



communiqué

delivering Health & Hope to the world

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CARING FOR UKRAINE

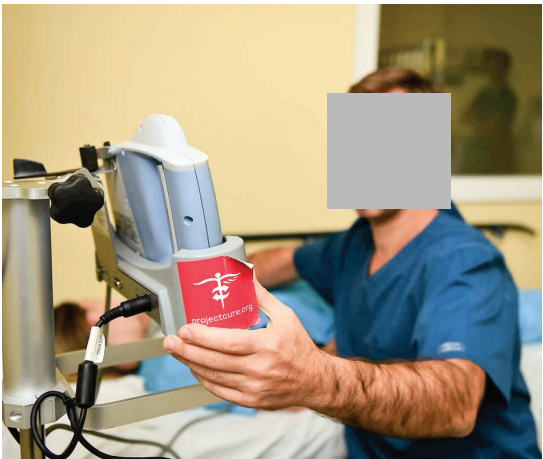
AN UPDATE ON THE CAMPAIGN



A member of the Ukrainian military carries medical supplies provided by Project C.U.R.E. into an undisclosed Ukrainian hospital.

THE WORLD AWOKED TO THE NEWS ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, THAT RUSSIA HAD INVADDED THE SOVEREIGN STATE OF UKRAINE. WHILE PROJECT C.U.R.E. IS NO STRANGER TO WORKING IN WARZONES AND DANGEROUS AREAS OF CONFLICT, THIS SITUATION HAS BEEN DRASTICALLY DIFFERENT.

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Identities of some individuals have been obscured for their protection.

Internationally considered a war of aggression, it is the largest conventional military attack on a European state since World War II, triggering the largest refugee crisis since the 1940s, with over 3.5 million Ukrainians fleeing the country and countless others fleeing their homes in areas of conflict.

Immediately upon word of the invasion, Project C.U.R.E. staff at the International Headquarters and across the U.S. mobilized and began preparing to support our existing partners on the ground, knowing that new requests for emergency medical supplies and equipment would be flooding in.

Project C.U.R.E. has an extensive history of working with our friends in Ukraine. Since 2000, the organization has sent 53 C.U.R.E. Cargo shipments to Ukrainian facilities throughout the country. In fact,

many C.U.R.E. Cargo shipments were also in the planning and implementation stages before the invasion. Just last year, Project C.U.R.E. was recognized by the National Health Council of Ukraine for participation in the international humanitarian project “Support Hospitals in Ukraine.”

This key partner in the region, Support Hospitals in Ukraine, is receiving many of these important shipments. These pallets of much-needed humanitarian medical cargo will be delivered to the distribution hub “Help Ukraine Center” in Poland, where it will be transferred to Ukrainian Ministry of Health to address the critical needs. These shipments of emergency medical cargo contain individual first aid kits (IFAKs), combat application tourniquets (C-A-Ts), different surgical instrument kits, and other surgical instruments and durables.

“
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”



Since the start of the invasion, Project C.U.R.E. has sent 17 emergency relief air shipments of medical supplies and equipment to Ukrainian partners, with over 750 pallets of relief being staged and shipped with more shipments in the planning stages.*

Project C.U.R.E. has also confirmed with partners on the ground that shipments are being received and immediately put to use. Another partner in Ukraine recently wrote:

“Our hospital is grateful to Project C.U.R.E. for your help to people in need around the world. Today we received humanitarian aid from your foundation. This help is very timely and our hospital needs it right now. Today, our hospital, like the whole of Ukraine, is faced with incredible difficulties in a cruel reality. And although there are no battles in our area yet, we are confronted every day with the consequences of this human catastrophe. In our hospital, every day there are many people from among the refugees who have lost their homes, their loved ones; there are also wounded soldiers from the battlefield. Our hospital

sincerely thanks Project C.U.R.E. for your help and for helping people in need.”

International and domestic partners have been instrumental in delivering emergency air shipments to Ukraine. Special thanks to Air Canada, Airlink, American Airlines, Flexport, LOT Polish Air, SEKO Logistics, United Airlines, and Virgin Atlantic for their partnership in this mission.

Project C.U.R.E. remains committed to providing humanitarian support to various partners in Ukraine and remains on standby to assist with further requests for medical supplies and equipment. Project C.U.R.E. is also coordinating with partners for refugee support in Moldova, Romania, and Poland. ■

For the latest updates and to support the campaign for Ukraine, visit projectcure.org/Ukraine.

* Shipment statistics at the time of printing



CONFRONTING THE

DELTA VARIANT IN INDIA

by Kyle Knuppel, M.D.

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**‘IT’S REALLY BAD.’
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”

“It’s really bad.” Those were the words I received via text from my dear friend and founder of Bannu, our nonprofit hospital in rural Eturnagaram India, which serves over 100,000 tribal people.

It was April 2021 and we found ourselves facing an unprecedented challenge. A variant of COVID-19, which would later come to be known as the ‘Delta Variant,’ was causing a surge in cases that far exceeded the operational capabilities of India’s healthcare systems. Scores of younger, healthier patients were dying at horrifying rates.

Bannu is a nonprofit organization focusing its work on health and education in rural areas of India. We strive to make positive and lasting contributions in areas associated with neglect and high risks. Our current focus is to provide special education to those with intellectual disabilities, as well as providing a secondary care hospital in a remote tribal region devoid of functional healthcare. Through our centers, we strive to provide critical free services to the vulnerable and marginalized.

India remains one of the unhealthiest places on earth. Millions of people still suffer from diseases and ailments that no longer exist almost anywhere else on the planet. Four out of five Indian children are anemic. Almost one in eight Indian women who give birth receive no antenatal care. What makes the picture even bleaker is the fact that India’s economic boom has had, so far at least, little impact on health standards.

The problems of insufficient health care is compounded by the fact that throughout India rates of malaria, HIV/AIDS, infant mortality, malnutrition and other medical issues are much higher than in more developed regions of the world. This increased demand adds stress to an already insufficient system. Together, these factors combine to result in hundreds and even thousands of people being denied medical care due to lack of resources. **These were the challenges that faced us prior to the devastation of a global pandemic.** As the Delta variant of COVID-19 began to surge in India, our facility was presented an even greater strain on our ability to

treat diseases and save lives of some of the world’s most marginalized.

In response to the surge of the Delta variant, we focused our resources on both the rural and urban centers nearest to our operations. We converted two floors of a new hospital in the city of Warangal into a COVID-19 treatment ward. Many hospitals and healthcare facilities throughout the region were desperately seeking medical supplies, including Bannu.

Within 24 hours of receiving the text message, I had a ticket booked to India. Before leaving, I found myself standing on the floor of Project C.U.R.E.’s Denver, Colorado warehouse. Volunteers, adept in refurbishing portable ventilators, were working long hours. The team was collecting additional oxygen concentrators and other core ICU equipment. I was approached by Steven Wagener, Director of Logistics, along with Kris Anderson, Vice President of Field Operations for Project C.U.R.E. They turned my attention to a tower of new emergency relief beds and asked if there was a need. With a simple “yes”, the wheels were in motion.

It was not long after that the beds arrived in India. We were in close communication with our partner government hospitals as well as private and NGO facilities. Beds were in demand due to the overwhelming number of COVID-19 cases as well as other life-threatening illnesses neglected by a strained healthcare system.

Beyond the fulfillment of this staple of hospital medicine, there was an impact that could not be quantified. As the employees and volunteers throughout the region witnessed Project C.U.R.E.’s shipments arrive, they celebrated the common humanity that accompanied each piece of equipment.

They saw through action, that the world took notice and that they were not alone. The volunteers and dedicated staff of Project C.U.R.E. inspired and enabled a force of frontline workers to continue fighting. And today, thanks to their efforts and the C.U.R.E. Cargo shipments we received, we’re still fighting—and saving lives. ■

Kyle Knuppel, M.D., is co-founder of the Bannu non-profit School for Children with Special Needs and Bannu Hospital, in the state of Telangana, India, where he is currently Director of Strategic Development and International Partnership.





HONORING JOHNNY HEIN

by Heidi Rickels

When my father, **JOHNNY HEIN**, retired from an almost 40-year career as a transportation industry executive, I suggested that he look for a purposeful avenue of service. He joyfully agreed to employ his business skills and expertise to assist the Operations team at Project C.U.R.E. by gathering shipping rates needed to deliver C.U.R.E. Cargo shipments to hospitals and medical facilities in developing countries.

His kind heart and gentle spirit soon warmed everyone at the International Headquarters, and he had a significant impact on the team over many years of service. He became a Friday volunteer staple and took special care to stop and visit with and encourage each individual. He grew to deeply love both the work and the people and continued to devote his Fridays to the Project C.U.R.E. mission for nearly 20 years.

Inspired by his Christian faith, and Christ's call in Matthew 25 to serve "the least of these," my father spent his time at Project C.U.R.E. in service to God and living a life of true significance.

Beyond weekly volunteering, he contributed financially to many projects. In February 2018, he partnered with friends to fund the delivery of a C.U.R.E. Cargo shipment to three medical facilities in the Ivory Coast in Africa. The results were tremendous as the much-needed medical supplies improved health, saved lives, and encouraged hope in an area of great poverty and need.

After working tirelessly to garner even more support and contributions, he formed the ministry Redemption in Action International, which supported the delivery of a second C.U.R.E. container in January 2020 and a third container in November 2020. A fourth container has funding and is awaiting a new Needs Assessment to determine new recipient facilities. Redemption in Action is currently making plans to build a rural medical clinic in the Ivory Coast, which they have decided to name in Johnny Hein's honor.

Over his lifetime, Johnny contributed significantly in both time and treasure to his home congregation—Southwest

Community Church—and to countless missionaries. He also supported several international humanitarian endeavors and ministries, including: The Seed Company, Freshwater Project International, and International Student Incorporated. He also devoted time to prison ministries, volunteered at The Children's Hospital, led Community Bible Study (CBS) groups, and spent a lot of time with his beloved grandchildren, Aiden and Ashley.

His substantial contribution of love and service over his lifetime is an example of faithful devotion to following God's call. At Project C.U.R.E. and into eternity, Johnny Hein's kind heart will be remembered and honored as a legacy of faith-in-action that we can all strive to follow in our own lives. ■

Heidi (Hein) Rickels is the daughter of Johnny Hein. She is currently serving as the Executive Director at Freshwater Project International, and is a former Director of Communications for Project C.U.R.E.



HEALTH & HOPE FOR JAMAICA

by Sanonna Newburn

When **JAVION BLAKE**, a young Jamaican-American from Denver, Colorado, returned to Jamaica on a business trip in the summer of 2021, his only goal was to develop a better supply chain operation for his Colorado-based company. However, after arriving home, a local doctor told Javion about the devastating conditions at the medical facilities that he'd become accustomed to working in. Javion was shocked by the level of hopelessness in his community and in the health systems, in particular. He now had a new goal: to find a way to positively impact the regional healthcare system in Jamaica.

After returning to the U.S., Javion realized he had a connection to Project C.U.R.E. through his volunteer position as President of the Young Professional Board at WorldDenver. Realizing that his connection could be the key to helping Jamaica's healthcare system, he contacted Project C.U.R.E. to learn more about sending a C.U.R.E. Cargo container of medical supplies to Jamaica. **Project C.U.R.E.'s Cargo program delivers 40-foot, cargo containers carrying \$350,000 worth of donated medical supplies and equipment to under-resourced hospitals, clinics, and community health centers in developing countries.** The cost to underwrite the delivery of a semi-truck sized C.U.R.E. Cargo container is roughly \$25,000.

While initially daunted by the cost required to get supplies to his home country, Javion felt convicted to improve the medical field conditions in Jamaica, so he began his fundraising efforts shortly after his meetings with Project C.U.R.E.

Javion's zeal for the cause didn't stop there. **Tragically, in September of 2021, he received a call from his mother and learned that his cousin, Donnette Grey-Morris, had passed away due to COVID-19 related complications.** Donnette was a nurse at Cornwall Regional Hospital and contracted COVID-19 due to inadequate personal protective equipment (PPE). Hearing that his cousin had lost her life from COVID-19 further cemented Javion's conviction to bring *health and hope* to Jamaica.

Javion recently completed his fundraising efforts to send a C.U.R.E. Cargo container full of medical supplies to Jamaica. The supplies will be disbursed to the Black River Hospital and Santa Cruz Health Centre. These facilities meet the healthcare needs of the citizens of St. Elizabeth and those from the neighboring parishes of the St. James, Manchester, and Westmoreland, with an estimated population of over 180,000.

Javion is working to impact the entire western Jamaican healthcare system as well. He is in talks with the Cornwall Regional Hospital, Noel Holmes Hospital, and Savanna La Mar Hospital to learn if they can be future partners of Project C.U.R.E. and recipients of C.U.R.E. Cargo shipments. He plans to continue working with the partners on the ground and with Project C.U.R.E. to ensure that every dollar donated goes toward improving the community's health. ■

Sanonna Newburn is a marketing and communications intern at Project C.U.R.E.'s international headquarters. She is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Strategic Communication from Colorado Christian University.



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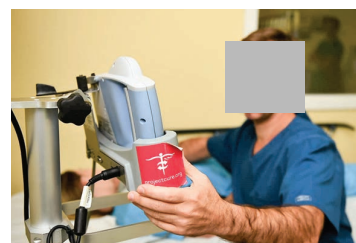
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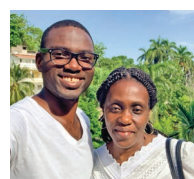
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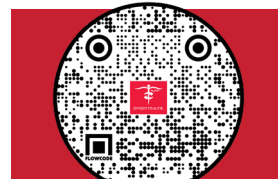
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