

# Nearly 16,000 Americans develop lupus each year.

Help us on our quest to find better treatments and ultimately a CURE for LUPUS.

# #37283

The Lupus Research Alliance was born from the merger of three organizations with a common belief in the potential for science to overcome lupus (Lupus Research Institute, Alliance for Lupus Research, and SLE Lupus Foundation).



## Support Our Heroes



Dennis Gordon, Adaptive Adventures

The DAV Charitable Service Trust supports programs and initiatives that improve the quality of life for veterans like Dennis Gordon. Last year, more than 97% of donated funds went directly to programs that assist disabled veterans and their families.

LEARN MORE:

[cst.dav.org](http://cst.dav.org)



**DAV** Charitable Service Trust

CFC #11322



## An Holistic Approach to Transforming Communities Around the World

From Africa to Asia and Latin America to the Pacific, the missionaries of Operation Mobilization are spreading their message of hope and salvation through Christianity. No corner of the world is too remote.

Operation Mobilization (OM) began modestly enough. In 1957, founder George Verwer visited Mexico with two friends, giving out Christian literature to locals. Their continued success in Mexico over the next couple summers encouraged them to travel to Spain in 1960 with the same message and mission.

OM grew out of those early mission trips and has now reached more than 110 countries through the work of 6,800 staff and volunteers. Today, their work extends beyond distributing literature. They take an holistic approach to strengthening the communities they visit.

"There are organizations that do a great job of evangelizing and sharing the gospel, and others that do a fantastic job of providing aid, relief and support to those in need," Chris Fedelem, OM's vice president of marketing, says. "We feel like as followers of Jesus, we are compelled by his word and commandments to do both; and in practice we see that this approach is most successful at creating lasting, sustainable change."

In the Caribbean, OM is providing disaster relief after the recent devastating hurricanes swept through. In Angola, the churches operated by OM teach a variety of classes for locals, like discipleship, agricultural skills, English language and HIV and AIDS awareness. In Costa Rica, OM provides medical outreach to poverty-stricken areas.

Fedelem recalls the story of a woman in El Tejar, Guatemala, named Josefa. After this widow and mother of six visited OM's Project Rescue, the workers discovered that five of her children didn't have civil registration papers.

"The government doesn't recognize children not registered with the state," he explains. "So when a child is kidnapped or lost, it is virtually



PHOTO CREDIT: NATHAN SCHMUTZ.

◆ Children participating in Project Rescue are doing their homework. ©OM International.

impossible to identify the child – let alone get him or her back – making this an ideal place for traffickers to stalk victims."

The team at Project Rescue determined that Josefa's 12-year-old daughter was most at risk for assault and abduction. To help empower her to protect herself, they coached the young girl on understanding and dealing with the dangers she faced. On days when she spent time at Project Rescue, they even escorted her home.

Project Rescue services the community as a day-care center that also provides valuable training. The team there offers tutoring, mentorship, hygiene instruction and also engages children on a spiritual level, teaching about God through songs and Bible studies.

For Josefa, Project Rescue's crucial assistance didn't stop there.

"The OM team found a local ministry specializing in legal matters and, with its help, all five of her unregistered [children] were officially registered within one month," Fedelem says. "With papers now in hand, they were finally able to enroll in school, which will help them to break the cycle of poverty."

It's stories like Josefa's that exemplify OM's holistic approach to community building and keep its many dedicated staff, volunteers and donors supporting its worldwide mission.

**Story by Tara Shubuck**  
**Operation Mobilization**  
**CFC #84158**



### 2017 CFC CAUSE WEEK CALENDAR

[opm.gov/ShowSomeLoveCFC](http://opm.gov/ShowSomeLoveCFC)

- Animal Welfare Week Oct. 30 – Nov. 5, 2017
- Veterans Week Nov. 6 – 12, 2017
- Global Health Week Nov. 13 – 19, 2017
- Clean Water & Hunger Week Nov. 20 – 26, 2017
- Housing & Shelter Week Nov. 27 – Dec. 3, 2017
- Persons With Disabilities Week Dec. 4 – 10, 2017
- Military Support Week Dec. 11 – 17, 2017
- Environmental Conservation Week Dec. 18 – 24, 2017
- Medical Research Week Dec. 25 – 31, 2017
- Youth Development Week Jan. 1 – 7, 2018
- Human Trafficking Week Jan. 8 – 14, 2018

