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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MedWish International Responds to COVID-19 Medical Supply Shortage**  
*Seeking donations for critical shortage at Northeast Ohio medical centers*

**CLEVELAND, OHIO (March 25, 2020)** – For more than 25 years, MedWish International has provided medical supplies and equipment to desperately underserved communities throughout the world. Based in Cleveland, MedWish has benefited from the generosity of the world-class medical institutions of Northeast Ohio. Now, during the global health crisis presented by COVID-19, MedWish is stepping up to give back to the local health care community.

Essential equipment to protect front-line health care workers in our community is in critically short supply amid the outbreak. MedWish is working closely with local health care and county leaders to support these teams by providing donations of masks, gowns, goggles, face shields, respiratory supplies and hygiene supplies.

“We must do everything we can to help our health care providers stay safe,” said MedWish Executive Director Carolina Masri. “This is the work we do every day, but typically the need for these items is in remote villages around the world, where medical care is perpetually in short supply. We are grateful that we are in a position during this historic crisis to help the institutions here in Northeast Ohio that have shared their surplus with us over the last two and a half decades.”

Dr. Akram Boutros, president and CEO of MetroHealth said, “In the midst of this national health crisis, MedWish came through with masks, gloves, gowns and other equipment that will help doctors, nurses and other caregivers stop the spread of COVID-19. Without being asked, MedWish made sure the health care institutions in Cleveland were even better prepared to provide this life-saving care. We are grateful for their generosity and commitment to our community.”

MedWish is seeking the public’s help in order to continue the work of supporting the local and global medical community during this unprecedented health emergency and beyond.

To donate personal protective equipment, hand sanitizer and other critically needed supplies, please contact Tony Monaco at [tmonaco@medwish.org](mailto:tmonaco@medwish.org). Financial contributions to MedWish can be made at [www.medwish.org/donate](http://www.medwish.org/donate).

For more information, please contact Sakina Kapasi at [skapasi@medwish.org](mailto:skapasi@medwish.org). Updates on MedWish’s COVID-19 response efforts also can be found at [www.facebook.com/MedWishInternational](https://www.facebook.com/MedWishInternational).

**About MedWish International**

MedWish International is a Cleveland-based not-for-profit organization that saves lives and the environment by repurposing surplus medical supplies and equipment while providing humanitarian aid to individuals in need.

In 2019, MedWish partnered with 128 hospitals and health care providers in Northeast Ohio, who generously donated medical supplies and equipment, helping MedWish divert over 434,000 lbs. of medical surplus from local landfills. Additionally, MedWish sent 164 shipments estimated to have impacted the lives of over one million people around the world.

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