



# Global Health Ministries Newsletter

Because all people should have access to a healthy life.

*Photo taken at Dorobo Mask Workshop, Tanzania, May, 2020.*

## SHELTER AND PRIVILEGE



Someone joked that COVID-19 should be called COVID-90, because many Americans will gain 90 pounds while sheltering in place! Hopefully you won't struggle with this much weight gain, but to even joke about it points to a striking difference in how many Americans are experiencing the coronavirus

differently from our partners around the world.

You may have trouble imagining what it would be like to not have a refrigerator or cabinet(s) with some extra food. Perhaps it's even harder to imagine life without clean water, soap or access to any medical care. Yet for masses of people around the globe this requires no imagination.

For our partners, sheltering in place would be a privilege. Most of the people they serve depend on daily hands-on activities to feed their families. Sheltering in place can have dire consequences.

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*... (Developing) countries bundle together all the most potent risk factors. Their basic health infrastructure is inadequate. They often lack clean running water ... have high population densities and family cohabitation structures that will impede physical distancing. And when workers depend entirely on their paycheck to survive and the government cannot afford to cover the difference, the cost of shutting down businesses becomes unimaginable.*

*When the Pandemic Hits the Most Vulnerable, by Robert Malley and Richard Malley, March 31, 2020, [Foreign Affairs](#)*

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In the midst of this crisis GHM is accompanying our partners in concrete ways:

- Small grants and shipments of personal protective equipment (PPE). So far in 2020, we've distributed N95 Masks (27,400), other masks (20,860), gloves (232,705), plus many gowns, face shields and other PPE.
- Funds to help Community Health Workers share simple supplies and education to help slow the spread of the virus.
- Partnering with other agencies to encourage and support locally produced masks and other PPE related supplies.
- Sharing regular, emailed updates of trusted research, good information and practical advice with a large network of our international partners.

The future will certainly hold new challenges. Without the privilege of sheltering in place our partners may indeed face a surge in cases and a large death toll. We will accompany them through it all. But their context (and ours) is changing. Together we will stay attentive and responsive to help the hands that heal. We invite your prayers and participation as our call from God draws us forward to serve with open eyes, open hearts and open hands.

Dr. Paul Kisanga, who directs one of the leading hospitals in Tanzania (Arusha Lutheran Medical Center), wrote GHM just this week:

*"[There are] costs that were never anticipated and yet we are now realizing we cannot run away from them...Our vision and mission of providing compassionate care in the region has never been put to test like this ever before. We take consolation trusting in the Lord that He will give the way through friends and supporters like you and others that He will touch. Once again thank you friends."*

## WE DO THE SAME FOR YOU

A recent email from Dr. Sahondra, Director of SALFA, the Lutheran healthcare system in Madagascar, closed with these words: *Thank you for keeping us in your prayers. We do the same for you.* Although we may be experiencing the pandemic differently, health workers around the world share the need for masks and gloves to protect themselves and the people around them. We all benefit from frequent hand-washing, but how do you wash your hands well without soap? With support from GHM in partnership with the ELCA and the Norwegian Mission Society, teams from SALFA are delivering a customized mix of masks, gloves, soap, nutritional supplements, hand sanitizer, disinfectant, and more to all 50 SALFA health centers and to 18 toby's (healing camps) across the island. Ankaramalaza Rural Health Clinic received their delivery, like most things, by boat.





## JOYFUL GENEROSITY

Global Health Ministries could never accomplish our unique mission and calling to help the hands that heal without the incredible generosity of our donors. One of those giving hearts who felt inspired to give throughout her life was Phyllis Berkland from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Phyllis was a loving, devoted mother of 7, grandmother of 16, great-grandmother of 26, and friend to all who knew her. She enjoyed hosting family and friends and making incredible quilts for her family, her community and missionaries overseas. She loved being a part of GHM's work and wanted people across Africa to have their voices heard and needs met. Although her earthly life ended on January 16th, 2020, her legacy will

live on through the lives she impacted via GHM. Phyllis always put other people first and felt called to support GHM's Angel Fund. And she continually invited others to join her in her joyful generosity! Doug, Phyllis' son, said that it is so appropriate that she donated to the "Angel Fund," because that describes her. You, too, can join Phyllis in giving to GHM's Angel Fund and make an incredible difference in the lives of others! Your gift of any size, combined with the gifts of women and men "Angels," provides timely, strategic funds to meet urgent needs around the world. Together, you will continue Christ's holistic ministry for the health and well-being of the communities GHM serves.



Sioux Falls "Angel," Phyllis Berkland

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."  
~ Winston Churchill

## WASTE TO REVENUE

An astonishing array of medical supplies are donated to GHM by individuals, hospitals and clinics across the U.S. Some of the items we receive cannot be used by our partners. They may not have the technology or even the power to run the equipment, or the supplies come to us "short-dated," meaning they'll expire before they can arrive overseas. In 2016 we began to turn these "waste" items into revenue. Each year since, more than \$100,000 has been raised through this program for GHM. WestCMR is one of several companies that buy and re-sell supplies our partners can't use. Elise, Manager, Strategic Accounts, says they "appreciate the work that GHM does for those around the world." Thanks for helping donations to GHM go even further!



GHM is grateful to M Health Fairview and WestCMR, sponsors of this year's Gala. Our April Gala was cancelled due to COVID-19, but the steadfast support of our partners continues to help the hands that heal!



## FRONT LINE FOCUS

**W**aste. This is the term for preventable disease and injury. Waste of human potential, quality of life, medical and productive resources. **Healthcare** is waste – if the need for it could have been prevented. Partnering to prevent disease and promote health is a primary focus of GHM's consulting arm, GHAP. It is also the best return on your investment to improve health.

Community-based primary healthcare (CBPHC) is the broad term for this focus on addressing disease closer to its root. Nearly all current GHAP projects involve some type of CBPHC. Sometimes partners express that they "want a hospital." Coronavirus has reinforced our understanding that access to clinical care is a matter of justice, and essential. But deep listening and dialogue about true needs typically results in mutual

recognition that it is wisest to invest in stronger CBPHC.

In front line struggles against infectious disease like COVID-19, and against many other preventable diseases, GHAP is accompanying partners in Tanzania, Madagascar, South Sudan, and Nigeria, to strengthen CBPHC. One more way GHM is living into our values of good stewardship, reducing waste, and managing resources well.

## GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

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## SHIPPING NEWS



A 40' container left for **Liberia** in mid-March, right before GHM's warehouse was temporarily closed to volunteers.



Another container left for **Zimbabwe** in early April, already "prepped" by GHM's volunteers. Both shipments arrive in May!



**Madagascar** (May) and **South Sudan** (June) are next up and on schedule,



thanks in part to a large donation of already-sorted, shipment-ready items. God is good! All the time!

Contact us at:

**GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES**

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## ABOVE AND BEYOND



Many heroes have emerged during the coronavirus pandemic. Nurses and doctors caring for COVID-19 patients come first to mind. But also GHM volunteers! Responding to an urgent email from John Scheck, GHM Warehouse Manager and Volunteer Coordinator, many volunteers have been driving to the warehouse to pick up bulk medical supplies such as gloves, masks, gowns and dressings, returning to their homes to sort and inventory these and other items, and bringing them back ready to

ship overseas. These heroic efforts have enabled GHM to continue our shipping ministry, sending vitally important supplies and equipment to waiting partners. We've even been able to airlift some supplies to partners in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Madagascar, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Tanzania. Thank you, GHM Volunteers, for going above and beyond, helping the hands that heal!