

PRESS RELEASE

June 14, 2017

KAMRA is pleased to announce that the Reed Family Foundation of Atlanta and Conscience International together are funding not one, but **two** shipments of medical supplies from MedShare of Atlanta to the Kirker Hospital in Maine-Soroa, Niger. These two very generous donations from the Reed Family Foundation (\$20,500) and Conscience International (\$12,500) will cover both the MedShare sponsorship fees and transport of the containers from Atlanta to Niamey, the capital of Niger. The first shipment is packed and leaving the MedShare warehouse this week. KAMRA, meanwhile, has the responsibility to fund the clearance and transportation costs from Niamey to the Kirker Hospital in the isolated, far southeastern part of the country. **To make this happen, KAMRA needs to raise \$5,000.**

The Kirker African Medical Relief Association (KAMRA), established in 2007, supports a hospital and school in the remote town of Maine-Soroa in southeastern Niger, just north of the Nigerian border and some 900 miles from the capital, Niamey. This extremely poor region of 700,000 people in the world's poorest country (by the United Nations Human Development Index) has been offering welcome and sanctuary over the past four years to some 300,000 refugees fleeing the violence perpetrated by Boko Haram in northeastern Nigeria. (Boko Haram was ranked as the world's deadliest terrorist group by the Global Terrorism Index in 2015.)

Thanks to the generous support of International Relief Teams (IRT) of San Diego, over the last four years seven shipments of medicines (worth \$54 million) have been sent from the Medical Assistance Programs (MAP) of Brunswick, Georgia to the Kirker Hospital. KAMRA has raised the funds to clear and transport these medicines from Niamey to Maine-Soroa. These critically-needed medicines were shared by the Kirker Hospital with the hospitals in the towns of Diffa and N'Guigmi, which are the only other hospitals in southeastern Niger. **Over 50 percent of the medicines dispensed from the Kirker Hospital and the other two hospitals are MAP- provided medicines.**

Unfortunately, the last MedShare shipment of medical supplies that KAMRA was able to send was in 2010 - these desperately-needed supplies have long been exhausted.

What kinds of medical supplies will be going in the two new MedShare shipments? The following are the sub-categories MedShare uses:
Anesthesia/Respiratory; Caps/Masks/Shoe Covers;
Drainage/Irrigation/Suction; Dressings; Electrodes; Endo/Lapro/Stapler;

Feeding/Gastro; Gloves; IV; Lab; Monitoring; Needles; Nursing Aids; OB-GYN/Infant Care; Orthopedic; Ostomy; Personal Hygiene; Skin Prep; Sterile Drapes; Sterilization Supplies; Surgical; Sutures; Syringes; and Urinary. The first MedShare forty-foot container has 1285 boxes of medical supplies with a fair market value of over \$360,000 in it, and the second container will have a similar cargo and will be shipped in about three weeks. The Kirker Hospital in Maine-Soroa will be sharing the medical supplies with the hospitals in Diffa and N'Guigmi.

KAMRA is a 501(c)(3) charity established in 2007 in Columbia, SC. It works with the Kirker Foundation/Niger, a local non-profit with a Nigerien volunteer Board of Directors, which arranges all clearances and transportation in Niger. We encourage interested donors to go to the MedShare website (www.medshare.org) and to learn about this outstanding organization. To contribute to KAMRA and help us get to that \$5000 we need to send two shipments of medical supplies to the Kirker Hospital, go to our website (www.kirkerassociation.org). All support would be greatly appreciated.