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## Caregiver Kit Program Embraced Worldwide

This month, World Vision, a nonprofit organization that McKesson partners with to provide supplies to AIDS caregivers worldwide, will ship its 100,000th caregiver kit.

After receiving a plug on “Good Morning America” from first lady Laura Bush last year, the program has caught on like wildfire, embraced by schools, churches and corporations, from Microsoft to Expedia and Goldman Sachs.

Organizations raise money to buy kits and recruit volunteers to build them.



*In January, World Vision presented the Med-Surg operating team with an award recognizing their contributions. Left to right are: Nicole Normansell, Larry Burke, Laura Schwertz, Brian Tyler, Anne Derby with World Vision, Joan Eliasek, Terry Pfab and Pat McClenaghan.*

## McKesson Helps Buy & Build 10,000 Kits

**Toby Capps**, account manager, Primary Care, **McKesson Medical-Surgical**, who, along with the nonprofit World Vision, developed the caregiver kits two years ago, thanks McKesson employees for their support of the program.

Last fall, McKesson adopted World Vision for the company’s annual Employee Community Campaign, and funds donated by employees purchased 4,000 caregiver kits, which will be assembled by McKesson employees during National Volunteer Week in this spring.

Last May, 1,500 attendees at the Med-Surg National Sales Conference in Las Vegas assembled 6,000 kits.

**Ron Simpson**, VP Sales, Med-Surg, participated in the kit assembly. He said, “It was an absolute pleasure to play a small role in helping others around the globe. It made me feel proud to be in healthcare as a McKesson associate.”

**Jeff Butler**, account manager, Med-Surg, said, “I will never forget seeing the entire sales force coming together for such a worthy and significant cause.”

Toby said, “I can’t begin to tell you how humbled and grateful I am for the support McKesson employees have given this program. As thrilled as we are with the success of the program so far, unfortunately, we are only beginning in a small way to address the real need.”

### **More Help Still Needed**

According to the World Vision website, in Africa alone, 6,000 people a day die of AIDS. The kits provide caregivers with basic supplies, such as latex gloves, antibacterial soap, antifungal cream and washcloths. They also include a flashlight and batteries to provide much-needed light in remote areas without electricity.

Toby explained, “This helps caregivers help patients at night when they might otherwise be limited to daytime visits. The kits provide things we take for granted. Items like soap and Vaseline are scarce commodities in Africa. Some shop owners import from neighboring countries and charge exorbitant prices. Our kits go a long way in assisting chronically ill patients, most of whom have no source of income.”

### **Delivering Kits to Africa**

In March, Toby and his 20-year-old daughter Ashley will travel to Africa with a team of nine volunteers from World Vision to see firsthand how these kits help those in great need.

He added, “I know my life will forever be changed by the experience. Rest assured I will be delivering the best wishes of all the folks at McKesson to these caregivers, who are so very grateful for all you have done.”

Watch a 5-minute [video](#) on YouTube that describes the caregiver kits and shows Med-Surg employees at the National Sales Conference last May.

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