

# Delivering Hope to Communities in Need

*Recycled Hospital Equipment Offers a Chance for Better Care in the Developing World*



Health workers from the Haitian Health Foundation in Jeremie, Haiti, display stretchers donated to Mission Outreach by John Warner Hospital, Clinton, IL, and the Emergency Services Disaster Agency, Springfield, IL.



Rod Horchem, Mission Outreach warehouse associate, prepares items for shipment to Mongolia using the Mission Outreach computerized, online inventory system.

**T**he Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis is a multicultural congregation committed to live the Gospel of St. Francis of Assisi. The sisters are dedicated to a common mission that brings Christ's healing presence to humanity and supports creative ways of responding to the sick and poor. The sisters have been involved in domestic and foreign mission work for more than 130 years.

In 2002, the sisters organized Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach to provide assistance to their sisters in Haiti and Tanzania. Through this program, they continue their missionary work with education and awareness programs and a medical equipment distribution and recycling program.

Since January 2006, Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach has shipped over 270,000 pounds of equipment and supplies to more than 11 countries, including the United States. Recycled medical equipment and basic health care supplies are stockpiled at the Mission Outreach warehouse in Springfield, IL.

Partnering health systems are vital to the recycling program of Mission Outreach. Hospital Sisters Health System's 13 hospitals, located in Illinois and Wisconsin, have set the precedent for others to follow. Other participating partners, such as Memorial Health System, Provena Health System, the U.S. Navy Project Handclasp Program, and numerous faith-based organizations have also joined in support of Mission Outreach. Volunteers from across Illinois have come forward to assist with many tasks including the sorting and shipping of donated supplies.

Because of the dedication and commitment to the sister's vision, Mission Outreach continues to grow. The program offers meaningful opportunities to understand the developing world through education and volunteerism, while providing medical supplies and equipment where they are needed most.



An ambulance donated by Wilmette, IL, Fire Department and Wilmette Rotary Club, filled with medical supplies from Mission Outreach, is being loaded onto the USS Pearl Harbor for delivery to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Mission Outreach facilitated transportation of the ambulance through the U.S. Navy's Project Handclasp.

Courtesy of the U.S. Navy's Project Handclasp



Hospital Sisters of St. Francis and volunteers display hygiene kits assembled by employees of St. John's Hospital, Springfield, IL, and St. Vincent's Hospital, Green Bay, WI. Kits similar to these have been distributed around the world, including in disaster situations such as those caused by the 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia and Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf Coast.

To learn more about Mission Outreach, including becoming a partnering health system or volunteer, visit

**[www.mission-outreach.org](http://www.mission-outreach.org)**

or call **217-525-8843**.



This operating room in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, has been updated and improved with equipment donated by the hospitals of Hospital Sisters Health System and other Mission Outreach partners in recycling program hospitals.



Vicki Detmers, Mission Outreach data systems and volunteer facilitator, poses with children at St. Pierre School in Jeremie, Haiti. School supplies distributed to these students were donated by Hospital Sisters Health System affiliate Sacred Heart Hospital, Eau Claire, WI.



Vicki Compton, Catholic Relief Service (CRS) diocesan director, Diocese of Springfield, IL, with Brad Walton, warehouse and logistics facilitator, review items being donated to Caritas Cuba through CRS.

JOURNAL OF THE CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

[www.chausa.org](http://www.chausa.org)

# HEALTH PROGRESS®

---

Reprinted from *Health Progress*, July-August 2007  
Copyright © 2007 by The Catholic Health Association of the United States

---