Volunteerism’s Role in “Delivering Health and Hope”

• Volunteerism is a core value and spans generations. (Alexis du Tocqueville – “Democracy in America.”)
• Through volunteer service, individuals and groups are offered the opportunity to pursue their purpose. (Daniel Pink – “Drive”)
• Volunteerism in America is expected to continue to rise as the Baby Boomer generation transitions from the workforce seeking to utilize their skill set to benefit the ‘greater good.’
• ‘Giving back’ is now understood to play an intimate role in human development and self esteem.
• Many universities and workplaces are requiring their students or employees to complete service learning projects.
• Employers are now offering paid time off for their employees to participate in volunteer days.
• Project C.U.R.E. benefited from the volunteer service of 26,000 volunteer visits in the past year.
• Volunteers provided Project C.U.R.E. with 107,000 hours collecting, sorting & inspecting donations.
• The value of these hours is $2,368,980.
• Volunteers also assist with loading containers of medical supplies, pulling inventory as well as a variety of administrative tasks.
• Volunteer medical professionals provided care to patients in 10 countries as part of C.U.R.E. Clinics.
• Thousands of nurses/midwives trained through HBB.
• Volunteers are Project C.U.R.E. ambassadors for our work around the globe. Whether giving primary care, training traditional birthing attendants in neonatal resuscitation, or providing nutritional support with our partner Vitamin Angels, these volunteers return to the US knowing that their service made an impact. However, what we find most often is that the volunteer serving is the one who is deeply changed.
Dr. Chelsea Clinton volunteered at Project C.U.R.E.’s Denver warehouse in 2015 to help pack supplies for a hospital in Malawi supported by the Clinton Global Initiative.
Impact:

• Saving Mothers Giving Life: reduced maternal mortality by 50% in rural Uganda and Zambia in three years.
• Leveraging $1 sponsorship dollar into $20 of medical aid.
• Thousands of Kits for Kids backpacks of basic OTC items from youth, corporate & civic groups
• Conducted 304 Assessments in 36 countries (311 working days in the field) last year!
• Will deliver 180 40-foot Cargo shipments this year. Last year’s shipments valued at $53.4M to 47 countries.
• Accomplished with only 28 paid employees and the help of more than 26,000 volunteers.
Lessons Learned:

• Volunteers give you their most precious possession. Non-profits generally focus on the money. It’s what pays the bills. But the thing we have too little of is time – and that is precisely the thing that volunteers invest. Cherish that investment.
Lessons Learned:

• People work for passion and purpose. It is essential that volunteers understand the “why” as much as they understand the “what” and “how.” Many organizations skip over the purpose of the volunteer’s work, and start with what they are asked to do, and how to do it.
• Volunteers still get paid. Usually, it comes in the form of a story. Sometimes, we can make that face to face connection between people. Regardless of the form, it is essential to fill their hearts and minds with remuneration for the investment of their time.
Don’t ever separate authority and responsibility. If you want to task someone to do something, give them the authority to get the job done. Nothing is more frustrating than being asked to do something, and then to have to ask permission for each step along the way. It is demeaning.
Abolish paycheck apartheid. There is an erroneous notion that to get “real” work done in a “consistent” manner, you have to find paid staff. “Volunteers aren’t dependable and don’t do the best work” so the story goes. And it is wrong. We have volunteers who have been with the organization, working nearly full time, for over 15 years. And their work is excellent. Never allow the dichotomy to sneak in and label a volunteer as less valuable than paid staff. We are all in this together, and we need each other.