2019 Year in Review

185
Number of hospitals, medical institutions and doctors’ offices in the region that recycled with SOS

594
Number of individuals and nonprofits donating medical surplus to SOS

91
Number of international humanitarian shipments

483,383
Pounds of medical surplus diverted from landfills

56,315
Pounds donated to nursing schools, regional nonprofits and social service organization

21,919
Number of volunteer hours donated to SOS

More than 1 million
Lives positively impacted locally and globally!

OUR MISSION
SOS improves global health and the environment through recovery and redistribution of surplus medical supplies.

OUR VISION
Delivering a World of Health and Hope.

OUR COMMUNITY
SOS relies on the generosity of donors, volunteers, and friends; it receives no government funding, and accomplishes its big mission with a very small staff. SOS directly benefits underserved peoples living in medically impoverished communities at home and abroad by delivering necessary medical supplies and equipment to health clinics, hospitals, and other institutions. 98% of the donated materials SOS receives are donated, repurposed, or recycled.
From the Chair and CEO

We have big news this year, which you can probably guess from the front cover of this report. Formerly known as Supplies Over Seas, we have rebranded and our name is now SOS. This is not a new name but rather a return to our roots. Originally incorporated as SOS, many in our community still think of us that way.

What drove this move are two important expansions of our mission.

One, we now take a much broader view of health in our global work and commitment to building sustainable changes. To augment the impact of our medical donations, we identify other significant health-related needs and work with peer non-profits to incorporate their resources into the overall health response.

In fact, our commitment to building partnerships with other NGOs resulted in SOS and partners WaterStep and Love the Hungry winning the 2019 Center for Nonprofit Excellence Award for the Art of Collaboration.

Two, we have significantly increased our local impact. Over the past year, local donations increased 173%. As part of our commitment to preserve the environment by diverting medical surplus from area landfills, we invest tremendous efforts to find appropriate recipients for supplies that cannot be shipped overseas.

Often SOS receives expired and nearly expired supplies and we have found purposes for them! We process and donate them to recipients such as educational institutions, animal welfare agencies and free health clinics. Thus we help educate future nurses and doctors, provide veterinary care to abandoned and abused animals, and help provide medical care to low-income families in our community.

SOS truly describes who we are: an organization that responds to requests for help from humanitarian partners in the developing world; to disaster relief partners such as the hospital in Grand Bahama after Hurricane Dorian; and to local non-profits that are so important to the fabric of our community.

SOS will continue to grow and innovate with your support. It is who we are. It is what we do.

With deepest gratitude,

Denise Sears  
President & CEO

Kevin Potts, MD  
Board Chair
**Republic of Cameroon**

The humanitarian crisis in Cameroon is worsening daily according to the United Nations. A civil war has already claimed over 2,000 lives and left thousands injured and homeless.

To help provide relief to the people of their country, the Fultang family built a new hospital in Nkongsamba and reached out to SOS. Our team immediately began preparing a shipment of over 11,000 pounds of medical supplies and equipment. The SOS container included bassinets from TriHealth in Cincinnati and an anesthesia machine from Heartland Medical.

Dr. Mercy Fultang said, “We remain eternally grateful to SOS for their help.” It is estimated that the hospital, equipped by SOS, will be able to serve at least 1 million patients over the next few years.

**Uganda – Whisper’s Magical Children’s Hospital**

Two years ago, a boy named Patrick in Jinja, Uganda had an undiagnosed heart condition. Whisper’s Hospital in Jinja was not equipped to treat him. The nonprofit Healing the Children worked with Norton Children’s Hospital and flew Patrick to Louisville.

Unfortunately, Patrick did not survive. Rebecca Dixon, Patrick’s host mom in Louisville, vowed to help equip the hospital in Uganda to save the lives of other children in need. Rebecca and Healing the Children looked to SOS for help.

SOS sent a lifesaving shipment of supplies to the children’s hospital in Jinja to provide a fully functioning neonatal ICU, emergency room and operating theater.

It is lifesaving indeed – the SOS shipment saved the life of a little girl the day the container arrived. She needed immediate surgery, and SOS had provided the equipment and instruments required for her operation.
SOS ships 40-foot cargo containers filled with medical supplies and equipment to hospitals and clinics around the world. Containers on average hold 6 to 8 tons of medical surplus conservatively valued at $150,000 to $350,000.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Although beautiful, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, a small island chain in the Caribbean has pockets of extreme poverty. Working with their Ministry of Health and Father Ronald Knott from Louisville, SOS sent their second shipment in two years to supply three hospitals and an orphanage. One piece of equipment sent was a motorized wheelchair for the young man pictured here in his old manual wheelchair.

Every shipment is funded primarily by SOS donors. Together we are raising the standard of care in the most impoverished communities in the world. You become their hero when you support SOS.

Mali

In June, a 40-foot container of medical surplus left for the Ségou region of Mali in West Africa. Sponsored in part by the First Christian Church of Louisville, it was stacked high with pallets of OB/GYN supplies, dressings, gloves and orthopedic items. Equipment included 7 hospital beds, 2 exam tables, a labor and delivery bed, microscope, and an ultrasound machine.

All was distributed to area clinics in the villages of Medine, Sebougou and Pélégana that provide free or reduced cost care primarily for women and orphans.

Madani Sissoko, Executive Director of Humanitarian Association Farikolo Nienedie, expressed appreciation in a letter which included:

“Please accept the sincere thanks of the whole community of Ségou and your partners here. I thank the donors from the bottom of my heart:

The human person is the most precious of riches and to serve humanity constitutes the noblest life.”
Guatemala

SOS supplies many medical mission teams every year and some of the resulting stories are amazing!

One of those is Dr. Carl Kihm, a podiatric surgeon from Norton Healthcare, who comes to SOS for his yearly trip to Guatemala. Working in the local children’s hospital, he performs dozens of corrective surgeries to feet and ankles.

“The physical transformation not only gives them less pain and increased function,” said Dr. Kihm, “it also allows them to be normal kids - improving their functional deformities improves them psychologically, socially and culturally.”

He also says, “Access to healthcare’, which we feel entitled to and take for granted, for them is a blessing they might only get once in a lifetime.”

Honduras

Last January a medical mission team from the TriHealth Hand Surgery Center in Cincinnati traveled to Honduras. Led by Dr. Peter Stern, the team of seven treated or operated on more than 50 patients during the week-long trip. Some had deformities of an arm or hand; some had burns, fractures, machete injuries or other needs. This is just one of many teams that SOS is honored to support.
Our Hand Carry Program allows medical relief workers undertaking short-term work abroad to visit the Medical Team “Store” to collect needed supplies and small equipment that can be carried in their luggage. For those who cannot come to SOS, we pack and ship custom boxes.

Medical Team “Store”

Fondly referred to as a store, it is actually a unique collection of medical instruments and small items that are made available to individuals and groups that are traveling for short-term medical mission trips. These are items that would fit in a suitcase or duffle bag, and medical teams often carry extra luggage of these items and leave them behind for the clinics and hospitals where they performed their work.

SOS does not sell its donated medical surplus but we do request donations to help cover our costs of gathering, sorting, storing and processing items for distribution; just as we do for the containers, pallets and boxes we ship.

We love to see eyes light up when nurses and doctors walk in and see unexpected and coveted items they can select for the particular surgeries or treatments they plan to perform – cleft palates, burns, wounds, orthopaedics and more.
Increasing Our Regional Impact

The commitment our hospital partners demonstrate to environmental stewardship and global health is very gratifying, but we know there is more work to do. Here are a few highlights:

- SOS and several of our hospital systems have formed working committees to advance the environmental and humanitarian impact of our partnerships.
- SOS has been actively engaged in expanding its hospital network. We continue our partnership with St. Thomas Health in Nashville, Tennessee, begun in 2018.
- This year we added St. Vincent’s Health System in Birmingham, Alabama to our network of partners.
- In addition to our regular monthly hospital surplus collections, we work with retiring physicians and bio-med wholesalers to divert thousands more pounds of equipment from being discarded in our local landfills.
- SOS serves all of Kentucky, as well as Southern Indiana, Southern Ohio, and hospitals in Eastern Tennessee, and we are expanding into Alabama.
- We are very grateful to UPS for their annual support in providing in-kind transportation; their support makes our geographic growth possible.
- As an accredited MSRO – Medical Surplus Recovery Organization – we are one of only seven in the U.S. Our reputation for upholding the highest standard of excellence continues to grow.
Thank you to our Medical Recycling Partners! SOS partners with hospitals, other organizations and individuals around the region. They provide usable medical surplus along with some volunteer support. SOS provides a convenient, cost-effective way for them to donate medical surplus, which supports their own green initiatives, and at the same time extends their healing missions to the poor and underserved worldwide.

**Baptist Health System**
Baptist Health Corbin
Baptist Health Eastpoint
Baptist Health Floyd
Baptist Health Home Care
Baptist Health La Grange
Baptist Health Lexington
Baptist Health Louisville
Baptist Health Madisonville
Baptist Health Middletown
Baptist Health Paducah
Baptist Health Richmond
Baptist Health Urgent Care
Baptist Health Medical Group
CBC Group
Hardin Memorial Hospital

**CHS St. Joseph Health**
St. Joseph Hospital East
St. Joseph Hospital Lexington
St. Joseph Hospital London
St. Joseph Hospital Mt. Sterling

**KentuckyOne Health**
Brown Cancer Center
Flaget Memorial Hospital
Jewish Hospital
Jewish Hospital Shelbyville
Medical Center Jewish East
Medical Center Jewish South
KentuckyOne Medical Group
KentuckyOne Urgent Care
Sts. Mary & Elizabeth Hospital

**Norton Healthcare**
Norton Audubon Hospital
Norton Brownsboro Hospital
Norton Cancer Institute
Norton Children’s Medical Center
Norton Children’s Hospital
Norton Community Medical Associates
Norton Hospital
Norton Medical Group
Norton Pavilion
Norton Urogynecology
Norton Women’s and Children’s Hospital
Norton Women’s Specialists

**Mercy Health**
Mercy Health Anderson Hospital
Mercy Health Clermont Hospital
Seven Hills Women’s Health Centers

**TriHealth**
Bethesda Butler Hospital
Bethesda North Hospital
TriHealth Oak Hand
Ambulatory Surgical Center
Good Samaritan Hospital

**Hospitals - Other**
DRE Medical
Breckinridge Memorial Hospital
Bromenn Medical Center
Carroll County Hospital
Clark Memorial Hospital
Community Health Clinic of Hardin and Larue Counties
Cookeville Regional Medical Center
Fleming County Hospital
Good Samaritan Lexington
Harrison County Hospital
Kentuckiana Medical Center
Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center
Monroe County Medical Center
Murray-Calloway County Hospital
Owensboro Health Regional Hospital
Southern Indiana Rehab Hospital
St. Thomas Health Services Nashville
Starke Memorial Hospital
Taylor Regional Hospital
T J Sampson Hospital
Medical Center of Bowling Green
Twin Lakes Medical Center
UK Center for Aging
UnityPoint Health Trinity
University Hospital
University Outpatient Surgery
UofL Clinical Research
UofL Physicians Urology
UofL Pulmonary Research

**Physician Practices**
All Women OB/GYN
Associates in Plastic Surgery
Bill Smock MD
Bluegrass Community Family Practice
Bryan Prater MD
Carl Smith MD
ClearView Recovery Associates
David Skaff DDS
Douglas L Foerstch MD
Dr. Rosenberg
DS Research
Dupont Surgery Center
Ellis & Badenhausen
Endodontic Associates of Louisville
Family Allergy & Asthma
Family Health Center
Frank Clark MD
Haider Eye Care
Huntingburg Clinic
Kentuckiana Gastroenterology
Knopp & Flynn Chiropractic Center
Louisville Orthopedic Clinic
Marc Salzman MD
Mattingly & Howell Orthodontic
Metro Specialty Surgery
Phillip Feitelson MD
Physicians Medical Center
Pomeroy and Rhoads Orthopedics
Radice Medical
Surgecenter of Louisville
Total Care Family Practice
Volusia Endoscopy & Surgery Center

**Businesses**
Alcon Labs
American Home Health
AmeriMed
Becton Dickinson
Belinda Coyle/Coloplast
Byram Healthcare
Caregivers Health Network
Christian Care at Home Hartford
Clinical Effectiveness
Davita Dialysis Clinic
DNR Consulting
Facilities Management Services
Galen College of Nursing
GE Medical
Gray’s Bookstore Warehouse
Home Instead
Ivy Tech Community College
Joerns Healthcare
Kentucky Research Group
Lincare
L-Marc
Louisville Water Company
Medline
MedQuest College
Metro Louisville Department of Corrections

**Nonprofit Organizations**
AACN
American Red Cross
Ashley Patterson
(St. Paul Blood Services)
Broadway Baptist Church
Centerstone
CHARM
CHARM - Dominican Republic
Children of the Americas
Dispensary of Hope
DuPont Manual High School
F.O.W.
First Baptist Church of Frankfort
Greater Louisville Nursing Chapter
Haiti My Daily Armor
Harrison County Community Services
Hildegard House
Hosparus of Louisville
Hosparus of Southern Ind
Mauritania ACT
Middletown Christian Church
Ostomy Association of Sonoma County
Park DuValle Community Health Center
Project CARAT
Sew Blessed Kentuckiana
SFSU Student Health Service
Southeast Christian Church
Spalding Entech
Spalding University
St. Aloysius Church
Health Ministry
The Mustard Seed

Individuals who recycled surplus medical supplies with SOS are too numerous to list. Above are institutions that have given 50 pounds or more.
Local Impact

Local Donation Program

For more than 25 years, SOS has been transforming healthcare in communities around the world. In the last few years we have begun to put equal priority on transforming our own community. Last year SOS donated over $500,000 in supplies to local organizations.

JCPS

SOS announces formal partnership with Jefferson County Public Schools

For a variety of reasons, some items we receive cannot be shipped overseas. We constantly look for proactive ways for these supplies to be used in our own community, and partnering with JCPS created an innovative solution.

We donated over 1,000 lbs of lab supplies to be used in K–8 science classrooms for the upcoming school year. JCPS science curriculum encourages hands-on coursework that allows students to get educational experiences outside of typical textbook learning, which requires lots of hands-on materials.

Included in our donation were items such as test tubes, glass slides and other lab materials that allow science teachers to expand their teaching capacity throughout the school year. In an era of budget cuts in the school system, SOS is proud to support the education for the next generation of leaders.

Retired teacher and artist Debbie Shannon took 300+ pounds of supplies and used them for art projects at Lincoln Performing Arts School!

From middle school students to nursing and medical students, SOS is helping educate youth and young adults to give them the skills needed to make a positive difference in the world.

Animal Welfare

When SOS has surplus that is not being used by our humanitarian aid partners, we are happy to assist animal welfare organizations. These organizations are invited to come to the warehouse periodically when we have excess items that either cannot be sent overseas or we have more than we can use, and the items are available at no cost.

Pictured is a puppy named “Cranberry” that was used as dog bait. She came to the Humane Society at death’s door. SOS supplies were used to save her life, and she is now adopted and living with her forever family.
Local Health Clinics

Family Health Centers is a nonprofit with 8 community health center locations around Louisville. They provide primary and preventive medical and dental care to adults and children.

These small clinics have benefitted significantly over the years. Periodically SOS has more personal hygiene items than it can use; we then will deliver a pallet of these items to one Family Health Center, where it is then distributed to their other locations and provides medical support for 8 neighborhoods throughout Louisville. This is just one example of local clinics that benefit.
### Donors and Sponsors

**$25,000 and Up**
- UPS Foundation
- Anchorage Presbyterian Church
- Baptist Health Paducah
- Brown-Forman Corp
- CHI St. Joseph Health
- Greater Louisville Medical Society Foundation
- Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels
- Owensboro Health
- Regional Hospital
- Sherrie Ann Straughn

**$10,000-$24,999**
- $25,000 and Up
- Anon
- Baptist Health Paducah
- Greater Louisville Medical Society Foundation
- Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels
- Owensboro Health
- Regional Hospital
- Sherrie Ann Straughn

**$7,500 - $9,999**
- $10,000-$24,999
- Baptist Health Paducah
- CHI St. Joseph Health
- Greater Louisville Medical Society Foundation
- Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels
- Owensboro Health
- Regional Hospital
- Sherrie Ann Straughn

**$5,000 - $7,499**
- $7,500 - $9,999
- Anonymous
- Bernard Ansah
- Catholic Diocese of Gboko
- Pope John XXIII
- Regional Hospital
- Sherrie Ann Straughn

**$5,000 - $7,499**
- $5,000 - $7,499
- Bernard Ansah
- Catholic Diocese of Gboko
- Pope John XXIII
- Regional Hospital
- Sherrie Ann Straughn

**$2,500 - $4,999**
- $5,000 - $7,499
- Bernard Ansah
- Catholic Diocese of Gboko
- Pope John XXIII
- Regional Hospital
- Sherrie Ann Straughn

**$2,500 - $4,999**
- Bernard Ansah
- Catholic Diocese of Gboko
- Pope John XXIII
- Regional Hospital
- Sherrie Ann Straughn

**$1,000 - $2,499**
- Bernard Ansah
- Catholic Diocese of Gboko
- Pope John XXIII
- Regional Hospital
- Sherrie Ann Straughn

**$500 - $999**
- Bernard Ansah
- Catholic Diocese of Gboko
- Pope John XXIII
- Regional Hospital
- Sherrie Ann Straughn

**$250 - $499**
- Bernard Ansah
- Catholic Diocese of Gboko
- Pope John XXIII
- Regional Hospital
- Sherrie Ann Straughn

**$100 - $249**
- Bernard Ansah
- Catholic Diocese of Gboko
- Pope John XXIII
- Regional Hospital
- Sherrie Ann Straughn

### Thank You to Our Donors and Sponsors!
Supplies Over Seas has made every effort to correctly acknowledge every donor and volunteer group. If we have made an error or missed someone, please contact the Development Office at 502-736-6360. Gifts received July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

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Volunteer
It takes thousands of volunteer hours to transform the supplies that are donated to SOS into the materials that serve as a life-saving solution for medically impoverished communities around the world. SOS has a small paid staff of eight. As such, we rely on our volunteers in order to realize our big mission to deliver health and hope. Individuals and groups are welcome.

Donate
SOS depends on financial support from individuals, corporations, and foundations. We receive no government or United Way funding. SOS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, meaning all donations are tax-deductible as provided by law.

Your donation allows SOS to help make the hospitals in our region greener and to support shipments of medical supplies and equipment to a community in need.

Donate Your Own Medical Surplus
Individuals and families often have crutches, canes, wheelchairs, walkers and unused medical supplies following an illness or surgery. Don’t throw them out – bring them to SOS and we will give them to someone who desperately needs them!

Visit/Tour/Meet/Invite Us to Speak
Come take a tour of the SOS warehouse! See with your own eyes how SOS is able to use volunteer hands to turn thousands of pounds of medical surplus from waste into materials that transform healthcare conditions in medically impoverished communities across the globe. Bring a friend or a group – you and your organization are welcome!

Looking for an interesting place to meet? Consider holding your meeting in our conference room. To schedule a tour or to invite us to speak to your group, please call (502)736-6360.

How You Can Help
Our thanks to the hundreds of volunteers that sort, pack… and bring our mission to life every day! **The work you read about cannot be accomplished without our volunteers!** Every day we have amazing groups of people who give their time and energy to help us accomplish our global lifesaving mission. If you, your family or church group, work group, students, friends or colleagues would like to volunteer, let us know.

For volunteer information and opportunities, please email us at: volunteer@suppliesoverseas.org

**These photos represent a few of our Corporations, Schools, Churches, Hospitals, Individuals, Families, Organizations, Sororities, Fraternities and Partners**

Sacred Heart Academy

Brown-Forman Corp.

Norton Healthcare

Rawlings Group

U of L Medical

UPS

St Xavier High School

Kentucky One Health
Thank you to everyone who shared their photos and stories in this Impact Report.

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