



# ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Hospitalito Atitlán  
Santiago Atitlán, Sololá,  
Guatemala  
502-7721-7683  
[www.hospitalitoatitlan.org](http://www.hospitalitoatitlan.org)



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# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Readers,

Twelve years ago, the Hospitalito opened in Panabaj with the goal of offering basic hospital services to the population of Santiago Atitlán. We began with a few local employees and three long-term volunteers. Today, thanks to years of local commitment and international partnership, Hospitalito Atitlán (HA) has a local staff of nearly 50 providing 24-hour medical care to patients from around Lake Atitlán.

In addition to delivering direct healthcare, the Hospitalito is committed to disease prevention and health education. In 2016, our community outreach diabetes and reproductive health education programs expanded to reach adolescents in schools. We also continued educating pregnant mothers through both our Maternal Infant Program and rural clinics. HA also initiated a new project to detect anemia in pregnant women and children in the most rural areas, which resulted in our saving the life of a malnourished child.



*Dr. Chuc on a home visit*

We believe that empowering community leaders is an important tool for resolving local health problems. HA trains rural health promoters who make home visits to pregnant women and refer families in need to our rural clinics. In 2016, there was not a single maternal death in Santiago Atitlán thanks, in part, to these efforts.

Hospitalito Atitlán is growing both as an organization and in the complexity of care it provides. We need to continue providing access to medical services for our most vulnerable patients. This happens thanks to your generous donations of funds and medical supplies. In 2016, HA's social worker was able to provide nearly \$80,000 in free and discounted hospital care and the community outreach projects gave an additional \$75,000 in free medical care.

Over the years, our medical volunteer requirements have shifted. Today, we need anesthesiologists, surgeons, urologists, emergency and other specialists to complement what our team can do and provide core training.

The year was one of evolution and growth for the Hospitalito. We are incredibly grateful for your continued support and for helping to make this happen.

**Juan Manuel Chuc, M.D.**  
Director Hospitalito Atitlán

# WHAT WE DO

Hospitalito Atitlán (HA) is a small, private, nonprofit hospital, providing access to preventive and clinical healthcare — with an emphasis on the medical needs of women and children — to 75,000 Maya living on the southern shore of beautiful Lake Atitlán in the Guatemalan highlands. HA has the only 24/7 surgical obstetrical care within a two-hour radius.

Our dedicated staff is made up of local physicians, nurses and administrators who work hand-in-hand with international volunteer medical professionals to bring quality care to the community. The Hospitalito promotes ongoing medical education for Guatemalan and international health professionals, helping to improve the region's quality of life.

## 2016 BY THE NUMBERS

10,833

Outpatient Consultations

3,006

Emergencies

36

C-sections

286

Surgeries

1,833

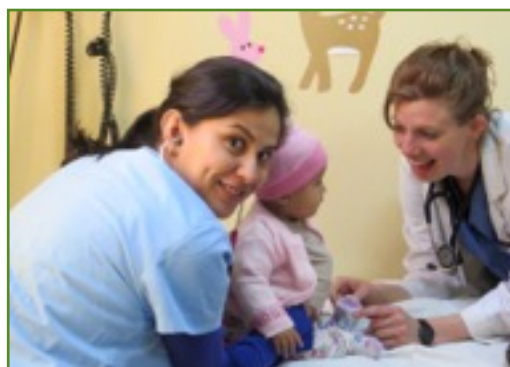
Ultrasounds

1,659

X-Rays

33,317

Patients Served 2005 to Date



OUTPATIENT CARE



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



PARTNERSHIPS



EDUCATION



24/7 EMERGENCY CARE



ADVOCACY

# WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

Guatemala has the highest mortality rate for children under five years old in Latin America (UNICEF), and Tz'utujil Maya women have a high risk for complications during pregnancy. Many lives are lost due to patients' lack of access to affordable medical care. Thanks to our generous donors, Hospitalito Atitlán's social work office is able to ensure that staff can save lives at little or no cost for families. Local staff works together with international volunteers to provide immediate assistance to families in need.

## **Eduardo Coj (16 months old) Finca el Carmen Metzabal, Santiago Atitlán**

Six months ago, Eduardo's mother brought him to HA's monthly Día de Salud (Health Day). He was suffering from severe malnutrition. Eduardo was admitted to the Hospitalito, where he had several days of free care before he was transferred to Guatemala City hospital for two months of nutritional rehabilitation. When he returned home to his family, Hospitalito provided his family with food supplements and nutritious staples, along with personalized education for his mother on healthy eating. Visiting the family for follow-up care, Eduardo's mother Marta shyly told us — with obvious pride — that her son had begun standing and has taken his first steps. Although this milestone was a little delayed for a 16-month-old, it's nothing short of incredible given his health a half-year before.



## **Neftalí Reanda Mendoza (one year, seven months old) Tzanjuyu, Santiago Atitlán**

Neftali was brought to the emergency room with a severe cough and respiratory difficulty. He was admitted, hospitalized for three days and released. Two months later, he was readmitted with similar symptoms and diagnosed with bronchopneumonia and reactive airway disease. Upon readmission, our social worker evaluated the family's situation. Neftali's mother is only 18 years old and separated from his father, who suffers from alcoholism and drug addiction. Neftali's condition has remained stable since his last visit, but children like him depend on donations for lifesaving medical care.

## **Concepción Ixtamul Gómez (38 years old) Cerro de Oro, Santiago Atitlán**

Concepción, mother of eight, was 41-weeks pregnant when she came to the emergency room. Her OB/GYN was concerned about delivery risks due to her age and length of pregnancy, so she received a C-section, deciding to have her tubes tied at the same time. With support of the Hospitalito and a visiting surgical team, the family only had to pay for the cost of anesthesia. With your help HA can provide affordable, safe births for women like Concepción.



## **Juana Angélica Esquina Mendoza (one year, six months old) Chuk Muk, Santiago Atitlán**

Juana was brought to the ER by her mother and grandmother in May. The toddler had a fever and had been coughing for two days. Her mother had taken her to the local Centro de Atención Materno Infantil (CAIMI) but the medicine they provided had not helped.

At HA, Juana was diagnosed with bronchiolitis and was hospitalized for three days. Her mother and grandmother asked our social worker for help with the cost of care. The family only paid \$25 of the \$200 bill. Without the help of our generous donors, Juana's family would never have been able to afford this lifesaving care.



# A YEAR OF SUCCESSES



*Dr. Chuc with Lolita and her mother, Cruz, program graduates*

## Growth of Maternal Infant (MI) Sponsorship Program

Twelve new pregnant women were added to the MI sponsorship program in 2016. These women were identified for the program as high-risk due to several factors including lack of formal education, poverty and health issues. Many are single mothers who receive little to no support— financial or otherwise. The program provides free pre-natal care for the mother, emergency and well development check-ups for her child, and monthly education classes in the mother's native language.

***Your godson is growing steadily, and every month I receive educational trainings at the Hospitalito on how to take care of my baby better.***

***-Gregoria in letter to her sponsor***

This year four children “graduated” from the program when they reached the age of five. Years one through five are the most critical years for the health and wellbeing of a child. Without prenatal care, a safe delivery and proper infant care, these children risk malnutrition, serious illness and lifelong health issues.

## Identifying Anemia in Rural Areas

In January 2016, the Hospitalito began detecting anemia in women and children in the rural areas. Each month, a team from the development office visited coffee and macadamia plantations — Chacaya, El Carmen Metzabal, Olas de Moca, and Monte de Oro — for anemia testing of pregnant women and children under the age of five. During these visits, families were provided basic nutritional information, and, in cases where anemia was detected, Incaparina — a vitamin fortified hot corn drink. Prenatal vitamins and children's multivitamins were given out to the community, thanks to Vitamin Angels.

The team administered 173 anemia screenings to 110 different pregnant women and children. Of these, 57 cases of mild or moderate anemia were diagnosed. Of 33 patients who returned for repeat screenings, 75 percent showed improvement following the Incaparina and vitamin intervention. The project was made possible by a generous grant from the Masek Foundation. It will continue in 2017, thanks to the grant's renewal.



*Juan Francisco, program coordinator, with volunteer Jane taking a blood sample at Finca Olas de Moca*

## Diabetes Program Advances

Our “Managing Diabetes” program — underwritten by the World Diabetes Foundation — began in 2012 in Santiago Atitlán. In 2015, we expanded the program to the entire Department of Sololá. As of December 2016, the program has netted impressive accomplishments.

**27** clinics equipped for diabetes detection  
**31,332** diabetes detections performed  
**5,046** students taught about diabetes  
**664** health workers trained

# EDUCATION AND TRAINING

## Reproductive Health Education Training for Local Health Science Teachers



*Health Science teachers after completing their training*

The Guatemalan Ministry of Education requires reproductive health education in schools, but local teachers lack training. With the support of a grant of the Conservation, Food & Health Foundation, the Hospitalito produced a 16-page illustrated educational booklet entitled “Nuestra Sexualidad Responsable” (“Our Sexual Responsibility”) for more than 1200 Atitlán youth.

The Hospitalito organized a two-day training for 35 Santiago Atitlán health science teachers providing them with the tools to teach teenagers about their sexuality. A psychologist, physicians, and HA program coordinator Bianca Mendoza led the workshops.

***It's necessary to know how our bodies truly function, because only with this knowledge can a teacher in a classroom speak the truth to her students and guide them so that they can have more responsibility for their actions in relation to sexuality -Training participant***



*Juan and family at the graduation*

## Juan Graduates as an X-ray Technician

Juan Sosof Ixbalan, an auxiliary nurse, was selected for a Hospitalito Atitlán Merit Scholarship funded by Share the Dream. After two and a half years, Juan graduated as a radiology technician from the Universidad de Galileo in November 2016. He is enjoying his new position performing X-rays at the Hospitalito and is an inspiration for other staff members who hope to pursue higher education.

## Neonatal Resuscitation Trainings with Visiting Pediatrician

Dr. Kim Wilson, a pediatrician at Boston Children's Hospital, put her visit to Santiago Atitlán to good use while visiting her daughter Emily Nuss, a Princeton in Latin American Fellow.

Dr. Kim provided staff trainings on neonatal resuscitation to HA staff, allowing the new instructors to give the course to nursing personnel the following week. She also provided the Hospitalito with two NeoNatalie mannequins to use in future classes.

These trainings will help ensure that HA staff will be ready to handle neonatal emergencies now and in the future.



*Dr. Kim Wilson with daughter Emily translating during neonatal resuscitation training with HA staff*

***It was a pleasure to interact with such caring and committed clinicians, and I hope these newborn resuscitation skills can contribute to the Hospitalito's ongoing work in improving maternal and child health. - Dr. Kim Wilson***



# SURGICAL TEAMS

Several US surgical teams faithfully return to Santiago Atitlán each year to provide surgical care for patients who otherwise would be unable to resolve their health problems. Patients who can pay provide a donation towards the cost. Those without financial resources receive surgeries for free.

## Restoring Sight of Three Siblings

Twice a year for the last decade, ophthalmologists from the International Eye Institute (IEI), of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, have donated their time, talents, and resources to the Hospitalito to provide much-needed eye surgeries and care.

In October, the team evaluated a nearly blind father from Santa Clara la Laguna with three sightless children. The children— Francesca, (age nine) Antonio (age six) and Clarisa (18 months) — were diagnosed with congenital cataracts, a treatable cause of visual impairment.

Following the initial consultation, the IEI team was very hopeful about the likelihood of completely restoring all three children's eyesight. Each was scheduled to have the cataract repair surgery on one eye. All three operations were a success. By the end of the afternoon, the children were on the road to recovery and restored vision. In May 2017, they will return to have their other eyes repaired.



*Justin StormoGipson, MD and Mike Oswald, CRNA with the Sac family after their surgeries*



## Partnership with General Surgery Team

Minnesota surgeon Kevin Bjork began his annual work in Guatemala nearly 20 years ago at the Berhorst Clinic in Chimaltenango. In 2012, he began working at HA and invited general surgeon Dawn Stapleton, urologist Brad Qualey and support staff to join their annual trips. In 2016, they treated 38 general surgery patients and performed 22 life changing urological procedures. Our surgical teams are a perfect example of international partnership. Local staff work together with visiting teams to provide high-quality, affordable medical care.

## Dental Team Returns

Dr. Glen Dean, a pediatric dentist from Grand Junction Colorado has been coming to Guatemala for nearly 50 years. He set up the first dental jornada in the old Hospitalito in Panabaj in 2005. Every six months he returns with a group of pediatric dentists who set up 12 portable dental chairs (with video screens) and treat children selected in the community.





# VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Thanks Dr. Michael and Jennie for all your hard work!



*Dr. Michael and Jennie Dougherty outside the Hospitalito Emergency Room*



*Jennie Dougherty with University of Pennsylvania midwifery and nursing students*

Michael and Jennie Dougherty arrived from Philadelphia, PA in January and volunteered at the Hospitalito until the end of May. Dr. Michael, an internist, had been at HA in 2015 as a University of Pennsylvania Global Health Fellow in Comprehensive Care. Jennie, a nurse practitioner, was a wonderful addition to the medical team, bringing with her a new level of expertise and knowledge.

***I'm enjoying the opportunity to be creative in a resource-limited setting and share my experience with the nurses. - Jennie Dougherty***

The couple had been to Guatemala in 2013, when they studied Spanish in Xela, and were excited that his fellowship allowed them to come back. In June, they returned to their home state — North Carolina — where Michael is a gastroenterology fellow at UNC Chapel Hill and Jennie is working at Duke in Pediatric Infectious Disease.

# VOLUNTEERS 2016

Volunteers are essential to Hospitalito's work. Our medical volunteers see patients, provide training, and perform procedures alongside local staff. Non-medical volunteers assist in the development office with community outreach, grant-writing, and fundraising.

**We were thrilled to welcome the following volunteers in 2016:**

## Doctors & Nurses

Carmen Alvarez  
Enriqueta Arevalo  
Adrienne Bonham  
Javier Cordero  
Amanda DeLoureiro  
Ken Dolkart  
Michael Dougherty  
Jennifer Dougherty  
Kathleen Dunn  
Beatriz Folch  
Chelsea Glass  
Paul Haller  
Louise Hoevenaars  
Molly Lepic  
Clodagh Mullen  
Bradley Pittman



*Volunteer Dr. Bradley Pittman with Eduardo, HA X-ray technician*



*Princeton in Latin America Fellow Delaine Winn at a Maternal Infant Program meeting*



*Dr. Louise Hoevenaars, medical volunteer from the Netherlands, assists with CPR training*

## Medical Students

Joshua Back  
Lee Miles  
Emily Wheelis

## Non-Medical Volunteers

Nicolas Baran  
Amelia Breyre  
Jane Dobkin  
Michael Harvey  
HOLA Sertoma  
Lynn Hurr  
Samantha Jeffrey  
Natalie Koch  
Jeff Lang  
Love Family  
Music Is Love Exchange  
Christina Roldan  
Stephanie Ruas  
Kyle Schragg Toso  
Somos Hermanos  
Arnav Shah  
Emiliano Xicay



# HOSPITALITO STAFF



*Hospitalito staff saying goodbye to Princeton in Latin America Fellows Emma Gorin and Emily Nuss*

The Hospitalito is grateful for its talented staff— local doctors, nurses, administrators, pharmacists, lab technicians and support personnel. They are at the core of the Hospitalito's work. The Santiago Atitlán community is almost entirely Tz'utujil speaking. Staff is able to communicate with our patients in their native language. This terrific team provides essential services, working hand-in-hand with international volunteers to provide essential services.



*Senior employees meeting for the 2016-2020 Strategic Planning Session*

## SENIOR EMPLOYEES

Director

**Dr. Juan Manual Chuc**

Administrator

**Rebeca Petzey Cua**

Chief of Staff

**Dra. Susana Pajoc Gonzalez**

Head Nurse

**Concepción Damian Ixbalán**

OR Manager

**Jacinto Garcia Chipir**

Social Worker

**Vicenta Chavajay Cortéz**

Volunteer Coordinator

**Febe Sosof Sapalú**

Director of Development

**Alverta Lyn Dickey**

# FRIENDS OF THE HOSPITALITO

Hospitalito Atitlán is able to complete its mission thanks to the generosity and support of all its donors, large and small. We would like to give a special mention to the following donors and partners:

Anonymous

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Kenneth and Karen Bachenberg

Bethel Lutheran Church of Colorado Springs

Patricia Birch Robinson

William Cuneo

David R Dixon

Eighth Day Faith Community

Bill Falinski Scholarship Fund

Caroline Gelman

Mark Lepore

John and Mary Long

John and Theresa Lyons

Arturo Matheu

Eliot Miller

Heather Pierce

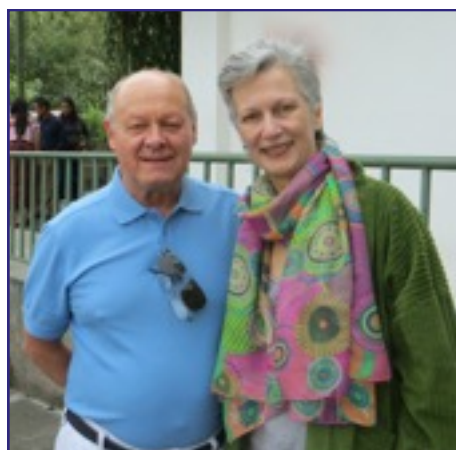
RIX Industries

Judy Royer

Samir D Gergis Charitable Trust

Szekely Family Foundation

## Monthly Health Partner: Arturo and Joanna Matheu



*Arturo and Joanna Matheu outside HA*

Monthly Health Partners provide regular contributions that are essential to the everyday operations of the hospital. Mr. Matheu owns Promisa, Procesadora de Minerales, a stone materials retail business in Guatemala, and the couple has a vacation home near the Hospitalito.

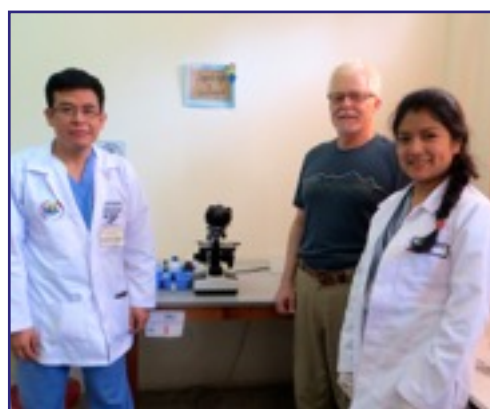
When HA faced a medical emergency in 2008, Mr. Matheu not only helped coordinate an air evacuation, but also offered his heliport if similar emergencies took place in the future. Since 2012, he and his wife have been making generous monthly donations of Q10,000 (\$1,250) in honor of their two children.

**MedShare International** – In 2016, the Board of Directors of MedShare visited HA to discuss our needs. They have since sent a container of medical supplies.

**Direct Relief International** – In 2016, HA received several donations of ‘short-date’ medications, shipped by air from DRI in Santa Barbara California. These meds support our diabetes outreach program by providing diabetes medication to patients who otherwise would not have access to them.



*HA staff with a Direct Relief International donation*



*Cristobal and Marycruz, HA laboratory staff, receiving the microscope*

## Jimmy Hutchison

James (Jimmy) Hutchison III first volunteered at the Hospitalito in 2004, helping to clean out the abandoned hospital in Panabaj. As owner of Hankin’s Surgical Supply, his expertise has proven invaluable for replacing and repairing HA’s medical equipment. Hutchison visited the Hospitalito in December to donate a new microscope to HA’s laboratory.



# FINANCIAL REPORT (US DOLLARS)

## EXPENSES

Employee Salaries and Benefits	\$ 331,295.65
Equipment, Utilities, and Maintenance	\$ 38,063.98
Medications and Supplies	\$ 132,478.47
Other	\$ 41,879.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 543,717.47</b>

## DONATIONS

Cash Donations	\$ 157,870.39
Patient Contributions	\$ 376,796.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 534,667.06</b>
<b>Total In-Kind Donations (medications, supplies and equipment)</b>	<b>\$ 268,333.31</b>

## FREE AND DISCOUNTED CARE

HA Social Work Department	\$ 79,629.27
Community Outreach	
- Managing Diabetes in the Department of Sololá (World Diabetes Foundation)	\$ 55,000.00
- Community Outreach (Strachan Family Foundation, MASEK Foundation)	\$19,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$154,129.27</b>