AMERICAN WOMEN’S HOSPITALS SERVICE
A PROGRAM OF THE
AMERICAN MEDICAL WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION

The American Women’s Hospitals Service (AWHS) is a program of the American Medical Women’s Association (AMWA). AWHS is dedicated to providing care to the medically underserved, especially through programs that serve the needs of women and children. We do this through direct assistance to medical clinics for those in very serious need, and we provide grants to assist the training of medical students and residents serving in these clinics. This desperately needed service is made possible through the generosity of AMWA members and supporters.

AWHS History: The AWHS history is long and fascinating. It was founded in 1917, during World War I, by a group of New York physicians and their patients who planned to send an ambulance staffed by women physicians to the front in France—but were rebuffed by the U.S. Government. Modeled after the Scottish Hospitals, the AWH, as it was then known, urged the utilization of American women physicians in war work. Recruiting female medical workers, AWHS raised funds and developed plans for service in the Balkan area field operations, including Turkey.

By November 1918, AWHS had raised more than $2 million dollars and registered more than 1,000 women physicians. Throughout France, Serbia, and the Near East, American women physicians and nurses met medical emergencies, established public health programs and provided social welfare services under the auspices of AWHS. Among these was an AWHS-assisted hospital in Scutari, Turkey—the same hospital where Florence Nightingale had served in 1854.

AWHS Today: AWHS provides essential services to numerous underserved communities in the U.S. and overseas. Here in the U.S., AWHS funding assists with the medical care of the poor and provides transportation for patients from their homes to the clinics. Through the generosity of our donors, AWHS currently supports the clinical, educational and special programs of Day Spring Family Health Center in Clairfield, TN; Dover Community Clinic in Dover, NJ; Harbor Free Clinic in San Pedro, CA; Health Care Network in Racine, WI; Marian Clinic in Topeka, KS; and Bread for the City in Washington, DC.

AWHS also touches the lives of the poor as far away as Hôpital Bon Samaritain in Limbe, Haiti, where the average life expectancy is only 62 years and nearly 20% of children under 5 are underweight. The hospital staffs 8 full-time physicians and treats over 6,000 outpatients per month. AWHS programs are really making a difference!

AWHS also provides medical care for the poorest of the poor in Uganda. Founded by medical students in 2006, the Engeye Health Clinic now sees over 12,000 patients per year and has programs with the village community to improve access to basic primary care.

Clean water, health education, vaccinations, HIV testing and treatment, beds, and much more. Similar programs exist at the Friendship Clinic in Nepal which provides healthcare, vocational training, and clean water sanitation for over 50,000 people in Megauli, Nepal. AMWS supports the Amazon Hope Medical Ships which provide healthcare for around 100,000 patients per year to the remote communities on the Amazon River in South America, many of which are inaccessible by road. AMWA physician members monitor all of these programs for quality.

Overseas Assistance Grants: Through AWHS, AMWA extends its global reach with another remarkable program, the Overseas Assistance Grants. These are grants to carefully selected women medical students and residents to provide primary care and do research in medically underserved areas, including Thailand, the Dominican Republic, Ghana, India, Africa, Vietnam and others. This exceptional training helps to prepare these young women physicians with the kind of experience, humility and dedication that follows them throughout their careers—and we have decades of letters of thanks reminding us of the impact of these gifts!

The Need is Huge: AWHS knows that there are so many more who would love to serve, and so many more that need our care. Only through continued and increased donations can AWHS sustain its work among the poor. AWHS hopes to expand its clinic support and provide additional programs that serve the medical needs of women and children. But AWHS needs your help!
To help AMWA maintain and expand these vital programs, please support:

- the AWHS assistance to medical clinics for the underserved and
- the travel of young women physicians to train and provide medical care in these most underserved clinics

Please donate to AMWA's American Women's Hospitals Service fund by mailing a check to AMWA or visiting our website, www.amwa-doc.org.

Your gift to AWHS is fully tax deductible, and you will have the comfort of knowing that each AWHS-supported clinic's service and quality of care is monitored by AMWA physicians. You can read the stories about our clinics and those written by our travel grant recipients on our website, www.amwa-doc.org, and in our newsletter, AMWA Connections.

So, please donate generously. Your gifts to AMWA's AWHS program really do make a difference!

Planned giving through a bequest, life insurance or a memorial to a loved one are ways you can help.

For more information please email us at associatedirector@amwa-doc.org or call (866) 564-2483.