



Help send a  
*special delivery*  
that saves lives  
and offers hope.

When we see doctors in the United States, we take for granted that their offices and labs are stocked with the equipment they need to provide the care we need. But in many developing countries, clinics lack even the most basic supplies.

A Kenyan mother and her unborn baby run a greater risk for pregnancy and childbirth complications because the clinic has no ultrasound machine. In Madagascar, children suffer from undiagnosed infections because the doctor lacks a working X-ray machine.

But one special delivery can turn suffering into hope. LCMS World Relief and Human Care (LCMS WR-HC), with the help of caring donors, helps meet urgent health care needs by sending shipments of donated medical supplies to clinics and hospitals in poor communities around the world.

### One medical container touches many lives

LCMS WR-HC ships needed medical supplies in containers that look like those pulled by a semi-truck or fitted atop a train car. One well-stocked, 40-foot container can hold enough medical equipment for a clinic to serve thousands of people for many years! Supplies range from syringes to hospital beds and include from \$250,000 to \$600,000 in donated medical necessities.

Each medical shipment is delivered to an established medical facility owned by a local Lutheran church or ministry partner. These hospitals and clinics operate on limited resources and serve patients who can barely afford nominal fees. The delivery of an ultrasound machine or incubator can be the first piece of desperately needed medical equipment in a poor community – and for miles beyond!

One medical container recently arrived in Kisumu, Kenya, where the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK) is expanding a clinic and will soon open a surgical unit. This container included an X-ray machine, ultrasound machine, hospital beds, and many other supplies. Along with stocking the clinic, the donated medical supplies saved the ELCK money the church can use to make health care more affordable for poor patients. This is especially important in African communities where a simple blood test can cost two weeks' pay!

A medical container also represents the ultimate in "recycling". After supplies are unloaded, these steel units are used for other services. In Kenya, one container will be used to expand a clinic while another container now serves as the office for a water treatment project.



### Your gift helps cover critical shipping costs

To make shipments as efficient and cost-effective as possible, LCMS WR-HC partners with Orphan Grain Train (OGT), an LCMS Recognized Service Organization with warehouses throughout the country. OGT coordinates shipments by train in the U.S. and by cargo ship overseas.

Shipping costs vary, depending on the destination country. Sending a medical supplies container to Kenya, for example, costs about \$15,000; to a nearer country such as Haiti, around \$5,000. Shipping costs represent a fraction of the medical supplies container's total value – but donations to cover that critical expense are invaluable to sick and hurting people!

LCMS WR-HC collects medical supplies from U.S. physicians and hospitals that no longer need them. People in poor communities around the world urgently need better medical care. Your donation – of any amount – will help cover shipping costs of a very special delivery!

To make a contribution or learn more about shipping medical containers or donating medical supplies, visit [www.lcms.org/mercy\\_teams](http://www.lcms.org/mercy_teams) or contact: Jacob Fiene, manager of medical/material resources, LCMS World Relief and Human Care, 800-248-1930, ext. 1278, or [Jacob.Fiene@lcms.org](mailto:Jacob.Fiene@lcms.org)