

ACUPUNCTURISTS WITHOUT BORDERS (AWB)

POLICY PLAN

EIN: 54-2190889

RSIN: 827643822

Location: Portland, Oregon (United States)

Ruling year: 2007

Executive Director: Nipin Gangadharan

IRS status: 501(c)(3) Public Charity

Organization type: Public charities

Mission

AWB's mission is to interrupt the devastating effects of trauma by reducing suffering and helping individuals and communities find greater balance and resiliency. We use community-style ear acupuncture as a powerful, simple, safe way of helping people "reset" their nervous systems to a greater state of calm, quiet and clarity. When a group experiences this relief from chaos, hope, determination and resiliency can begin to be restored, which allows communities to move forward.

Our focus

Health

Holistic medicine

Mental health care

Public health

Stress

Public safety

Disasters and emergency management

Goals

AWB hopes to bring trauma relief services (the "Medicine of Peace") to communities affected by disasters, human conflict, environmental devastation, poverty and social injustice. We are committed to collaborating with local community-based organizations and treating all who have been affected by traumatic events – survivors, first responders, emergency personnel and other care providers. We offer services and training in local communities with the goal of creating long-term, sustainable benefits after we leave. Our intention is to empower each community we serve in a way that best supports their particular needs for rebuilding and recovery.

What are the organization's capabilities for doing this?

AWB has the Human Resources to reach most of the US mainland and the countries where we have had previous programming. We have ongoing clinics throughout the US west coast and Puerto Rico, Mexico, Haiti, Greece, and Israel/Palestine. Our aim is to continue expanding our institutional capacity for deployment to other US states and countries with projects already underway in California, Florida as well as the UK, the Netherlands, Norway, Germany, and Poland. We have also recently been incorporated as an NGO in Greece, where we are leading a refugee program that we hope to expand to other parts of Europe and the Middle East currently experiencing a migration crisis. Due to the offset of the war between Ukraine and Russia, we have expanded our training and community organizing program in Europe to the Netherlands, Norway, Germany, Poland, and the UK. We are continuously adding new focus countries based on the migration flow of refugees and other migrants in the region to be able to meet the needs for trauma-informed care. We have been offering in-person trainings for over a decade and currently offer virtual certified trainings as well. This with the hopes to continue growing the technical capacity to treat and prevent trauma in the acupuncture and mental health fields and, in conjunction with our mobile clinics and projects, reach more communities in need. Finally, we are currently working on making our essential training material available in Arabic, Spanish, Ukrainian and French, to make it available to communities dealing with displacement and large-scale human mobility due to conflict and disaster.

What have we accomplished so far and what's next?

AWB was born in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana, US, where a group of acupuncturists, led by Diana Fried, provided more than 8,000 treatments to evacuees, first responders, emergency personnel and other communities affected by the devastating hurricane. What started as a coordinated effort to help those in need during a natural disaster,

has grown into a diverse community helping bring trauma relief and other mental health services to the entire world in places affected by disasters, human conflict, environmental devastation, poverty and social injustice. To date AWB has treated over a million people and provided thousands of trainings to acupuncturists across the US, as well as hundreds of international practitioners. We have managed to establish, in collaboration with local practitioners and community organizations, ongoing clinics for refugees, migrants and Veterans nationally, as well as one clinic that serves pregnant individuals and deported veterans in Tijuana, Mexico. We also maintain clinics to treat refugee populations in Greece and along the US-Mexico border. On the US West Coast, we have created seasonal mobile clinics to be able to respond to communities affected by Wildfires. In 2020 we also began mobilizing teams to treat people in major agricultural zones of California, where most of the US food is produced and whose residents have been working through the COVID-19 pandemic, putting their lives at risk to guarantee food security for the country. These clinics are ongoing and we are progressively expanding services to other agricultural communities in Oregon and Washington. We are working towards developing rapid response capacity in other "at-risk" states for natural disasters in the US - Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico - as well as providing services for trauma and stress relief to first responders and communities affected by systemic racism in New York and Massachusetts. Internationally, we have established a wellness center for refugees in Athens, Greece and continue to support our teams in Israel, Palestine, Haiti and Mexico. We are also working towards creating more technical capacity for trauma relief in the acupuncture and medicine fields worldwide, by expanding our training offer beyond to the US to Germany, the UK, Greece, Australia and the Netherlands. In the first quarter of 2022, we trained over 600 individuals in Europe and the Americas in battlefield acupuncture and the NADA protocol, to be able to create response capacity to the refugee crisis in Europe as a result of the war in Ukraine. Finally, we are hoping to reach more countries by translating our training materials to languages needed. Currently, we are working on translating materials in Arabic and have provided limited material in Ukrainian. For us creating local capacity is essential to guaranteeing wellness sustainability in the communities we are able to reach.

Programs

Total programs: 7

Mobile and Community Clinics for Trauma Relief

We believe that integrative medicine is the future of medicine. It is critical that health practices address the whole person—the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health of not only individuals, but entire communities. Doing so will increase community resilience during these

challenging times. Acupuncture is a proven medical modality that treats stress, trauma, pain, substance abuse, mental health challenges, and post-traumatic stress. We are currently working on making community acupuncture part of the standard of care in the immediate aftermath of disasters (natural or human-made), alongside traditional medical interventions. Community acupuncture allows those treated to experience relief together from stress and trauma. When the whole group feels calm and quiet, hope and resiliency rise powerfully within it.

Population served: Victims and oppressed people

Geographic areas served: United States, Nepal, Mexico, Greece, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region

Middle East Healing Project

AWB has been providing trauma healing acupuncture services in Israel and the West Bank for the past four years. The one thing that all people in this land share is trauma, from war, displacement, dispossession of land, and violent persecution. Unresolved trauma can often be passed from generation to generation, and is an obstacle to individual, community and national wellbeing. Trauma keeps fear alive and may prevent human contact, diminishing the chances for co-existence and peace. AWB offers acupuncture treatment to everyone regardless of tribal, religious or political affiliation. Since 2014, AWB has trained over 120 Jewish and Arab-Israeli acupuncturists and medical workers; helped develop AWB Israel as a nonprofit organization, dedicated to treating and training Israelis and Palestinians about the benefits of trauma healing; Provided over 10,000 treatments in Palestinian villages, Jewish settlements, for displaced Sudanese refugees, Holocaust survivors, and Israeli soldiers.

Population served: Victims and oppressed people

Geographic area served: Israel, Palestinian Territory

The Military Stress Recovery Project/Community Service Clinics

The Military Stress Recovery Project (MSRP) provides free acupuncture treatments for veterans, active military personnel, reservists and their families. The MSRP began in 2006 with a pilot

clinic in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and currently includes over 30 AWB-affiliated clinics across the country. AWB's Community Service Clinic Program grew out of its Military Stress Recovery Program, which offers treatments for stress and trauma to veterans, active military and their families. Each community service clinic affiliated with AWB serves a unique audience within the local community. Pharmacological treatments for post-traumatic stress (PTS) have been shown to be relatively ineffective and can create chemical dependence with devastating side effects, including increased suicide rates. AWB has pioneered the use of acupuncture as a safe, effective, non-pharmacological therapy for returning soldiers that fills this trauma treatment gap.

Population served: Veterans

Geographic area served: United States, Canada

Nepal Project

Acupuncturists Without Borders' Nepal program has been in operation since 2009. Currently, AWB's focus is on organizations and programs in the following areas: - Trafficking of women and girls, and children - Women and children victims of domestic violence - Empowerment of women with substance addiction - Disaster response preparedness and post trauma treatments.

Population served: Women and girls, Victims and oppressed people

Geographic area served: Nepal

Refugee/Migrant Support Project

United States-Mexico Border: AWB currently has active field operations in Tijuana, Mexico, where we help provide integrative health services to migrants and refugees, with a special focus on pregnant individuals. We also provide training support to the midwives of the Justicia en Salud initiative. We are also focused on expanding our border coverage and are actively engaging with other support groups in Brownsville, Texas looking to support communities located in the border town of Matamoros, Mexico. International: Since 2016, AWB has offered

trauma-healing treatments in Greece where over 60,000 people from Syria and other Middle Eastern countries live in refugee camps.

Population served: Immigrants and migrants

Geographic area served: Greece, United States, Mexico

Haiti Project

In 2010 Haiti was hit with a huge earthquake that flattened the capital city of Port-au-Prince, as well as many surrounding areas. Following generations of political, environmental and economic hardship in the country, the earthquake disaster devastated this little country. Acupuncturists from around the United States begged AWB to mount a relief effort in Haiti. With support from private sponsors and relief coordinators, as well as Mayway and other organizational sponsors, AWB began sending relief teams to Haiti. In 2010 eight relief teams offered approximately 5,000 treatments. Subsequently AWB provided three trainings for a total of 120 local health care practitioners. Currently AWB trainees in Haiti offer six weekly clinics, and AWB provides ongoing support for a part-time local clinic coordinator. AWB volunteers have offered over 30,000 life-giving treatments in Haiti, and there is demand by local health care practitioners for an additional training if funds can be raised.

Population served: Victims and oppressed people

Geographic area served: Haiti

Ukraine / Europe Program

Since early 2022, AWB has been involved in humanitarian relief efforts in response to the ongoing migration crisis as a result of the war between Ukraine and Russia. We have trained over 500 practitioners in trauma-informed basics and battlefield acupuncture, and have also been providing community-organizing and network-building support in the Netherlands, UK, Portugal, Germany, Norway and other countries in the region that are receiving large numbers of refugees and migrants fleeing war, violence and poverty in the region.

Population served: Immigrants and migrants, Victims and oppressed people, People of European descent, People of Middle Eastern descent, Economically disadvantaged people

Geographic area served: Europe

Income

We receive funds from grants, individual donors, membership fees, training courses, and corporate sponsorships. We do not hold any assets. Details can be found in the submitted Form 990's.

Remuneration Policy

There is no remuneration for board members.