

# hellenicare

restoring hope & dignity throughout the world

News Brief - Winter 2007

## hellenicare Online Lifeline

Making a donation via **hellenicare's** website [www.hellenicare.org](http://www.hellenicare.org) will save a life and change a life. Your tax-deductible contribution provides a lifeline to Hellenes across the globe needing medical care, job training, food and shelter. The easy online donation form is accessed via **hellenicare's** website. Donors can use their MasterCard, Visa, Discover and American Express cards.

Transactions are secured and **hellenicare** is a 501 c 3 organization. Your contribution is tax deductible according to the charitable giving laws in your country.

For every \$1 donated, **hellenicare** can provide medical care, medicines and humanitarian assistance worth up to \$20. Every donation has a great impact on improving the lives and living conditions of Hellenes and their neighbors.

Please send your support today!



hellenicare

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## U.S. GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS HELLENICARE'S ALBANIA MEDICAL PROGRAM

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has recently awarded the global humanitarian organization, **hellenicare** a \$266,000 grant to provide health care services, training to health care professionals and community health care education to Hellenes and their neighbors living in the Vlore region of Albania. This new project represents an expansion of **hellenicare's** medical programs in Albania.

In addition, through private resources, **hellenicare** will also be establishing a laboratory and diagnostic service program in conjunction with the Himare Government Health Center. **hellenicare** also supports a health care center in Georgoutsates, Albania that was established in conjunction with His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios.

"We are grateful to USAID for support of this project which will help many of our fellow Hellenes and neighbors in southern Albania," said Andrew A. Athens, Founder and President of **hellenicare**. "The mobile medical program, the training services and public health education component we are providing will improve access and service delivery to vulnerable populations in this region of Albania," continued Dr. Charles Kanakis, Jr. Director of Medical Affairs.



Dr. Charles Kanakis and Cynthia Yannias meet with Vice Minister of Health, Dr. Zamira Sinoimeri and Dr. Zhaneta Shatri of USAID Albania.



Dr. Charles Kanakis and Cynthia Yannias meet with staff members of Diakonia Agapes to discuss the health education component.

University Research Corporation, a non-governmental organization that does medical training in Albania and Diakonia Agapes, the humanitarian service organization of the Autocephalous Orthodox Church in Albania, will assist **hellenicare** with the training and community health education components. Dr. Flora Matou a physician at the Himare Government Health Center will be coordinating the mobile medical unit component that will provide medical care to rural villages.

**hellenicare's** grant represents an expansion by USAID into southern Albanian. **hellenicare** expresses it's gratitude to USAID for supporting this health care project that will make a positive impact on the well being of Hellenes and their neighbors living in southern Albania.

HELLENICARE - CARING FOR HELLENES BY HELLENES WHO CARE

## GEORGIA HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF SERVICE



*Tsalka residents gather outside the church.*

It was a cold blustering day in January 1997, when Andrew A. Athens first met the “forgotten” Hellenes living in Tsalka, Georgia. He was there to participate in the inauguration ceremonies of a new water pipeline that was promised more than 150 years ago by Russia. What he witnessed would change the course of his life.

The people he met were warm and friendly, proud of their Hellenic heritage, but they lived in deplorable conditions. Electricity was on only two hours a day, roads were impassible and medical care was severely lacking. It was on this memorable trip that Andrew Athens decided to establish the Primary Health Care Initiative (PHCI), which has now grown into the global humanitarian organization, **hellenicare**. By May 1997, three medical centers in the capital city of Tbilisi, the town of Tsalka and the mountainous village of Tsikhisjvari were established.



*Andrew Athens is joined by former President Kostis Stephanopoulos of Greece and former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Gregorios Niotis for the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Tbilisi clinic in May 1997.*

“2007 is an historic year for us with a decade of helping Hellenes restoring health and hope,” said Andrew Athens. “We have made considerable progress, but our work is just beginning as we reach out to Hellenes in Albania, southern Russia and South America,” continued Mr. Athens.

A celebration of this milestone is being planned in Tbilisi over the summer.

## HELLENICARE’S NEW RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT



*Exterior of the Tsintskaro, Georgia health post.*

The village of Tsintskaro, Georgia is home to many Hellenes who can trace their ancestry to before Greece’s independence from Turkey. It is a village that once provided health care services to neighboring villages. However, due to a building in need of repair and no source of medicines or medical supplies, the Tsintskaro Health Center could no longer provide medical services.

With a grant from the United States Department of State’s Office of Humanitarian Assistance, **hellenicare** will renovate the Tsintskaro medical center. The newly remodeled center will be ready for patients by summer.

“This is our second renovation project in Georgia in just one year,” said Dr. Roland Stamatov, Regional Medical Director. “Through this renovation

project, we will have restored medical services to more than 10,000 people who live in close proximity to the Tsintskaro Health Center,” continued Dr. Stamatov. In 2006, **hellenicare** renovated the bathroom facilities at the Kodjori Boarding School.

**hellenicare** expresses its gratitude to Jerry Oberndorfer, Director of the Office of Humanitarian Assistance for his support of this small reconstruction project.



*An example of the repairs needed at the Tsintskaro health post.*