

AmeriCares and Amneal Pharmaceuticals Support Underserved Americans

Yolanda sits quietly in a dark waiting room. A nebulizer she carries everywhere sits on the chair next to her along with a bag full of pill bottles. A food service worker at a local university, she is on her feet much of the day and wants the painful swelling in her legs checked out. At the same time, she struggles with severe asthma, hypertension and an array of other medical problems.

Yolanda is one of 750 uninsured patients who rely on Athens Nurses Clinic as their primary source of medical care—one of only two free clinics in a city where one-third of the population lives below the poverty level. On this visit, a nurse practitioner prescribes medication to reduce the swelling, which Yolanda receives for free. The Georgia clinic is one of more than 800 safety net clinics AmeriCares supports nationwide with donated medicine and medical supplies through its U.S. Medical Assistance program. Amneal Pharmaceuticals has supported the clinic in recent years with donations of amlodipine, benazepril and prenatal vitamins.



Photos by: Matthew McDermott

Yolanda during a recent clinic visit.

Clinic Executive Director Paige M. Cummings said she has been able to reduce her pharmacy budget by more than 30 percent with donated medicines, including medicine from AmeriCares. The savings has allowed her to allocate more of the clinic's limited funding to patient care and education programs.

"With help from AmeriCares, we can decrease our pharmacy budget and expand our services to more people," Cummings said. "Because of AmeriCares, we have been able to start smoking cessation and diabetes education programs to help patients take control their health."

Patients must earn less than \$33,000 a year for a family of four, or \$16,000 for individuals, and have no insurance to qualify for the clinic's services. Nearly one-third of patients are homeless. Most live with friends and family; a few live in a nearby tent city.

The clinic is lifeline for uninsured Georgia residents with chronic disease like Yolanda and Tyrone, who relies on the clinic to manage his hypertension. A former forklift driver, Tyrone, hasn't been able to work since a back injury three years ago left him in constant pain. No longer able to play basketball or exercise, he gained 65 pounds and recently learned he is at risk of becoming diabetic. In addition to prescribing medication to control his blood pressure, the clinic recently enrolled him in its new education program for pre-diabetic patients.



Tyrone participates in an education program for pre-diabetic patients at the clinic.

“I used to donate money to causes like this when I was working,” Tyrone said after finishing a recent class. “I thought, you never know if you are going to need help, and here I am.”

AmeriCares expanded its support for safety nets clinics serving the uninsured in the U.S. after Hurricane Katrina underscored the tremendous need to help struggling Americans here at home. Over the past 10 years, AmeriCares U.S. Medical Assistance Program has grown to become the nation’s largest provider of donated medical aid to the U.S. health care

safety net, last year delivering more than \$85 million in prescription and over-the-counter medicines and medical supplies for patients in need. The program helps partner clinics and health centers to increase capacity, provide comprehensive care, improve health outcomes and reduce costs for patients.

Without the Athens Nurses Clinic, Tyrone, 51, said he would probably purchase a pill or two at a time because he cannot afford a 30-day supply. His wife and brother are also patients.

“I am grateful for places like this,” he said. “Even though we worked our whole lives, we still have a place to come when we need help.”

AmeriCares joins Tyrone in thanking Amneal for its generous donation and support of underserved Americans. Together we are improving global health and helping people live longer, healthier lives.

Product:	Units:	Value:
AMLODIPINE BESYLATE 2.5MG TABLET 90'S, USP	792	\$6,811.20
BENAZEPRIL HYDROCHLORIDE 40MG TABLET 500'S, USP	60	\$3,744.00
PRENATAL PLUS TABLET – BULK	10,000	\$1,480.00
TOTAL:	10,852	\$12,035.20