

 Operation USA
give and it gets there

2024

Annual Report



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About Us

Operation USA is a Los Angeles-based disaster relief and development agency that has been transforming lives for over 45 years in more than 100 countries. Since 1979, we've delivered over \$450 million in aid to help communities recover from disasters, disease, violence, and poverty.

Donor supported and privately-funded, we are known for our agility and effectiveness. Through research, collaborations and dedication, we find creative solutions to address real needs in real time—both at home and abroad. We are committed to response as well as recovery, staying in affected areas after others have left.

With a focus on supporting children and families, our programs prioritize education and health, empowering communities to recover and thrive. Every donation, large or small, makes an immediate and lasting impact.

Operation USA: Delivering hope, building resilience, and transforming communities worldwide.



President's Letter

As I write this, we here in Los Angeles are just beginning the long road to recovery from the wildfires that have devastated communities throughout the region. This past year presented significant challenges as disasters—both natural and human-made—impacted communities worldwide. Millions of people faced displacement, food insecurity, and an uncertain future, emphasizing the urgent need for collaborative efforts.

In the United States, wildfires and severe storms caused widespread destruction, while globally, conflicts in Ukraine, the Middle East, and parts of Africa, alongside environmental crises, tested the resilience of countless communities. Amid these challenges, nonprofit organizations, including Operation USA, have experienced increased demand for our services.

At OpUSA, we remain steadfast in our mission to provide meaningful support where it's needed most. Through grant-making and material aid, we've partnered with nonprofits, individuals, and corporations to deliver critical resources to disaster-affected communities and as always support the most vulnerable members of society during uncertain times, especially when policies create additional challenges.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to you—our donors and partners—who make this vital work possible. Together, we continue to bridge the gap between need and response, ensuring hope and recovery for the most vulnerable.

For 45 years now, our mission has been to build resilience and support recovery worldwide. On behalf of our Board and staff, we wish you and your loved ones a safe and fulfilling year ahead.



Richard Walden
President & CEO



Michael Mahdesian
Board Chair

California Storm

Early in 2024, California faced unprecedented rainfall, causing widespread devastation. Millions of residents encountered life-threatening conditions as relentless flooding and mudslides wreaked havoc on homes and critical infrastructure. From our home office in Los Angeles—situated at the heart of the storm—Operation USA has borne witness to the destructive impact firsthand.

In response, we mobilized quickly, leveraging our Rapid Emergency Response Supplies to assist communities hardest hit by the disaster. Working closely with our local partners across the state, we identified the most pressing needs and began deploying essential resources to aid recovery efforts.

This crisis underscores the importance of maintaining preparedness in disaster response. Operation USA remains committed to providing support where it's most needed, standing shoulder to shoulder with affected communities as they rebuild and recover.

Quick Facts

- Wind Speeds: Gusts reached up to 102 mph (164 km/h) in the San Francisco Bay Area.
- Power Outages: Over 300,000 customers lost power at the peak of the storm.
- Fatalities: At least nine people died because of the storm in California.



Ukraine Conflict Continues

February 24th, 2024 marked two years since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine—the largest European conflict since World War II. As we near the fourth year of this brutal and unrelenting war, the toll continues to rise, with no clear resolution in sight.

This war has led to over 10,000 civilian deaths, millions displaced, and a regional refugee crisis not seen in over 70 years. Civilians have endured targeted attacks on hospitals, schools, and infrastructure, prompting the International Criminal Court to issue an arrest warrant for Vladimir Putin.

From the war's onset, Operation USA mobilized to meet Ukraine's vast humanitarian needs. Partnering with local experts, we provided strategic grants and supplies to ensure aid reached those most affected.

As the war continues, Operation USA remains committed to helping Ukrainian families rebuild their lives.

Quick Facts

- Distributed over \$1,000,000 in grants supporting refugees, IDPs, women, children, and other vulnerable groups.
- Supplied resources for programs that feed, heal, house, and rebuild communities.



Gaza Crisis

Gaza has endured nearly a year and a half of war, with humanitarian conditions worsening despite a recent ceasefire agreement. According to aid organizations, northern Gaza remains on the brink of famine, with 96% of residents lacking sufficient food and severe malnutrition affecting children at alarming rates. Water shortages are critical, with 70% of infrastructure damaged, leading to widespread dehydration and the rapid spread of infectious diseases. The healthcare system is near collapse, with 34 hospitals and 80 health centers non-functional, leaving thousands of wounded civilians without adequate medical care due to destroyed facilities, scarce supplies, and a shortage of medical personnel.

These dire conditions are compounded by restricted humanitarian aid and the absence of a mandated safe passage for relief workers. Tragically, incidents such as the killing of World Central Kitchen staff highlight the immense dangers faced by aid organizations.

In response, Operation USA carefully sought partners who could provide effective, transparent, and safe humanitarian assistance. We found such a partner in HEAL Palestine, a US-based nonprofit committed to health, education, and leadership for Gaza's youth.

HEAL's leadership brings decades of experience in Palestine, ensuring aid reaches those in need despite immense challenges.

Quick Facts

Impact of HEAL Palestine:

- Built and operated temporary classrooms in Gaza.
- Established a kitchen and feeding program to combat hunger.
- Sent medical missions to Rafah.
- Supported transportation and treatment of critically injured Gazan children to hospitals abroad.

Operation USA is proud to stand alongside HEAL Palestine, bringing hope and critical relief to the people of Gaza.



Hurricanes: Helene & Milton

In the fall, Hurricanes Helene and Milton made landfall within two weeks of each other. The widespread devastation stretched from Florida all the way to North Carolina with both leaving a wake of wind and flood damage.

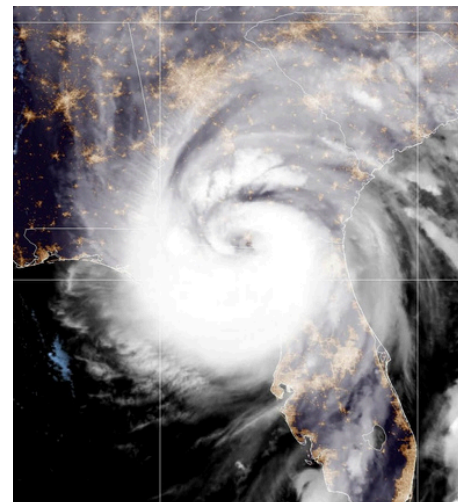
Making landfall as a Category 4 storm, Helene brought life-threatening flooding and widespread damage to Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Tennessee. The storm caused an estimated 230–250 deaths and resulted in \$53 billion in damages across the United States. Communities remain in dire conditions, struggling to recover.

Just two weeks later, Milton struck Florida’s west coast, unleashing catastrophic rainfall, triple-digit winds, storm surges, and an unprecedented tornado outbreak as it crossed to the Atlantic.

Operation USA mobilized quickly, partnering with local organizations to deliver emergency supplies and cash grants to families in critical need.

Quick Facts

- Long-term supporter Honeywell Corporation committed \$500,000 via its Humanitarian Relief Fund and thousands more via their Employee Giving for us to support local groups providing direct aid to the many impacted communities as they rebuild infrastructure, homes and lives.



The LA Wildfires

Beginning on January 6th, a series of devastating wildfires, fueled by record-breaking Santa Ana winds, have swept through Los Angeles County, causing widespread destruction. These fires have destroyed thousands of homes and businesses, tragically claimed the lives of at least two dozen people, and displaced hundreds of thousands more.

The two largest fires, Palisades and Eaton, have burned over 37,000 acres, damaging and destroying more than 15,000 structures. While the fires have been contained as of this writing, the long road to recovery is only just beginning.

As one of the longest-standing disaster relief agencies based in Los Angeles, Operation USA responded immediately. After ensuring the safety of our staff, we mobilized quickly to assess the needs of affected communities and organize relief efforts. Thanks to the generosity of our corporate partners and donors, we are focused on delivering critical supplies to families and first responders.



Quick Facts

With the incredible support of our donors and partners, including Pelican Products, Meathead Movers, and Connecting a Caring Community, we've been able to:

- Distribute critical shelter supplies to evacuees, offering families some comfort and stability in the face of devastation.
- Provide new shoes and clothing to those who lost everything, ensuring basic essentials for starting over.
- Coordinate relief efforts at key distribution hubs, making sure aid reaches those in need as quickly as possible.

Partners

Operation USA is extremely proud to recognize the many groups we partnered with this year.

Corporations

Agincourt, Inc.

AllSpring International Fund

Atlas Model Railroad Company

Edward Jones Trust Company

CAES Systems LLC

Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund

Highstreet IT Solutions LLC

Honeywell International, Inc

Merrill Lynch

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Raymond James Global Account

Schwab Charitable Fund

Vanguard Charitable

Vescio's Sportsfields

Foundations

America's Charities

America Online Giving Foundation

Blackwell Giving Fund

Charities Aid Foundation of America

Charitable Flex Fund

Combined Jewish Philanthropies

Corinthian International Foundation

Give Lively Foundation, Inc.

Greater Washington Community Foundation

Honeywell International Charity Matching

Ina Kay Foundation

Jewish Community Foundation Los Angeles

Liberty Hill Foundation

Lucy & Isadore B Adelman Foundation

Martens Bash Foundation

Northern Trust Charitable Giving Program at the Chicago Community Foundation

One Voice Charitable Fund

Renaissance Charitable Foundation

The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc.

UK Online Giving Foundation

Wyss Foundation

2024 Major Contributors

We are only as strong as our supporters! We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals, corporations, foundations and groups that supported us throughout 2024.

Individuals

Abbe Land
Agnes Tam
Ake Lu
Alan Sheaffer
Alireza Abdollahi-Fard
Allen Bollinger
Amanda Morris
Amy Comstock
Andrew Estafanous
Anna Kolber
Anonymous
Arlene J. Morris
Arthur Prager
Avery Moore
B. Neal Kleiner
Backauskas Vanitzian Giving Fund
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Barbara Malfucci
Bernard Altman
Bernard and Lenore Greenberg
Beverly Ort
Blinder Family Fund
Bob and Rosanne Olson
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Carol Hubbard
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Dr. Thomas and Carol Warschauer	Jessica and Michael McConahey
Drs. Lester J and Joanne E Mantell	Joe and Nancy Strickland
Edward Liu and Frances Yuan	Joe Sullivan
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Emily Franklin	John and Melanie Bronstein
Ernest Ciabattini	John Fries
Faiiloa Ah Sue	John Gillingham
Florence Madani	John Scheel
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Francis Mitchell	Jordan Smith
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James Carroll	Kay Family Foundation
James Barnes	Kenneth Dudley
James Oldknow	Kenneth Povodator

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Lester and Joanne Mantell
Lewis and Elizabeth Cheney
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Linda Taibi
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Michael Wang
Michele Byer
Mike Madani
Mike Watts and Fran Henderson

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Ms Mary Marzluf
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The Drew and Susan Hagen Family
The Heyman Family
The Julie Andrews Living Trust
The Lawrence and Kristin Kast Foundation
The Maas Family Trust
The Mahdesian Family
The Max and Sharon Walker Charitable Fund
The Ostrom Family Charitable Fund
The Parker Family
The Thomas Collins Charitable Fund
Thomas Chatt and George Scheideman
Thomas Picciani
Thomas Knauer
Thomas Lehrer
Thomas Mackinnon
Tina Rasnow
TzuHui Lu
Wendy Poore**



Recurring Donors

Ake Lu

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Robert DeBell

Robert Katz

Rock Frampton

Ronald Powell

Rosemary Bauer

Stephen Richards

Steve Barr

Thomas Mackinnon

Yike Li

Special Thanks

Julie Andrews

Invision

Laliv Hadar

Meathead Movers

Pelican Products

The Mahdesian Family & Servicon Systems, Inc.

University of San Francisco



Special Thanks

Special Thanks to Our Supporters on Our 45th Anniversary

As we reflect on 45 years of providing critical aid and making a lasting impact in communities across the globe, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the individuals, organizations, and partners who have stood by us through the years.

Your unwavering support has allowed Operation USA to grow from a small nonprofit into a globally recognized force for good. From our first disaster response to the many ongoing projects that bring hope and healing to those affected by crises, your generosity and dedication have been the cornerstone of our success.

Thank you for believing in our mission, for your financial contributions, and for the time and energy you've devoted to our cause. As we look forward to the next 45 years, we remain committed to supporting communities in need, and we couldn't do it without you.

Here's to the continued partnership and the incredible work we can achieve together!

With gratitude,
The OpUSA Team



Statement of Financial Position

	UNRESTRICTED	DONOR RESTRICTED	TOTAL
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,025,021	1,193,359	2,218,380
Inventory	435,389	-	435,389
Total Current Assets	\$1,460,410	\$1,193,359	\$2,653,769
Operating lease right of use assets	105,843	-	105,843
Deposits	6,931	-	6,931
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,573,184	\$1,193,359	\$2,766,543
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts payable	18,113	-	18,113
Operating lease obligations - current	92,572	-	92,572
Total current Liabilities	110,685	-	110,685
Operating lease obligations	16,288	-	16,288
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$126,973	-	\$126,973
NET ASSETS			
Without donor restrictions	1,446,211	-	1,446,211
With donor restrictions	-	1,193,359	1,193,359
Total net assets	1,446,211	1,193,359	2,639,570
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$1,573,184	\$1,193,359	\$2,766,543

Statement of Activities

	UNRESTRICTED	DONOR RESTRICTED	TOTAL
SUPPORT AND REVENUES			
<i>Support</i> Contributions	1,085,425	208,599	1,294,024
In-kind donations	60,000	1,369,190	1,429,190
Other	92,270	-	92,270
Total support	\$1,237,695	\$1,577,789	\$2,815,484
<i>Investment Return</i>	20,872	-	20,872
<i>Net assets released from donor restrictions</i> Satisfaction of program restrictions	1,691,281	(1,691,281)	
Total net assets released from donor restrictions	1,691,281	(1,691,281)	
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$2,949,848	(\$113,492)	\$2,836,356
OPERATING EXPENSES			
<i>Program Services</i> Philanthropy	2,664,194	-	2,664,194
<i>Supporting Services</i> Management and General	174,857	-	174,857
Fund Raising	153,011	-	153,011
Total supporting services	327,868	-	327,868
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,992,062	-	\$2,992,062
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(42,214)	(113,492)	(155,706)
NET ASSETS - Beginning of Year	1,488,425	1,306,851	2,795,276
NET ASSETS - End of Year	\$1,446,211	\$1,193,359	\$2,639,570

Meet Our Team

Richard Walden
President & CEO

Jason Cuomo
Director, Operations
& Strategy

Susan Fassig
Director, Programs

Tony Shannon
Manager,
In-Kind

Laetitia Rwiyigura
Director,
Administration

Srishti Ramani
Marketing &
Communications

Tim Starks
Financial Services
Associate

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Julie Andrews Edwards

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Nola Kambanda

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Michael Mahdesian*

David Nieh

Maria Mohiuddin Verjee*

Richard Walden*

Skip Whitney

Julie Yannatta *

* *Managing Board member*

Vision & Mission

Vision

We envision a world where every community, especially the most underserved and overlooked, has the resources and resilience to recover from crises, build sustainable futures, and thrive despite ongoing global challenges.

Mission

Operation USA supports health and education programs in order to help children and families at home and abroad recover from disasters and endemic poverty. Through strong partnerships and innovative solutions, we empower those in need.





Operation USA

give and it gets there



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