



November 20

Hospitalito Atitlán

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Guatemalan Disasters Affects Hospitalito



Dr. Juan Manuel Chuc
Medical Director

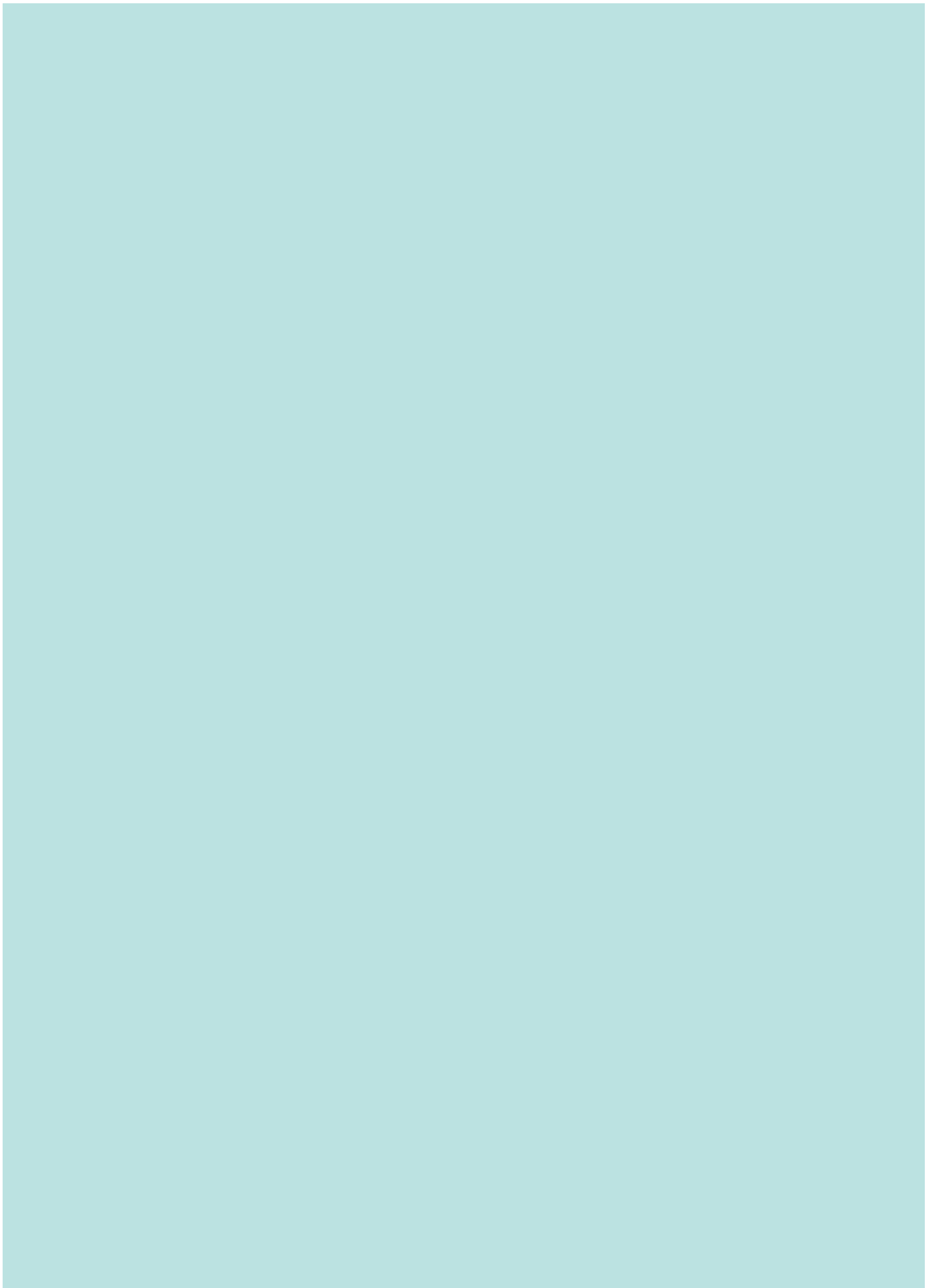
From the Desk of Dr. Chuc

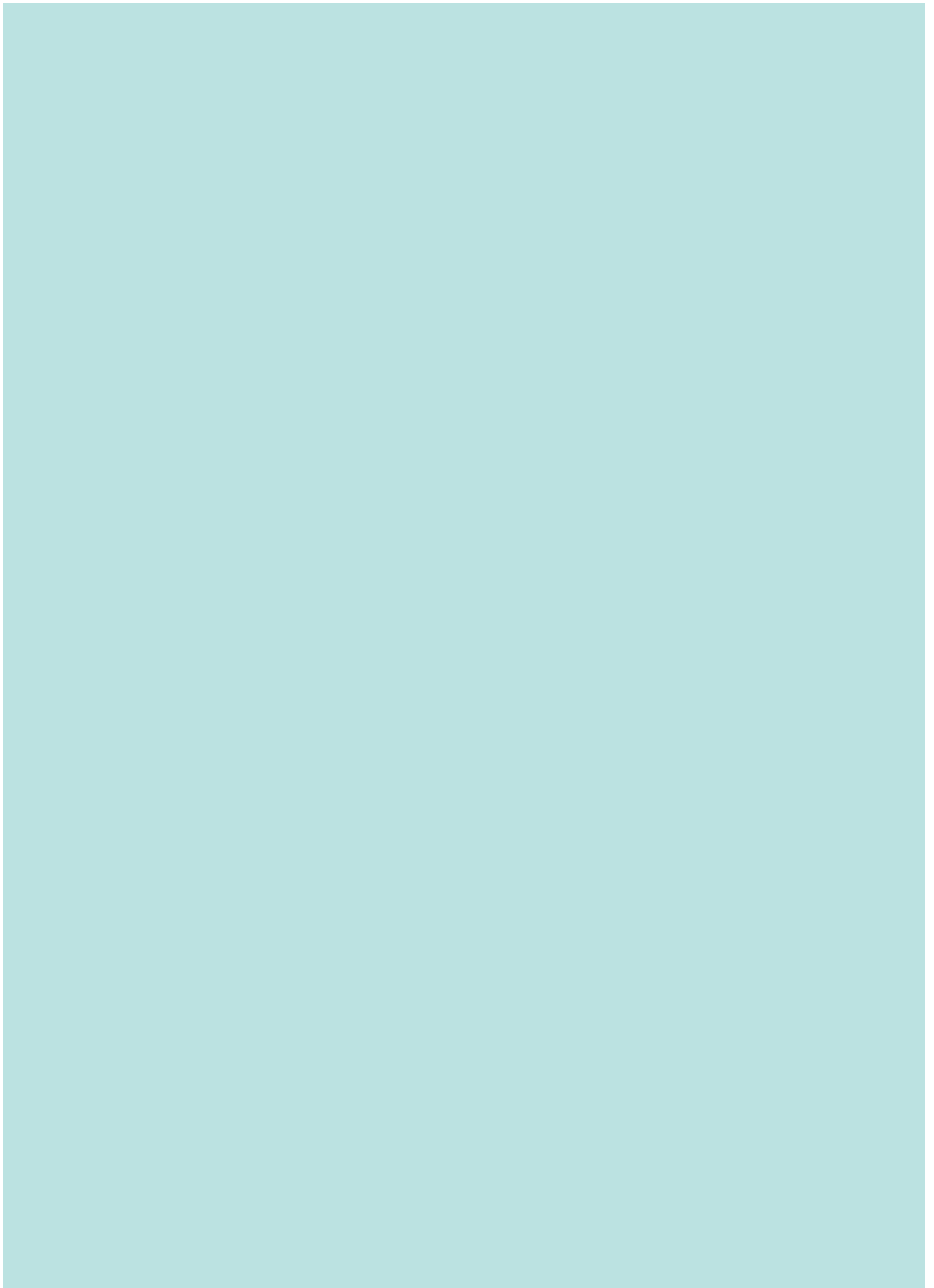
Greetings, dear friends of Hospitalito Atitlán, I hope this letter finds you safe, healthy, and having an enjoyable summer. Here at the Hospitalito, we are working hard to treat the people despite the extra challenges that have been coming our way. Guatemala has been experiencing a variety of natural disasters. We have been very fortunate in Santiago Atitlán and have not had deaths in the community despite several mudslides. It has been a strenuous and stressful time due to the state of the roads, here and all over the country. No one knows when this will end, as rainy season has just started.

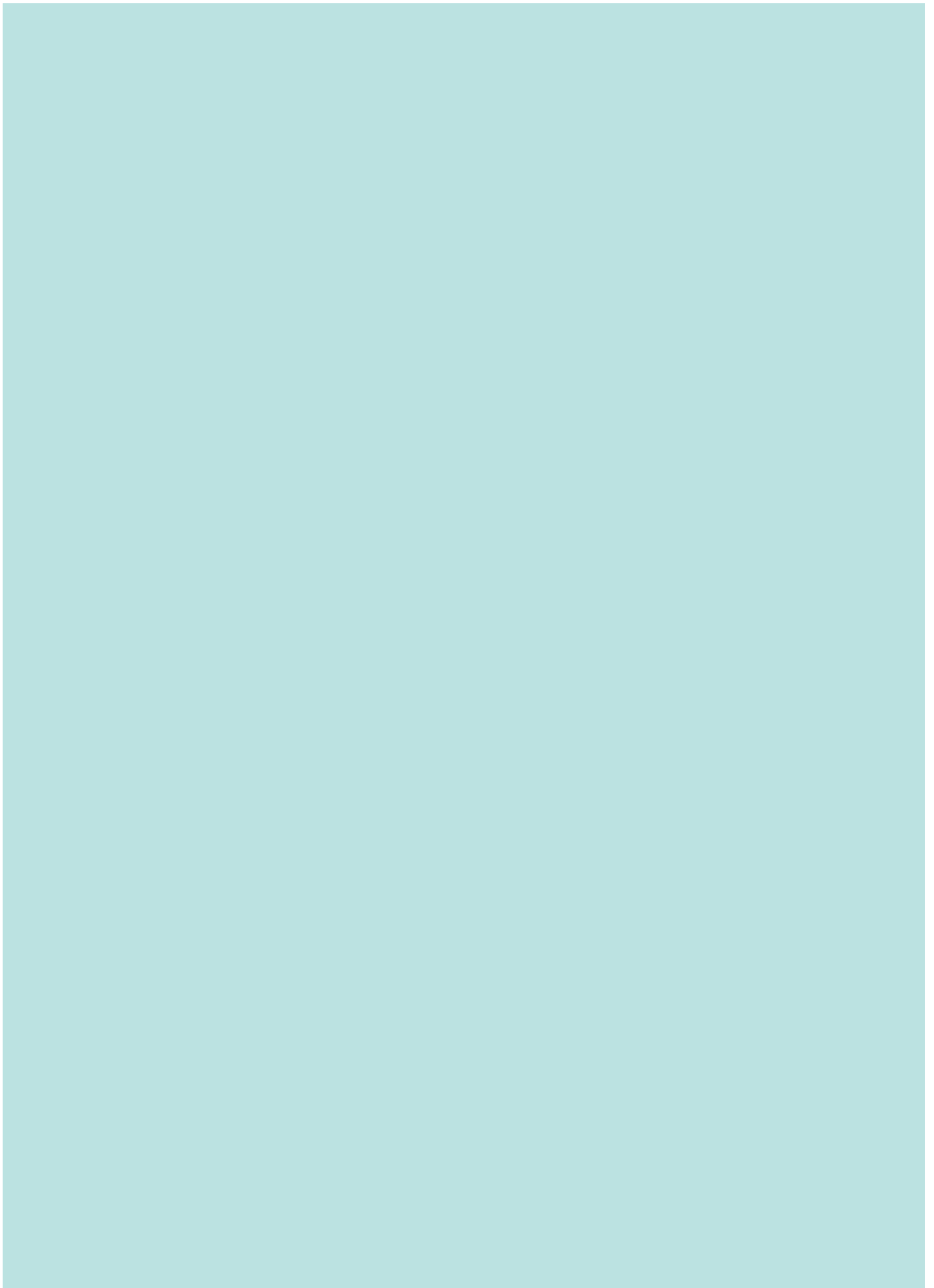
Transportation continues to be a serious problem, leaving us short in terms of supplies and staff. Medical volunteers have canceled due to these conditions. At the same time, because of impassable roads, patients are traveling from further distances, creating more demand for Hospitalito. While our staff is working extra hard to provide the excellent care this region needs, our board and administrative staff is working hard to find solutions.

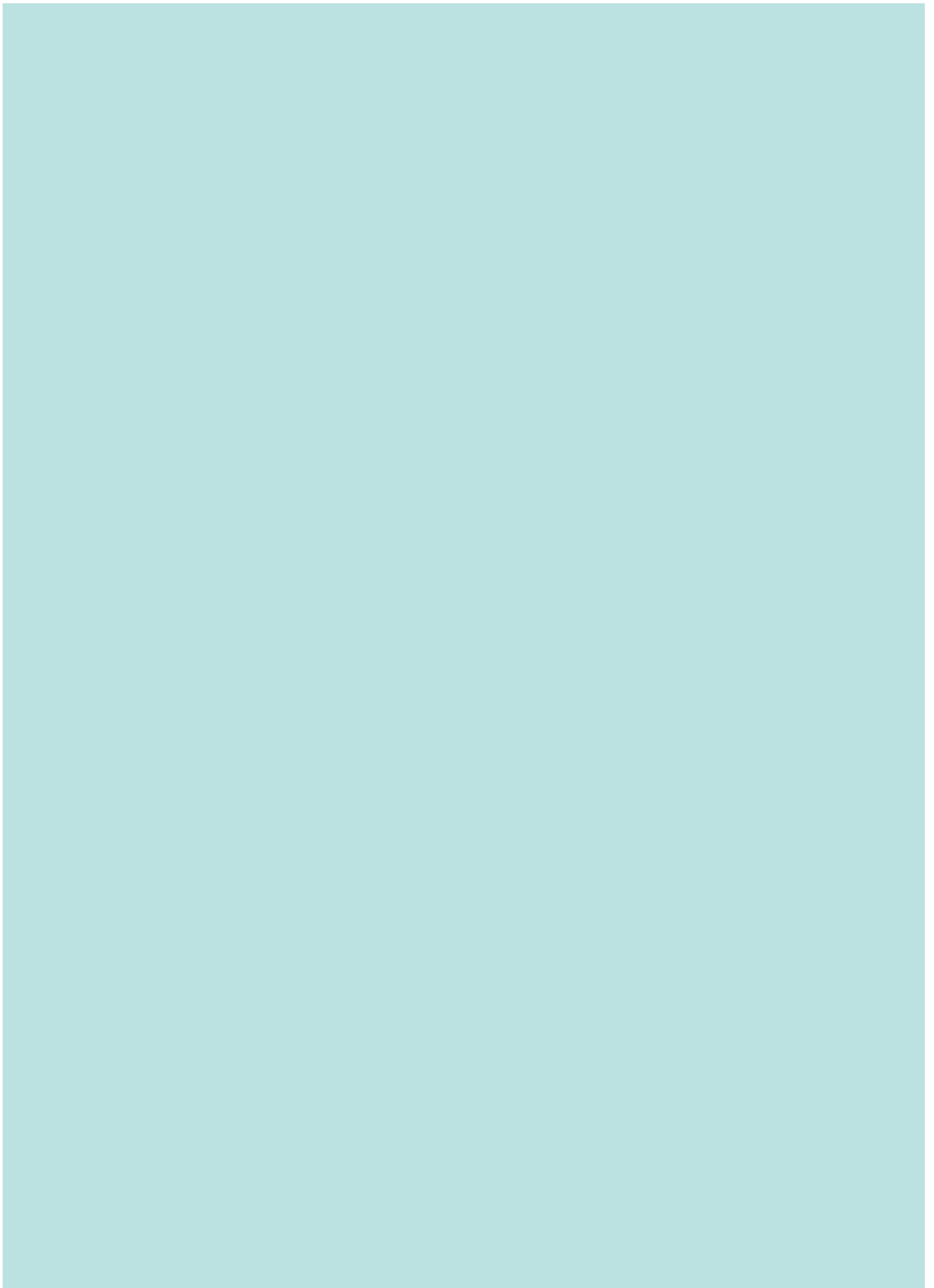
HA recently hired a new, full-time physician, Dr. Juan José Daniel from Guatemala City. We would like to hire two more Guatemalan physicians and to offer scholarships to train a social worker, an ultrasound technician, and nurses. Scholarships pay for the cost of education and also allow us to cover their shifts while in classes.

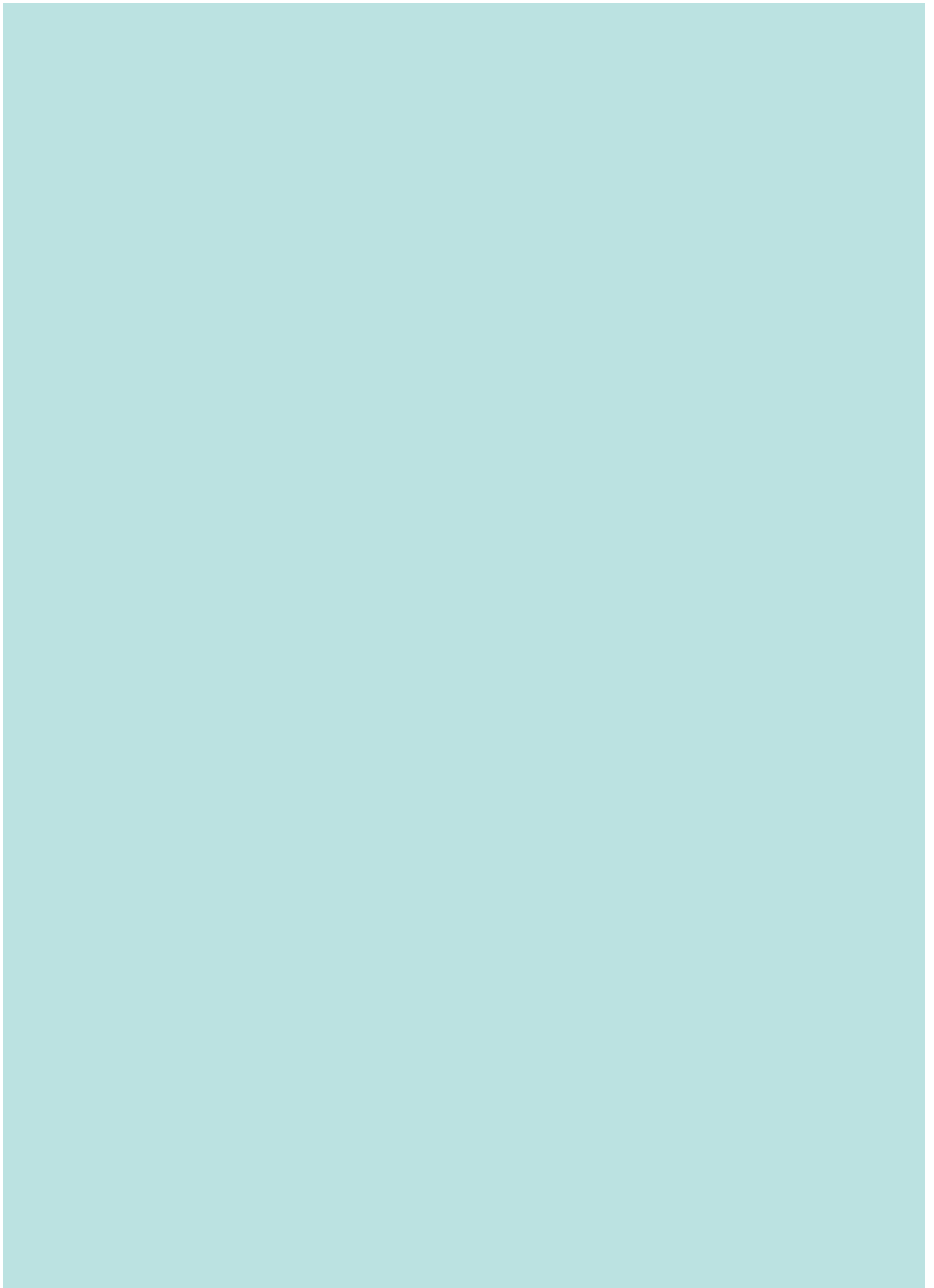
While the devastations of nature and the stress of providing care with limited resources have been challenging, we are looking towards the future with much hope. We are also looking at the positive aspect of these developments. Hiring and training more staff will have many benefits, for individuals, families, Hospitalito, and the community. The idea to have a strong base of national physicians

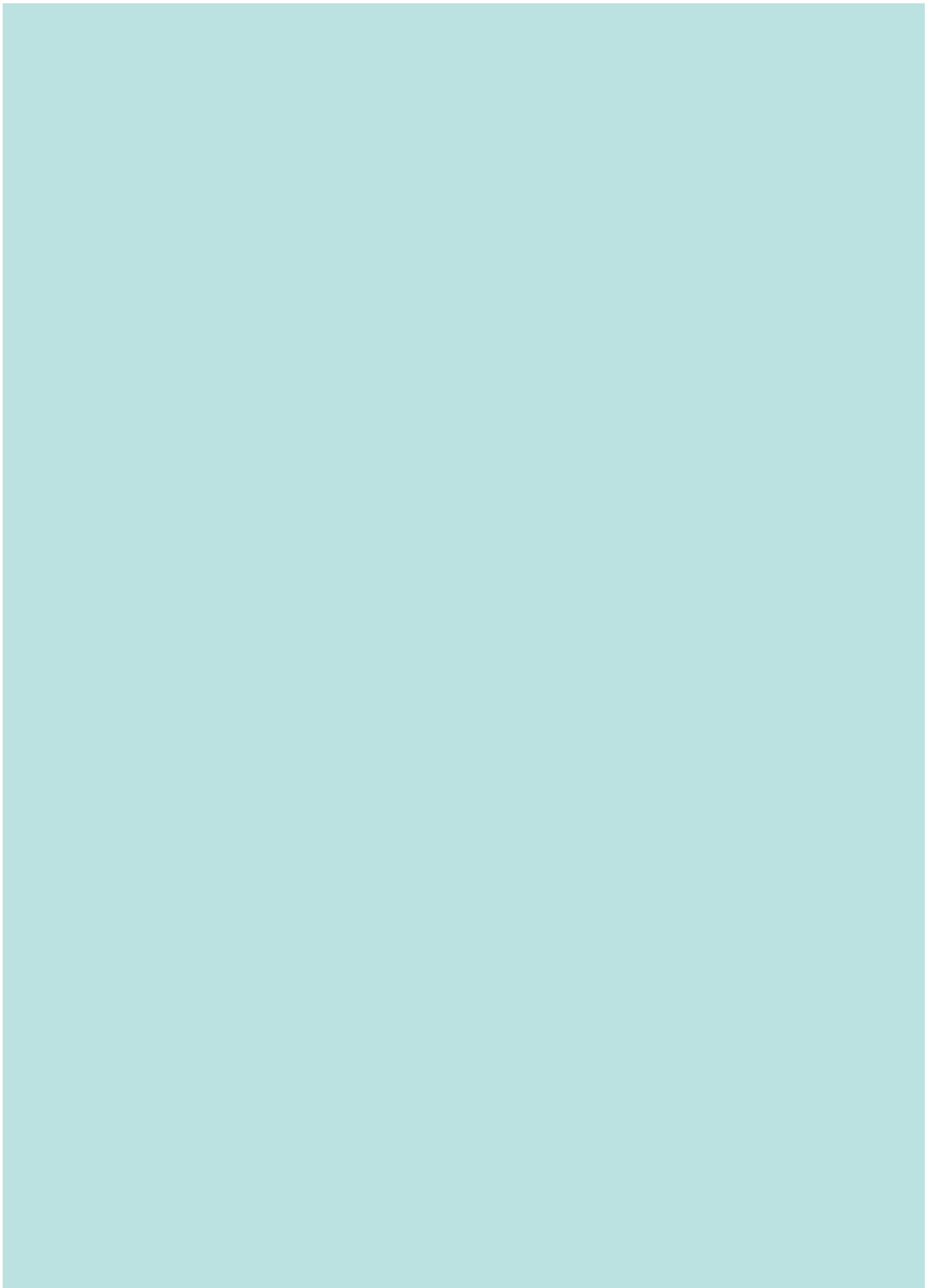












Eric Lyons (3rd from left) and friends preparing for their Multicultural Night event.

Most American high-school students have a lot on their plate: classes, sports, music, jobs, clubs, college prep, and trying to find time to hang out with friends. Hospitalito Atitlán is fortunate enough to have a partner who has found a way to combine all of the above while raising funds to help build the hospital. Quite a remarkable feat!

You may remember reading about Eric Lyons, who was planning a fundraising ski event last February. Eric is a 16-year old junior at Weber High School in Ogden, Utah. Over the past year, he worked with energy and gusto that many of us may have forgotten exists to create two incredible events to raise funds for construction. His own efforts ranged from selling hot chocolate at his school, recruiting partners such as major health and skiing organizations, publishing articles and giving presentations.

The first event was a cross-country skiing race held over President's Day weekend. 70 determined people made it to the event and raced, despite near blizzard conditions. Skiers raced a course set at about 6500 feet, through woods, beaver ponds and fields, with nearly 10,000 foot peaks in the back-ground. Skiers ranged from a man in his 70s to children and several nationally ranked racers. Live trumpets played throughout and each participant was announced as they came through the finish gate to the applause of the spectators and other racers. After the race, warm refreshments were served as a raffle of professional gear was held. All made for a festive atmosphere, challenged only slightly by the driving snow. A general sense of excitement and unity could be felt throughout the day, as everyone had joined together to do what they loved in order to contribute to an important cause.

The second event was held on May 17th at Weber High school. This time, Eric had his school's Multicultural Club host a night dedicated to raising awareness and funds for Hospitalito. The school was decorated with large photos of Guatemala, Lake Atitlán, Santiago Atitlán and its people. Catered Latin American food was served to the sound of Guatemalan music. Eric presented a slideshow about the Hospitalito after dinner and then a silent auction was held. More than 100 people participated. Afterwards, the group went to the theater to view a performance of poetry and dance. Eric made all of this happen by recruiting participants, finding companies to donate prizes, sharing his knowledge about Guatemalan culture, and sharing his passion for the Hospitalito with his own community.

In the end, his two events raised over \$15,000! This is in addition to separate donations that his friends, family, and partners have contributed. He also spread the word about Santiago Atitlán and Hospitalito.

How did one young person make all of this happen? Well, after Eric visited Santiago Atitlán last summer, he decided that he wanted to make a difference and help the community by helping to build the permanent hospital. It is quite remarkable what can be accomplished when an individual has passion, drive and energy! Here at the Hospitalito Atitlán, we feel very fortunate to count Eric Lyons as a friend. He has not only helped to contribute a significant amount of money, he has reminded us all what passion and hard-work can accomplish. Thank you Eric!

Grand Opening for the New Hospital!



The construction site is bustling with change and visible progress every day. The entire roof has been poured (all by hand), and the new floor is looking beautiful! We are poised to open our doors for the patient care areas sometime around the end of this year. Stay tuned for an announcement with dates for the dedication and celebrations.

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