

# SAFARICARE

## BELL FAMILY BLUE BAGS – *Pay It Forward*

### Helpful Tips and Suggested Lists

The following tips and lists have been developed to help SCI members get started with the delivery of healthcare and other humanitarian supplies when on safari in remote areas of the world.

Sources for this information include: first-hand reports from SCI members who have already delivered humanitarian aid to people in remote regions of the world, staff and committee interviews with a pharmacist from Africa, Professional Hunters (PH's) from Africa and South America (at the annual SCI convention) and medical professionals (SCI members) on safari who have observed the lack of healthcare goods and services in remote areas.

#### Helpful Tips:

Discussions with your PH will alert you as to what items are “most appropriate” for the people in the area you will be visiting, supplies available for purchase “in country” and supplies you may have to bring, and update you on any current customs issues. Most PH's will also be aware of and able to direct you to needy schools, clinics, villages or orphanages in their area.

Chapter and individual SCI members travel to common places for safaris. Members often communicate experiences and pass along the information to the next chapter member(s) taking a SafariCare bag. Supplies can be stockpiled or located for future trips. Chapter systems tend to be creative, unique, and effective.

Although members have constantly and creatively condensed gear or packed blue bags within the allowable luggage guidelines, however, many members take empty blue bags. These bags are then filled in the destination country. Simply take the empty blue bag in your luggage and purchase supplies upon arrival. Taking an empty blue bag and filling it has numerous advantages:

- Goods in the destination country are usually reasonably-priced.
- Money spent in the destination country helps contribute to the local economy.
- Items purchased locally are familiar to and routinely utilized by residents.
- No tariffs or customs inspections are required.
- No additional airline fees are levied since the blue bag did not contain weighty goods.

Many different methods have worked to acquire and transport humanitarian supplies to those in need. Find what works best for you or your chapter and do it. The Bell Blue Bags are free upon request and can be used over and over again.

**Recognition:** All SCI members are encouraged to take high-resolution photos and keep notes of their SafariCare – Bell Blue Bag experiences. Articles can then be developed for news stories in your local community and for publication in the quarterly Humanitarian Services newsletter, Safari Times, Safari magazine and for web posting. **Hunters help save hunting when recognized for compassionate deeds - the present day application of our humanitarian heritage.**

Please take care when transporting medical supplies on SafariCare missions. Most countries today require them to bear **expiration dates no less than one year from date of entry**, and many of the medications, ointments and various supplies sent are usually within six months of expiration. If medical supplies or any items with expiration dates must be carried, they should be segregated into one bag so that it may, in fact, be retained in customs and in some cases a duty on the items will be extorted from the hunter. This is a

good reason why purchasing items such as medical supplies/ointments, etc., locally once you're in country can be done safely and cost effectively, and you'll be helping the local economy.

Remember that you are going to a place where there may or may not be trained medical people, and they may or may not be able to read or understand instruction labels. Some items (non-outdated medicinal supplies) should be dispensed under supervision through established clinics or trained medical people in the village. For example, toothpaste may appear to be candy to those that have never seen it, which could make a person ill from improper use. If misused, the medicines become dangerous. School supplies and other non-perishable items have no problem going through customs, whether they are in your personal bags, blue bags, duffle bags or boxes. They can be considered as gifts, personal items or humanitarian relief supplies. Educational, recreational and basic quality of life items are also welcomed and appreciated.

**Please be sure to notify Humanitarian Services of any SafariCare, including any Bell Family Blue Bag mission you or your chapter undertake so that it can be counted in our annual records. It is also important to have an itemized list of every item in each blue bag.**

### **SafariCare Bags: Suggested Working Lists of Items**

- Clinically Supervised Items Non-Supervised Items
- Ibuprofen Eyeglasses/Reading Glasses School Supplies
- First Aid Kits/Creams Shoes/Socks/Sandals Maps/Atlases/Dictionaries
- Fungus Infection Creams Hats/Caps Pens/Pencils/Paper
- Eye/Ear Ointments/Cleansers Shirts/Jackets/T-Shirts Sports Equipment
- Upset Stomach Medicines Toothbrushes/Floss Soccer Balls & Pumps/Needles
- Diarrhea Medicines Trash Bags Mosquito Netting/Repellent
- Vitamins Water Filters/Purification Straws Chalk/Small Chalkboards
- Anti-itch Creams Needles and Thread Cloth/Fabric
- Skin Rash Creams (cortisone) Rope/Twine/String Crayons/Colored Pencils/Markers
- Water Purification Tablets Fish Hooks and Line Coloring/Activity Books
- Burn Ointments Antibacterial Soaps Scissors/Rulers
- Triple Antibiotic Ointments Adhesive Bandages/Gauze Pins: Straight/Safety
- Dehydration (salt) Tablets Plastic Bottles/Bowls/Cups Toys/Stuffed Animals
- Hydrogen peroxide\*/Cotton Disinfectants Candy
- Toothpaste Shampoo/Body Wash Bandanas
- Educational Flash Cards Backpacks

*(\*should be packed in plastic bags and sealed, only considered if space and weight limitations in bag are not restrictive.)*

Gathering items or seeking community involvement has become a rewarding chapter, individual, school or family function with both members and non-members rallying to test their networking talents and connections in the community. For example, church groups, boy and girl scouts, and other youth clubs have participated in assisting to fill these bags with aid. Some have made or acquired useful items like candles, homemade crafts, shoe laces, first aid kits, etc. Based upon the success of the initial deliveries, more members take more supplies to more places, helping more people.

When on safari in a remote area, you are the only ambassador representing the hunting community. You arrive to hunt native wildlife. The image you leave is dependent upon the impression you make while visiting. **SafariCare, including the Bell Family Blue Bag – Pay it Forward is one way to leave a wonderful lasting impression.** Travel safe and have a good experience. Remember, local people will remember your generosity.