. Marcia was living out of her car in Atlanta, Ga., homeless, lonely and in need of medical assistance. She was unable to afford her diabetes medication, which made her anxious and contributed to her depression.

Fortunately, Marcia found a place she could go to get help. The Good Samaritan Health Center was a refuge in Marcia’s darkest times. The community health center, located on the west side of Atlanta, offers free medications, physician’s visits and a hot meal.

“When folks come here, they are treated like real people. We’re not just put on the back burner,” she says. “We’re treated like Christ would’ve treated us.”

People like Marcia are why MAP launched its Domestic Medicine Program (DMP). This partnership with the Good Samaritan Health Center and other charitable clinics in the state of Georgia provides medicines at no cost to uninsured and underinsured citizens who have fallen through the cracks of the healthcare system.

A grant from Georgia Baptist Health Care Ministry Foundation allows MAP to provide high-quality medicines for patients being treated for hypertension, diabetes, asthma, and high cholesterol.

Providing medicines like those offered from MAP enabled Marcia to get back on her feet. Armed with her diabetes medicine and weekly counseling, she was able to steady her life and find employment. Marcia now works as a Certified Peer Specialist at Good Samaritan helping those who used to suffer like her.

“To see people who don’t normally have access to medicines and then they start getting medication…that’s when you see the transformation; the calmness, the hope and the knowledge that they have somewhere to go,” says Marcia, who understands the issues all too well.

In just the first year, MAP’s Domestic Medicine Program has served more than 1,800 people, with 60 percent of all patients showing improvement in their disease management. For patients like Marcia, the help is simply life-changing.

To learn more about how MAP is making a difference in the lives of Americans, visit www.map.org/DMP

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MAP Ranks In Forbes Top U.S. Charities

Forbes Magazine’s recently released its annual review of the 100 largest U.S. charities and Georgia-based MAP International now ranks as the 23rd largest charity in the United States, surpassing $600 million in revenue for the first time since the organization was founded in 1954.

In the Forbes ranking, MAP earned a perfect score of 100 percent in fundraising efficiency (percent of private donations remaining after fundraising expenses) and a 100 percent rating for its charitable commitment (charitable services as a percent of total expenses).
Finding a True Partner in Disasters

As president of Convoy of Hope, Hal Donaldson spends much of his time finding the most effective ways to respond to disasters. For more than 20 years, Convoy has provided help to those dealing with catastrophes. Working in more than 100 countries, the organization has a global supply chain that can respond quickly and effectively in crises.

For much of Convoy’s history, that response included water, food and shelter. Then, in 2011, the organization recognized the need to provide medical help. “We were meeting people with a wide range of illnesses and had no ability to serve them, so we began praying that God would give us a partner to complete that piece of the puzzle. The answer to that prayer was MAP International,” says Donaldson.

“When it comes to disaster relief, getting the job done is a lot like being in a battle. When lives hang in the balance, you need someone in the next foxhole you can depend on—a reliable partner who won’t let you down when times get tough because you have to work together or people will die.”

“For everyone at Convoy of Hope, MAP International is that partner. MAP has been a godsend not only to us, but to everyone we serve. We have found a partner as committed to saving lives as we are.”

Despite advances in world health, the global need is still on the rise. “In Africa, for example, there is a constant threat of disease,” says Donaldson. “The only way we can stem that tide is through proper nutrition, pure drinking water and medicine from MAP.”

Although Convoy of Hope feeds nearly 200,000 children through its feeding program and provides help to millions around the world, they rely on their partnership with MAP in many ways. “We can provide daily nutrition and drinking water but if a child is not healthy, food will not cure the disease. You need medicine, and that’s where MAP comes in. We can’t do what we do without MAP.”

Make the Miracle Happen

No matter where it comes from, we are humbled by the stories we receive from mission teams and partners who provide care around the world. Daily we marvel at the power of life-changing medicine to bring healing to people living in the world’s poorest regions.

MAP recently received this letter from a hospital worker located in Soufrière, Haiti in the northern part of the country. Roads in this rural area are often unpaved and clogged with cars and motorbikes. They are considered dangerous to travel by and many opt to walk where they need to go.

This was the case with a young mother who, out of desperation, carried her sick 18-month old son to New Hope Hospital. This story illustrates how you make possible the miracle of medicine to help the poorest of the poor.

“My dear friends, I want to share with you a story, I can tell you it is sad and comforting. This is the story of Frankson Macien, a child of 18 months from the rural section of Soufrière in Northern Haiti. The child suffered from fever and cough.

Access to the rural section of our country is very difficult. Worse, there is no health center there to take care of people. It is safer to walk instead of taking a motorbike to go to that rural section.

Frankson’s mother brought him to New Hope Hospital to receive care. But she had no financial resources to pay for medicine or for care. But we were so happy to help the child because of the medicine we received for free from MAP International.

As you know, this is our mission, which is to provide quality healthcare to all individuals, especially the poorest of the poor. A huge thank you, especially to the people who support MAP, for providing the drugs to New Hope Hospital.”

Please visit our online newsletter at www.map.org/newsletter and share this good news with your friends.
Magdelena’s story is truly inspiring. Because of your generosity, there are so many stories of hope for you to see how you make a difference.

Are you looking for some inspiration in your day? Do you want to show your friends or the members of your church why you support the great work of MAP?

Now you can view and share MAP’s uplifting videos in one easy click. Just go to www.map.org/hope-stories and you’ll find everything from testimonials from those who have been helped by MAP to interviews with Steve Stirling, MAP president, to recordings of special events.

It’s a way to bring you closer to the life-changing work and a wonderful opportunity to share your support of MAP with others.

All videos are available to use without any additional permission, so please feel free to post them on your Facebook page or send them to your church mission committee.

We want you to share the difference you make with your friends and family. You’ll bring a smile to many faces and you’ll help us share the good news.

HOW YOU CAN CREATE A LEGACY OF HOPE

If you want to ensure your legacy continues even after you’ve been called home by your heavenly father, there’s no better way than to create a bequest that benefits MAP and provides medicine for years to come.

It’s a simple way to offer health and hope to many in need for years to come. Your gift, included in your will, continues to care for those in desperate need in some of the poorest parts of the world.

“We wanted to create a legacy that will never stop giving. We knew that a bequest was the most important charitable gift we would ever make. We chose MAP because we know that our values will live on through their staff and those they serve even after we are gone,” said Joe and Susan, MAP supporters.

Here’s how to do it: Contact your financial advisor or lawyer and provide the following information. Your gift can be tangible property, such as a car or house, a percentage of your estate, or a residual bequest. To make it simple, we’ve provided examples of wording below that you can share with your estate planner.

A fixed amount of money or designated property:

“I give to MAP International (Tax ID #36-2586390), located in Brunswick, GA, $_______ (or describe the real or personal property, including exact location).”

A percentage of the estate:

“I give to MAP International (Tax ID #36-2586390), located in Brunswick, GA, ______ percent of my estate.”

A residual bequest:

“I give all the residue of my estate, including real and personal property, to MAP International (Tax ID #36-2586390), located in Brunswick, GA.”

Please consult your attorney and estate planner when preparing legal documents. We’re ready to work with you to create a meaningful gift that satisfies you and supports our mission.

If you have questions about how to put MAP in your legacy plans, please call us at 800-225-8550.