Iowa – Tornado

When an EF3 tornado touched down in central Iowa on July 19, 2018, the HHI team responded immediately, with a doctor treating patients at the damaged hospital in Marshalltown, Iowa, that evening. Our mobile medical unit arrived the next morning, and the response team administered tetanus vaccines, treated patients and distributed hygiene supplies to those affected by the tornado.

North Carolina – Hurricane Florence

Hurricane Florence came ashore just south of Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina, on September 13, 2018. The storm stalled and slowly traveled across the region, resulting in record flooding in areas throughout North and South Carolina. The HHI advance team was on the ground before the storm made landfall. The response team treated patients at several shelters and established the mobile medical unit in front of a hospital that had been damaged and was running on generator power. Throughout the response, the team saw 1,113 patients and administered 423 tetanus vaccines.

Florida – Hurricane Michael

On October 10, 2018, Hurricane Michael crashed into the Florida panhandle as a category 4 storm, causing severe damage as 155 mph winds demolished homes and flattened towns. In addition to seeing patients in special needs shelters and traveling to patients in Mexico Beach, the HHI response team established the mobile medical unit in front of a shelter in Panama City. Throughout the response, the team saw 1,089 patients and administered 667 tetanus vaccines. Even today, HHI is continuing to help those in need in Florida by supporting a local medical clinic in Panama City.

Disaster Response Training Workshop

In September, HHI held its Disaster Response Training workshop. The workshop was designed to develop a more adaptable medical volunteer force prepared to provide healthcare in a disaster scenario. It trained volunteers on HHI procedures, equipment, and policies; prepared volunteers to operate in a limited resource environment; and cultivated the cultural awareness and sensitivity required during disaster responses.
Point of Care Laboratories

In partnership with BD and the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (NAFC), and with support from Abbott, HHI installed six point of care laboratories throughout the U.S. The clinics were chosen in April 2018, and throughout the rest of 2018, HHI traveled to the clinics installing and training on the new equipment. The point of care laboratory capabilities allow providers at these clinics to receive lab results while a patient waits, resulting in increased compliance and more accurate diagnoses and treatment plans.

Puerto Rico

To continue aiding in the recovery of the mountain communities of Puerto Rico, which were decimated by Hurricane Maria in 2017, HHI has been collaborating on programs designed to provide safe water and increased access to health care. HHI first partnered with Water Mission to provide solar-powered wells to provide safe and reliable water independent of the power grid system. HHI is also partnering with the local organization COSSAO for the training of community health workers to help residents obtain the health care, to coordinate health promotion activities, and provide education on health and disease management.

CDC Opioid Epidemic

Opioid abuse and overdose are at an all-time high, resulting in an average of 115 Americans dying every day from an opioid overdose. HHI partnered with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to respond to designated state and territorial requests to procure and establish critically needed laboratory equipment to be used in the fight against this epidemic.

International

Papua New Guinea – Midwifery Training

HHI partnered with Australian Doctors International to address the high rate of maternal and infant mortality in Papua New Guinea. In October 2018, HHI trained 47 community health workers to deliver routine antenatal care and manage and treat complications during labor and delivery. The five expert volunteers also trained on basic life-saving skills such as neonatal resuscitation. Plans are currently underway for the development of a sustainability training for health workers along with another midwifery training.

Haiti – Women’s Market Clinic

In February 2018, HHI – Haiti opened a women’s health clinic in a market in Pétion-ville, Haiti. This program enables women who otherwise couldn’t afford to see a doctor to leave their stall to travel to a clinic. Having a clinic in the market allows these women to seek preventative care and timely treatment. Almost 5,000 patients came to the clinic in 2018, resulting in diagnoses of uterine cancer, ovarian cysts, severe anemia, high blood pressure and pregnancies. The clinic is now also focusing on non-communicable diseases and has the capability for point of care testing for diabetes and high blood pressure.
Syria – Soccer balls

While traditionally known for providing disaster relief, HHI’s mission has always been to create a healthier world, and this includes mental health. So in addition to sending humanitarian and medical aid to refugee camps, HHI sent unpoppable soccer balls. The balls allow children to play, which has been proven to improve children’s mental and emotional health, especially in children who have experienced trauma. The first shipment was delivered in April 2018, with more shipments planned in 2019.

PowrServ

In 2018, the PowrServ program of HHI built 108,566 hygiene kits for distribution to those in need after disasters or in times of crisis. The kit-building events took place around the U.S. and the world. From Germany to Texas, from Canada to California, volunteers worked for a total of 13,881 hours to assemble basic, much-needed hygiene items into these kits. The kits were then delivered by HHI to victims of wildfires, tornadoes, hurricanes and other disasters.

Aid Shipments

$224,303,912
Total Value of Medical & Humanitarian Aid Shipped

548
Shipments

38
Countries

33
States

166
Partners

This is just a small sampling of what you made happen in 2018. To read even more, visit www.hearttoheart.org.