



## Meaningful Meetings

Below is a sample listing of 501(c)(3) charitable organizations focused on: hunger and poverty relief, education and development of disadvantaged children, health initiatives, and environmental conservation.

AMERICA'S SECOND HARVEST  
AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS  
AMERICARES  
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY  
AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION  
BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF AMERICA  
BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA  
CARE USA  
CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK  
CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL  
DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS USA  
FEED THE CHILDREN  
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL  
HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL  
JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION  
MAKE A WISH FOUNDATION  
MARINE TOYS FOR TOTS FOUNDATION  
NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL  
NATURE CONSERVANCY  
OXFAM AMERICA  
SAVE THE CHILDREN FEDERATION  
ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL  
SUSAN G KOMEN FOR THE CURE  
UNICEF  
WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

## America's Second Harvest

**Mission:**

America's Second Harvest -- The Nation's Food Bank Network is the nation's largest charitable hunger-relief organization, with a network of more than 200 regional member food banks and food - rescue programs serving all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The America's Second Harvest Network secures and distributes nearly two billion pounds of donated food and grocery products annually. The America's Second Harvest Network supports approximately 50,000 local charitable agencies operating more than 94,000 programs including food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, after-school programs, and Kids Cafes. Last year, the America's Second Harvest Network provided food assistance to more than 25 million low-income hungry people in the United States, including nearly nine million children and nearly three million seniors.

**Web site:** [www.secondharvest.org](http://www.secondharvest.org)

## American National Red Cross

**Mission:**

The American Red Cross, a humanitarian organization governed by volunteers and supported by community donations, provides relief to victims of disasters and helps people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. We have been providing assistance to those affected by Hurricane Katrina and are currently sheltering Hurricane Rita evacuees at dozens of shelters in Texas. We will continue to provide food, shelter, clothing and other emergency needs to people affected by the hurricane. In Central America and Mexico, the American Red Cross is providing disaster response assistance to affected Red Cross National Societies in coordination with International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners. In South Asia, the American Red Cross is supporting the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement response through financial, personnel, and relief supply contributions.

**Web site:** [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

## Americares

**Mission:**

Founded in 1982, AmeriCares is a disaster relief and humanitarian aid organization providing immediate response to emergency medical needs, as well as supporting long-term humanitarian assistance programs for all people around the world, irrespective of race, creed or political persuasion. To deliver medicine, relief supplies and health care to the needy, AmeriCares has developed a platform based on strategic partnerships, high-efficiency and tight auditing procedures. AmeriCares assembles product donations from the private sector, determines the most urgent needs and solicits the funding to send the aid via airlift or ocean cargo to health and welfare professionals in the indigent locations. Since its founding, AmeriCares has provided more than \$6 billion of aid to 137 countries.

**Web site:** [www.americares.org](http://www.americares.org)

## American Cancer Society

**Mission:**

Founded in 1913, the American Cancer Society (ACS) is the nationwide, community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy and service.

With more than two million volunteers nationwide, it is one of the oldest and largest voluntary health agencies in the United States, with millions of Americans united to conquer cancer.

**Web site:** [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

## American Heart Association

**Mission:**

Founded in 1924, the American Heart Association (AHA) is a national voluntary health agency whose mission is to reduce disability and death from cardiovascular diseases and stroke. Since the AHA became a voluntary health organization in 1948, we have spent more than \$2.7 billion for projects that explore the prevention, detection and treatment of heart disease and stroke. The AHA's research commitment over the past half century has helped lead to developments such as pacemakers, open-heart surgery, heart transplantation, clot-busting drugs and defibrillators that can stop potential fatal heart rhythm problems. The AHA's driving force is providing credible heart disease and stroke information for effective prevention and treatment.

**Web site:** [www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org)

## Big Brothers Big Sisters of America

**Mission:**

Founded in 1904, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America is the oldest and largest youth mentoring organization in the United States. Big Brothers Big Sisters serves children, ages 6 through 18, in communities across the country. Our mission is to help children reach their potential through professionally supported, one-to-one relationships with measurable impact. National research has shown that the positive relationships between Big Brothers and Big Sisters and their Littles have a direct, measurable, and lasting impact on children's lives. Big Brothers Big Sisters currently operates in all 50 states and in 35 countries around the world!

**Web site:** [www.bbbsa.org](http://www.bbbsa.org)

## **Boys and Girls Clubs of America**

### **Mission:**

Formed in 1906, Boys & Girls Clubs of America (B&GCA) is a federation of local Boys & Girls Clubs, led by the national organization, which serves more than 4.6 million youth in more than 3,900 club locations. B&GCA works to enable all young people, especially those who need it most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. B&GCA has a lineup of tested and proven nationally recognized programs that address today's most pressing youth issues, teaching young people the skills they need to succeed in life. More than 25 national programs are available in the areas of education, the environment, health, the arts, careers, alcohol/drug and pregnancy prevention, gang prevention, leadership development and athletics.

**Web site:** [www.bgca.org](http://www.bgca.org)

## **CARE USA**

### **Mission:**

Founded in 1945, CARE fights root causes of poverty in the world's poorest communities. CARE places special focus on working alongside poor women because, equipped with the proper resources, women have the power to help whole families and entire communities escape poverty. In 70 countries, women are at the heart of CARE's community-based efforts to improve education, prevent the spread of HIV, increase access to water and sanitation, expand economic opportunity and protect natural resources. Each year, CARE helps tens of millions of people around the world effect real, positive changes in their lives.

**Web site:** [www.care.org](http://www.care.org)

## **Children's Miracle Network**

### **Mission:**

Children's Miracle Network is dedicated to saving and improving the lives of children by raising funds for children's hospitals across North America. Each year the 170 Children's Miracle Network hospitals provide the finest medical care, life-saving research and preventative education to help millions of kids overcome diseases and injuries of every kind. Children's Miracle Network has grown dramatically since its founding in 1983, from a televised fund raiser in a small studio to one of the world's leading children's charities helping 17 million kids each year. The hospitals are there 24 hours a day to help kids and are also on the front lines of preventing disease and injury through research, education and outreach programs that keep millions of kids out of the hospital each year.

**Web site:** [www.childrensmiracletnetwork.org](http://www.childrensmiracletnetwork.org)

## Conservation International

### **Mission:**

Founded in 1987, Conservation International is an innovative leader in global biodiversity conservation. Their mission is to conserve the Earth's living heritage, global diversity, and to demonstrate that human societies are able to live harmoniously with nature. They apply innovations in science, economics, policy and community participation to protect the Earth's richest regions of plant and animal diversity in the biodiversity hotspots, high-biodiversity wilderness areas, as well as important marine regions around the globe. Conservation International believes that Earth's natural heritage must be maintained if future generations are to thrive spiritually, culturally and economically. With headquarters in Washington, D.C., Conservation International works in more than 40 countries on four continents.

**Web site:** [www.conservation.org](http://www.conservation.org)

## Doctors without Borders USA

### **Mission:**

Doctors Without Borders, USA awards grants for emergency and medical relief projects to Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) affiliates for overseas operations. MSF is an international independent medical humanitarian organization that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural or man-made disasters, or exclusion from health care in more than 70 countries. MSF was founded in 1971 to both provide emergency medical assistance and bear witness publicly to the plight of the people it assists. In emergencies and their aftermath, MSF provides health care, rehabilitates and runs hospitals and clinics, performs surgery, battles epidemics, carries out vaccination campaigns, operates feeding centers for malnourished children, and offers mental health care.

**Web site:** [www.doctorswithoutborders.org](http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org)

## Feed the Children

### **Mission:**

Feed The Children is the 9th largest relief organization in the U.S., delivering food, medicine, clothing and other necessities to individuals, children and families in all 50 states and in countries around the world who lack these essentials due to famine, war, poverty or natural disaster. Since 1979, they have grown into one of the world's largest private organizations dedicated to helping hungry and hurting people and have reached children and families in 118 countries around the globe. Through schools, orphanages and church-related programs, they touch the lives of millions of children. A key goal is to help needy families move past needing help and become self-sufficient members of their community. Through long-term development programs, thousands of families worldwide have increased their ability to be self-sufficient.

**Web site:** [www.feedthechildren.org](http://www.feedthechildren.org)

## Habitat for Humanity International

**Mission:**

Founded in 1976, Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) is an ecumenical Christian housing ministry. HFHI seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world, and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Habitat invites people of all backgrounds, races and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need. Habitat has built more than 200,000 houses around the world, providing more than 1,000,000 people in more than 3,000 communities with safe, decent, affordable shelter. Habitat is founded on the conviction that every man, woman and child should have a simple, decent, affordable place to live in dignity and safety.

**Web site:** [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org)

## Heifer Project International

**Mission:**

Founded in 1944, Heifer Project International is a humanitarian assistance organization that works to end hunger and protect the earth. Through livestock, training and “passing on the gift”, Heifer has helped seven million families in more than 125 countries improve their quality of life and move towards greater self-reliance. Heifer helps build strong communities because each project participant agrees to pass on the gift of animal offspring, training, or skills to another family in need.

**Web site:** [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)

## Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

**Mission:**

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International (JDRF) is the leading charitable funder and advocate of type 1 (juvenile) diabetes research worldwide. The mission of JDRF is to find a cure for diabetes and its complications through the support of research. JDRF was founded in 1970 by the parents of children with type 1 diabetes. Type 1 diabetes is a disease which strikes children suddenly and requires multiple injections of insulin daily or a continuous infusion of insulin through a pump. Since its founding, JDRF has awarded more than \$1 billion to diabetes research, including more than \$122 million in fiscal year 2006.

**Web site:** [www.jdrf.org](http://www.jdrf.org)

## **Make a Wish Foundation of America**

### **Mission:**

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of America grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength, and joy. Since 1980, the Make-A-Wish Foundation has enriched the lives of children with life-threatening medical conditions through its wish-granting work. Since its creation, the Foundation has granted the wishes of more than 150,000 children. A wish is granted every 41 minutes. The 69 Make-A-Wish chapters in the United States and the U.S. territories of Guam and Puerto Rico enable the Foundation to serve children in every U.S. community.

**Web site:** [www.wish.org](http://www.wish.org)

## **Marine Toys for Tots Foundation**

### **Mission:**

The Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program fulfills the Christmas hopes and dreams of America's neediest children by providing toys, books and other gifts. Marine Toys for Tots Foundation (MTFTF) is the fund raising, funding and support organization for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. From 1991-2005, MTFTF supplemented local toy collections with 64.5 million toys valued at \$344 million. The primary goal of the Foundation is the same as that of the overall Toys for Tots program: to deliver, through a shiny new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to needy youngsters that will motivate them to grow into responsible, productive, patriotic citizens and community leaders.

**Web site:** [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org)

## **Natural Resources Defense Council**

### **Mission:**

The Natural Resources Defense Council's purpose is to safeguard the Earth: its people, its plants and animals and the natural systems on which all life depends. They work to restore the integrity of the elements that sustain life -- air, land and water -- and to defend endangered natural places. They seek to establish sustainability and good stewardship of the Earth as central ethical imperatives of human society. NRDC affirms the integral place of human beings in the environment. They strive to protect nature in ways that advance the long-term welfare of present and future generations. They work to foster the fundamental right of all people to have a voice in decisions that affect their environment.

**Web site:** [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org)

## Nature Conservancy

**Mission:**

Founded in 1951, The Nature Conservancy is the leading conservation organization working to protect the most ecologically important lands and waters around the world for nature and people. Using a non-confrontational, collaborative approach, they work closely with partners, corporations, indigenous people and traditional communities all over the world. Their science-based plan works to achieve tangible results while striving to exercise integrity beyond reproach and to operate openly and transparently.

**Web site:** [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org)

## Oxfam America

**Mission:**

Founded in 1970, Oxfam America, an affiliate of Oxfam International, works to end global poverty through saving lives, strengthening communities, and campaigning for change. Oxfam America works on the scene, helping people gain the hope, skills, and direction to create a new future. They are also active in the global arena, addressing social injustice through their advocacy, public education, and emergency assistance programs. While Oxfam employs a variety of strategies to achieve their mission, the goal in all of their endeavors is the same: to enable poor people to exercise their right to manage their own lives. The specific issues they work on include making a living, natural resources, peace and security, equality for women, indigenous and minority rights, and global trade.

**Web site:** [www.oxfamamerica.org](http://www.oxfamamerica.org)

## Save the Children

**Mission:**

Save the Children, founded in 1932, is the leading independent organization creating real and lasting change for children in need in the United States and around the world. Save the Children's unique self-help approach to relief, recovery and ongoing development has nurtured the seeds of hope for millions of children and their families. Their programs focus on the areas of: economic opportunities; education; emergencies and protection; health; hunger and malnutrition; and U.S. literacy and nutrition. They work in more than 50 countries, including the United States, and serves more than 37 million children and 24 million adults working to save and improve children's lives, including parents, community members, local organizations and government agencies.

**Web site:** [www.savethechildren.org](http://www.savethechildren.org)

## **St. Jude Children's Research Hospital**

**Mission:**

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital was founded by entertainer Danny Thomas and opened in 1962. St. Jude, located in Memphis, Tennessee, is one of the world's premier research centers. The institution's mission is to find cures for children with catastrophic diseases through research and treatment. Research efforts are directed at understanding the molecular, genetic and chemical bases of catastrophic diseases in children, identifying cures for such diseases and promoting their prevention.

**Web site:** [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org)

## **Susan G Komen for the Cure**

**Mission:**

Susan G. Komen for the Cure, formerly known as Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, was established in 1982 by Nancy G. Brinker. Nancy G. Brinker promised her dying sister, Susan G. Komen, that she would do everything in her power to end breast cancer forever. Today, Komen for the Cure is the world's largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists fighting to save lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all, and energize science to find the cures. Thanks to events like the Komen Race for the Cure, they have invested nearly \$1 billion to fulfill their promise, becoming the largest source of nonprofit funds dedicated to the fight against breast cancer in the world.

**Web site:** [www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org)

## **UNICEF**

**Mission:**

Since 1947, the United States Fund for UNICEF has supported the work of the United Nations Children's Fund by raising support for its programs and increasing public awareness of the challenges facing the world's children. As the oldest of 37 national committees for UNICEF worldwide, the U.S. Fund is part of a global effort to advance humanity with health, education, equality and protection for every child. U.S. Fund for UNICEF improves children's daily lives in the 155 countries and territories where UNICEF works -- not just with food, water and medicine but with safety, peace and hope. In support of UNICEF's work, the U.S. Fund for UNICEF focuses on five major priorities: education, emergencies, HIV/AIDS, immunization, and malnutrition.

**Web site:** [www.unicefusa.org](http://www.unicefusa.org)

## **World Wildlife Fund**

### **Mission:**

Known worldwide by its panda logo, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) leads international efforts to protect endangered species and their habitats. Now in its fifth decade, WWF works in more than 100 countries around the globe to conserve the diversity of life on earth. With nearly 1.2 million members in the U.S. and another four million worldwide, WWF is the world's largest privately financed conservation organization. WWF directs its conservation efforts toward three global goals: saving endangered species, protecting endangered habitats and addressing global threats such as toxic pollution, over-fishing and climate change.

**Web site:** [www.worldwildlife.org](http://www.worldwildlife.org)