

CASE STUDY

Medical Nonprofit MATTER Improves Supply Chain Operations and Sustainability Outcomes with Expired and Excess Supplies and Equipment Procurement

7.1M

lbs. of medical supplies and equipment repurposed 2020–2022

120

Hospital Partners

\$2M

of medical aid sent to Ukraine

IN SEARCHING FOR A SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION TO THE DISPOSAL OF THEIR EXCESS SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT, ALLINA HEALTH TURNED TO MATTER, A GLOBAL NON-PROFIT COMMITTED TO HELPING HOSPITALS WITH THEIR SUSTAINABILITY AND FINANCIAL ISSUES AROUND EXPIRED AND EXCESS ITEMS THROUGH THEIR MATTER 360 INITIATIVE.

In the U.S. alone, hospitals create non-hazardous medical waste in excess of an estimated 5 million tons every year. Much of that waste is made up of surplus or unused equipment. To illustrate the magnitude of the problem, a report from Johns Hopkins Medicine found that U.S. hospitals throw away unused syringes, sutures, gauze, gloves, etc. from operating rooms alone to the tune of \$15 million each year. In total, hundreds of billions of dollars of perfectly good equipment and supplies are discarded annually by U.S. hospitals. Even worse, much of that waste ends up decaying in landfills and contributing to the environmental challenges we face.

Allina Health, like many concerned hospitals, was searching for a sustainable solution to the disposal of their excess supplies and equipment. In

addition, they also had numerous staff and clinicians requesting supplies to bring on their personal mission trips. This became challenging for the supply chain department to manage in a fair and equitable way.

To help Allina Health navigate these challenges and find sustainable solutions, they partnered with MATTER, a Minnesota-based global nonprofit committed to helping hospitals with their sustainability and financial issues around expired and excess supplies and equipment through their MATTER 360 initiative. MATTER also became the avenue through which Allina Health could meet the requests of their staff and clinicians for donated supplies, relieving the supply chain department of that role and allowing it more time to focus on its primary responsibilities.

Improving access to health care for communities around the world, MATTER repurposes donated medical equipment and supplies from hospitals in the U.S. In addition to refurbishing hospitals and clinics, the donated medical items are also repurposed for use in medical training schools, on the front lines of the war in Ukraine, and in relief efforts for natural disasters like the earthquake in Turkey.

“MATTER is a valued Allina partner, and we feel confident knowing our donations to them are being repurposed for good. It’s as easy as a phone call or an email to let them know we have supplies ready for pick up, so there is no additional burden on the supply chain staff. In fact, it’s a relief to them knowing MATTER is the go-to source for disposal of expired and excess supplies and equipment.” Sarah Charai, System Director, Supply Chain Operations, Allina Health, observed.

MATTER 360 IMPACT

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Donating outdated or excess supplies and equipment to MATTER is a simple way for hospitals to make a global impact on healthcare, while at the same time helping with their sustainability goals and supply chain efficiency. Tax deduction receipts are available to donating organizations. In certain cases, transportation costs can be waived from the hospital location to MATTER’s warehouse in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



(re)Purpose

IN THE LAST 3 YEARS

7.1 Million

pounds of medical surplus was saved from landfills and repurposed to transform communities around the world.

About Allina Health

Allina Health is dedicated to the prevention and treatment of illness and enhancing the greater health of individuals, families and communities throughout Minnesota and western Wisconsin. A not-for-profit health care system, Allina Health cares for patients from beginning to end-of-life through its 90+ clinics, 11 hospitals, 15 retail pharmacies, specialty care centers and specialty medical services, home care, and emergency medical transportation services.

About MATTER

MATTER, a Minnesota-based global NGO, brings together the best companies, experts, problem solvers and above all, doers, to launch projects that improve communities. This collaborative movement has inspired solutions in access to health, activating healthy eating for children and families, regenerative agriculture, and student-centered education, collectively impacting more than 40 million lives. MATTER's guiding belief is encapsulated in the simple yet powerful expression, YOU MATTER.

MATTER 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

We help people launch projects that improve communities.

Founded

2000

Headquarters

Minneapolis

Employees

30

Volunteers

10,530

People Impacted

3.2M

Project Shipments

89

Countries Served

18