**Annual Report 2015**

**Aid for Orphans Relief Foundation (AORF)**

**1952 Whitney Ave. 3rd Floor**

**Hamden, CT 0651**

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**Mission and Programs**

The mission of the Aid for Orphans Relief Foundation is to provide orphans and other at risk children, around the globe and in Connecticut, with proper healthcare, nutrition and wellness treatments that would otherwise be unavailable. AORF currently has eight active programs. Our programs fall into two types. The first seven programs involve AORF acquiring donated and discounted medical products (primarily medications, medical supplies, nutritional products and personal care items) and sending them to organizations, orphanages, and medical clinics that serve impoverished children. Our eighth program is supplying weekend food for food insecure children and their families in Connecticut. Our medical products programs sent over $1M in products this year ($1,018,831.47) to thousands of children. Although smaller in scope, our weekend backpack programs are every bit as important to us. This year we were able to start two of these programs, one at the SAND School in Hartford, Connecticut, that serves 10 children and their families, an estimated 40 individuals. The other program is at the Church Street School in Hamden, Connecticut that is currently serving 15 children and families, or approximately 60-65 individuals.

1) AORF sends medicines and medical supplies to mobile health clinics run by Operation Blessing in the central Philippines, an area still recovering from Typhoon Haiyan that hit in 2013.

2) We send medicines, medical supplies and nutritional/hygiene products to two orphanages, serving approximately 235 children, in Poland run by the Sister Servants of Mary.

3) AORF sends medicines and medical supplies to health clinics run by the Sisters of Divine Providence in Cameroon.

4) AORF sends medical supplies to Uman Children's Hospital in Uman, Cherkassy Region, Ukraine, which provides medical care to approximately 80,000 children and struggles with inadequate supplies and medical equipment.

5) We ship over-the-counter medications, hygiene items, and personal care supplies to the Hope Hill Children’s Home in Kentucky.

6) We send medicines and nutritional treatments for malnutrition to an orphanage, Arap Moi, in Nakuru, Kenya.

 7) We deliver, here in Connecticut, over-the-counter medications, personal care items, and hygiene supplies to the children served by Boys and Girls Village in Milford.

8) AORF has partnered with the John J. Driscoll United Labor Agency to deliver their successful Labor of Love Backpack Program to deliver weekend food to food insecure families at two Connecticut schools.

**Successes**

We were able to increase our medical products deliveries by 30% in 2015, sending out over $1M in products to vulnerable children around the word. We were able to secure grant monies and donations to start two weekend backpack programs in schools that needed programs, but had been unable to fund them. We have increased AORF’s presence on social media with more frequent tweets and Facebook posts. We have also started regular emailing campaigns seeking donations for our programs. Additionally, we have started our first GoFundMe account to test those waters. We wrote 66 grants, requests for corporate donations, and LOI’s in 2015. We are still waiting to hear on many of these requests, but we have received funding from The Fund for Greater Hartford, BJ’s, Stop &Shop, Trader Joe’s (gift of food), the David Beckerman Foundation, Google AdGrants, Beirne Wealth Consulting Inc., The Leon and Toby Cooperman Family Foundation, Merrill Lynch, Bank of America, and the Fred DeLuca Foundation.

This year AORF reached out to new consultants and new organizations for ideas and for the purpose of enlarging our connections and visibility. Dr. Chustecki and Dr. Schilling met with Sharon Oster, a professor at Yale School of Management and a specialist in nonprofit strategy. We also met with Kim Bohen, Yale School of Management graduate and consultant with a long history of work with nonprofits, for advice on moving the organization forward. Dr. Chustecki and Dr. Schilling also met with Jimmy Canton, CEO of the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, the hugely successful nonprofit working with seriously ill children and their families. Subsequently Dr. Schilling met with their grant writer, Debbie Fraser, who shared information regarding how to boost success with organizational grant writing.

This year AORF joined YANA- Yale Alumni Nonprofit Alliance. This organization works with alumni who are associated with nonprofits to enhance collaboration and opportunities and promote visibility of nonprofits with which Yale Alumni are involved. Dr. Chustecki, Dr. Schilling and board member, Alexis Cort, attended YANA’s Fundraising Gala honoring Barbara Bush (Founder of Global Health Crops) at The Yale Club in New York City on October 7, 2015.As a result of hearing Dr. Dean Karlan speak at this event we have contacted Dr. Karlan, also a Yale School of Management professor, who is an expert on using randomized evaluations to evaluate the effectiveness of social policies. Dr. Chustecki and Dr. Schilling will be meeting with a member of his staff soon to explore ways to develop AORF’s evaluation strategies.

Finally, AORF was honored on October 29, 2015 at a fundraising event held by the John J. Driscoll United Labor Agency at Foxwoods. Dr. Schilling, AORF’s Director of Grant Writing, accepted the 2015 Community Champion Award for the Foundation. AORF was recognized for its work to help end food insecurity in Connecticut schoolchildren. The award came with a plaque and a certificate issued by Her Excellency Nancy Wyman, Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut.

**New Personnel**

AORF has a new Director of Philanthropy, Judy Rodgers, who has just joined us part-time. Judy has over fifteen years of nonprofit experience as a fundraising executive. Also joining AORF as a part-time Consultant for Special Projects is Lauragene Lyons Katz, formerly a development officer for Yale University. Lauragene will be working on developing a grant opportunity for our program to treat malnutrition in Kenyan orphanages. Finally, in 2015 we were fortunate to have Kristine Salamanca join us a volunteer. She is currently doing library research for us.

**Our Supporters**

AORF received $60,280 in individual donations in 2015 and $10,500 in foundation grants. We received $6,300 in corporate donations.

We wish to thank our individual donors, as well as our corporate and foundation donors and grantors. We would also like to thank the numerous pharmaceutical and medical supply organizations who supplied us with products in 2015: Americares; Catholic Medical Mission Board; Brother’s Brother Foundation; Abbott; PBM Pharmaceutical, Inc.; Glaxo, Smith, Kline; Aptalis Pharma; Bayer; Forest Laboratories, Inc.; Merck & Co., Inc.; Astra Zeneca; Milford Hospital; Janssen; Clariton Hotel; Vitamin Angels; Bristol Myers Squibb; Nestle; Protor and Gambel; and PAR.

**Future Plans**

AORF will work, in 2106, to sustain our current programs. Every year since our inception in 2010 we have been fortunate to be able to grow our medical product contributions. In five years we have distributed over $3M in medicines and medical products to orphans and at-risk children around the world. In 2016 we hope to be able grow these distributions by 30%.

In 2016 we will continue our efforts to help end food insecurity in Connecticut schoolchildren. We will not only work to sustain our two existing programs, but look for opportunities to expand to other schools that need a weekend food program but do not currently have one.

In 2016 we plan to increase the visibility of our organization and its programs by upping our participation on social media, and by the outreach efforts of our new Director of Philanthropy, Judy Rodgers.