



BLESSINGS
INTERNATIONAL

MEDICINES
FOR **MISSIONS**



THE NEWSLETTER OF BLESSINGS INTERNATIONAL

JULY 2023

THE MISSION IN OUR BACKYARD

“Support at home is just as important as overseas.”

Anita R., USA fund and Medicines for Nations donor

Now perhaps more than ever, the call to help those who cannot afford healthcare here in the United States is one of our biggest mission fields. The last few years have presented increased need for people across the US—from all age and financial brackets—especially due to the economic rollercoaster created by the pandemic and steep inflation.

In the three years since the pandemic began, **our US-focused partner base has grown to 42% of all new accounts, compared to 10% in the same window of time prior to the pandemic.**

“I’ve given to different funds and feel it is important to give locally as well [as] around the world to help those in need.”

Missy S., USA fund and Medicines for Nations donor

With the USA fund, Blessings International supports charitable clinics, pharmacies, and pregnancy centers. As such, your neighbor with diabetes or hypertension continues to receive medications when insurance isn't an option, families find support, and women choose life over abortion.

As you will see by the following stories, partner clinics here in the United States are making notable impact on lives of all backgrounds and ages, passing aid from Blessings International's US outreach directly to patients.



“Even though I believe the US is a rich nation, I know there is also need here too. Plus, who doesn’t root for the home team?”

Tom G., USA fund donor



CRISTINA

Cristina found herself in a desperate place when her husband changed jobs and they lost their insurance. She was fighting colon cancer and was unable to afford colonoscopies and treatment. A friend told her about Good Samaritan Health Services and they provided the colonoscopies and medication.

Cristina is now cancer free, but navigating diabetes. Allergic to Metformin, she has to take a more expensive antihyperglycemic, which the clinic provides every three months for free.

"In this time, everything is so expensive, like groceries. They give me the medicine. I don't have words to say thank you." – Cristina, from Tulsa, OK



"A merry heart makes good medicine!" – Carolina, originally from Mexico

CAROLINA

Not only has Carolina received physical care through a US clinic, but she's received new life, thanks to a man at the clinic who gave her a Gospel track.

Several years ago, Carolina was going through an intense situation. Her son was in jail, and she was struggling with the impact of that. She was sad, stressed, and experiencing high blood pressure.

At 62 years of age, she'd never taken any medicine, but now her body was sending her messages that she needed help. She came into the clinic needing a doctor to look at her heart, and because of it, she now knows the Great Physician who heals the whole person. She is now someone who can't stop smiling and looks for ways to serve others and tell them about the clinic.

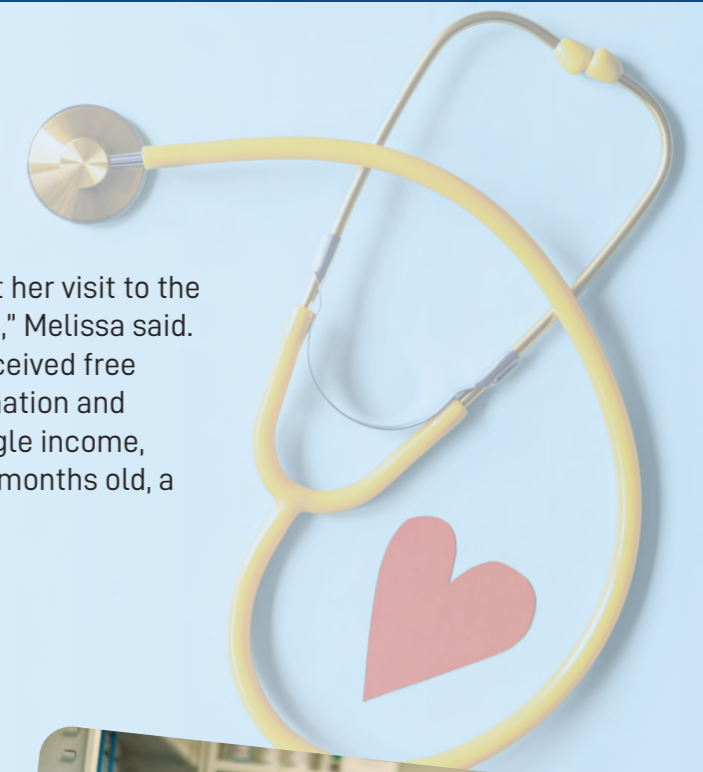


"They [the Arkansas Pregnancy Resource Center] are a worthwhile organization to support! Because [of] the vitamins and everything, I got a healthy baby!" – Melissa, from Arkansas

MELISSA

After working fifteen years at a corporate job, newly-wed Melissa decided she needed to be a stay-at-home mom to her husband's two young girls, whom she was in the process of adopting. Just as the adoption was being finalized, the 36-year-old suspected she was pregnant. Having a history of endometriosis, Melissa needed a definitive confirmation, more than a home kit's double lines. But with no insurance, she was turned away by the hospital for not being able to afford cash payment.

Seeing Melissa leaving the hospital in tears, a nurse stopped her. When she understood the situation, she recommended the Arkansas Pregnancy Resource Center in Little Rock.



Melissa's experience at the resource center was all that her visit to the hospital wasn't. "Everything was hopeful and reassuring," Melissa said. Not only did she receive a confirmation, but she also received free prenatal vitamins and, over ensuing visits, all the information and resources she would need as a first-time mom on a single income, including diapers and wipes. Her daughter is now three months old, a joyful addition to their family.

RAY

Ray's usual prescription had stopped being effective. Suddenly, he had a decision to make: either feed his family or pay \$1,900 per month for a new medication. If he didn't take the medicine, he wouldn't be able to work. If he put his health first, his family wouldn't be able to afford basic needs. It was an impossible decision.

Ray's conundrum was solved with a simple referral to St. Vincent de Paul Pharmacy in Dallas. He was qualified to have his prescription filled at no cost for an entire year, allowing him to safely manage his condition and provide for his family.



"It's thanks to Blessings International that SVdP Pharmacy can fulfill our mission. Your support of our formulary made it possible for Ray to receive the health care he needed and deserves." – Carlos Irula, Pharmacist-in-Charge, St. Vincent de Paul Dallas

Will you help us supply more US charitable clinics and pregnancy resource centers, and through them, people like Cristina, Carolina, Melissa, and Ray?

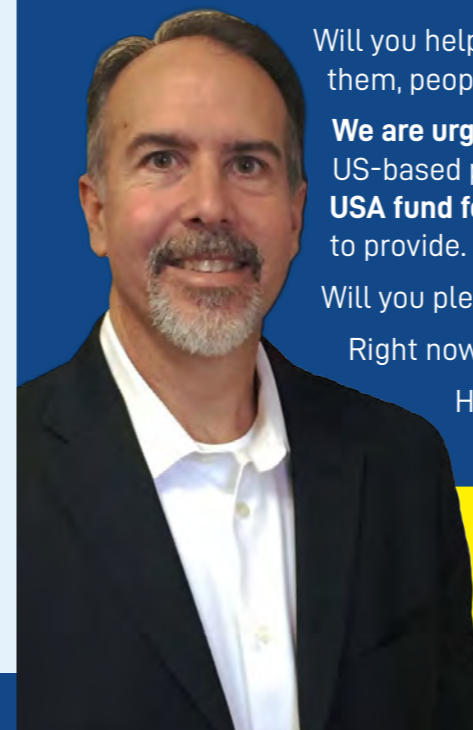
We are urgently asking for donations to the USA fund. Since the pandemic, we have more US-based partner organizations than ever before. What most people don't realize is **we use the USA fund for every order.** While we are grateful for the increase of partners, the fund is straining to provide.

Will you please give to the mission in our proverbial backyard?

Right now, when you give to the USA fund, your gift will be doubled, up to \$5,000!

How many people can your giving affect? Please see the How to Give section on the back of this newsletter.

"Where there is great need, there is a great responsibility—and opportunity. We've had to really step up our support of US-based clinics and health centers in recent years. We could be doing more for these hardworking clinics, but we can't do it without a healthy USA fund."
— Barry Ewy, PharmD, JD, MHA, Blessings International CEO



UKRAINE UPDATE

Thank you to our donors who have continued to support the Emergency Disaster Relief fund, and through it, people affected by the war in Ukraine. As you have remained faithful in generosity, our partners have remained persistent in service.

One such partner, Dr. Eric Morgan of Sojourners United, based out of El Paso, Texas, has been to front-line villages of Ukraine twice since the war began. He and his team have winced under rocket fire, yet stayed to provide medicine and the Gospel to the remnant in desolate regions on the Russian/Ukraine border.

"Here," Dr. Morgan wrote, "about 10% of the people remain, many with chronic diseases. However, all the village pharmacies and clinics are no longer operational."

"[O]n this return trip [in March 2023], we noticed increased desperation. People didn't hoard. However, they never declined [medication], and always, always were grateful when we extended an extra months' worth of medicines to them."

Since the war began, we have sent \$898,695 of medicines and supplies toward Ukraine relief, which has impacted an estimated 1,509,808 lives.

"It was a blessing to have partnered with Blessings International so that we could bring medicines that were so needed for people in great need."

- Eric Morgan, MD,
Sojourners United



Read more of Dr. Morgan's testimony in our June feature story, *"I Remember You."*

bit.ly/SojournersUnitedIRY



Global Missions
Health Conference

GLOBAL MISSIONS HEALTH CONFERENCE LOUISVILLE, KY – NOVEMBER 9-11, 2023

Blessings International is pleased to support and recommend the Global Missions Health Conference for all it does on behalf of global health. This virtual and in-person conference brings together people from all around the world and from all medical backgrounds. We exhibit there every year and hope to see you at GMHC 2023!

Register at medicalmissions.com.

HOW TO GIVE

Right now, your gift to the USA fund will be matched (up to \$5,000)!

\$100 will supply 12 women with prenatal vitamins during the entire course of their pregnancies.

\$250 will supply 28 people with diabetic medication for a year.

\$500 will supply 192 people with high blood pressure medicine for half a year.



GIVE BY MAIL

Use enclosed donation card and envelope



GIVE ONLINE

Visit bit.ly/GiveUSAFund or click on "Donate" at blessing.org and choose "USA Fund."



GIVE BY SECURE MOBILE APP

Text "GiveUSA" to 41444

Every Gift Makes a Difference!



BLESSINGS
INTERNATIONAL®
MEDICINESFORMISSIONS

Guidestar has awarded Blessings their highest rating of Platinum to reflect our level of accountability and transparency. We rank in the top 2% of all rated charities.



Blessings has been accredited by Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability since 1990.

Learn more at www.blessing.org