



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Hospitalito Atitlán
Santiago Atitlán, Sololá,
Guatemala
www.hospitalitoatitlan.org



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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear reader,

I am pleased to offer you a fraternal greeting of thanks, in the name of our health institution Hospitalito Atitlán.

To recover from the instability caused by Covid-19 in 2020, we focused on restoring and bettering quality and accessibility to services in accordance with our mission and vision.

As a health institution, it is important to highlight the work during the Covid-19 pandemic. For our patients who present symptoms, a specific area was implemented that includes nasal swab testing. If they come out positive, we give an educational plan, initiate treatment, provide oxygen therapy in certain cases, and notify the Ministry of Health for the national data base. All our employees received the first Covid-19 vaccine in April and the third dose of the vaccine in December. In the general adult population of Santiago Atitlán, 32% received the first dose, 22% the second, and 6% received the booster (healthcare workers).



During the pandemic it was difficult to get back to normalcy. In 2020, patient numbers decreased by 50% compared to pre-pandemic levels. However, over the course of 2021, patients gained confidence that Hospitalito followed health protocols and began to seek medical care again.

It was a great pleasure to welcome again the medical volunteers; they were few, but they made a great impact on medical care. We hope for everyone to return, including medical jornadas which offer very necessary services in the community.

Thank you to our donors, we have obtained a new digital X-ray, ultrasound, defibrillator, and operating room equipment— all are the most updated and help with diagnosis and high quality service.

In January, we began our Healthy Habits project, which gives educational workshops of primary prevention and cooking to women leaders in the community. With our Días de Salud community outreach project, we restarted with our rural clinic in Olas de Moca, a plantation with very little resources in Santiago Atitlán. In 2021, we will continue our work according to our mission to offer accessible health services, both curative and preventative, to improve quality of life in the region.

Sincerely,

Jacinto Garcia Chipir
Executive 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. The Hospitalito has the only 24/7 emergency and surgical obstetrical care within a two-hour radius, as well as a 24-hour lab, orthopedic services, and general surgery and anesthesia.

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

2021 BY THE NUMBERS

7,184

Outpatient Consultations

1,494

Emergencies

129

Births

422

Surgeries

2,941

Ultrasounds and X-Rays

15,737

Laboratory Tests

539

Hospitalizations

47,630

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 of complications during pregnancy. HA's mission is to reduce maternal infant mortality. Thanks to our generous donors, HA's social worker is able to ensure that staff can save lives at little or no cost to families.

Francisca Coo Coché, Panabaj

Francisca Coo Coché lives with her parents in Panabaj. There is only one bed, which she shares with her husband and three small children. The kitchen is just a simple stove under a piece of sheet metal. Francisca, a home maker, looks after the children while her husband works in the fields to support the family.

Francisca was referred to the Hospitalito by her local health department. She was in the 38th week of pregnancy, and her membrane had broken 10 hours before. An ultrasound showed the baby to be in breech position. It was determined that the safest way to deliver the baby was by cesarian section. After two days at the Hospitalito, mother and newborn returned home.



Francisca and her baby are healthy and well!



Baby Darlin and our pediatrician Dr. Evelyn Flores

Baby Darlin

Four-month-old Darlin was brought into the Hospitalito by her parents María, a housewife, and Domingo, a day laborer. She had been suffering from a dry cough and nasal congestion for over a week. They rushed her to the Hospitalito emergency room when the baby's condition deteriorated. She was pale, had stopped eating, and her skin turned blue during coughing fits. Darlin was seen by the Hospitalito pediatrician, who diagnosed the baby with whopping cough. She was admitted and given oxygen and hydration during a four-day stay and happily, little Darlin has recovered!

Maternal and Infant Health Program

More than 10,000 children under five die each year in Guatemala (UNICEF 2020). The support and education from pediatric consults makes a difference in the lives of these women.

In an effort to help sponsors understand the importance of their support, a 30 minute documentary video was created, "Rosario - A Day in the Life". The short film shows the challenges faced by these families and how appreciative they are of the access to medical care at Hospitalito for their little ones.



A YEAR OF SUCCESSES

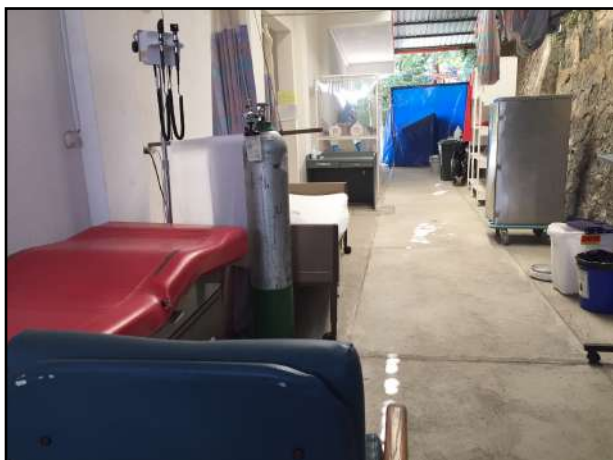


Health Promoters in Cerro de Oro received PPE and training on protecting themselves and their patients when making home visits during the pandemic.

Our community health project, “Nutrition Education in Rural Sololá” worked with the local government food security office to help families with malnourished children. All received a home garden kit and some were prescribed supplements by the Ministry of Health nutritionist. The three-year project is funded by the IZUMI Foundation.



Malnourished child receiving food supplements



Covid-19 testing and oxygen administration area

At the beginning of the pandemic, a tent was erected at the emergency entrance for Covid-19 testing to protect other patients and staff. Though Hospitalito is not authorized to treat serious cases of Covid-19 without a full-time internal medicine department, the need was recognized for a more permanent, well-ventilated space to test and providing oxygen to patients in crisis. The parking area on the south side of the building was paved and set up for testing.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Managing Diabetes Project Changes to Healthy Habits in Sololá



Licensed nurse Gerber Ixmata leads the Healthy Habits trainings

Healthy Habits is a community outreach initiative that began in January 2021 to improve the general health of families in six villages in the department of Sololá. It aims to reduce chronic disease such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and respiratory illness through education about life-style choices, healthy diet, and exercise. The program aims to train 210 women leaders in six towns on Lake Atitlán to become agents of change and replicate the information learned with their peers. These women are traditional birth attendants, school cooks and directors, and church and municipal leaders. These leaders will also plant home gardens, to encourage the healthy and sustainable eating of local produce. BMI, blood pressure, and glucose levels of the women who have received the training will be monitored and compared against a control group of women who have not receive the classes. The program is funded by the World Diabetes Foundation in Denmark.

Diabetes Program Advances

Trainings for medical personnel went on-line in 2021 to reach all MSPAS health workers

The community health program, “Managing Diabetes in the Department of Sololá,” underwritten by the World Diabetes Foundation began in 2012 in Santiago Atitlán. As the COVID pandemic continued, the program adapted to make home visits to high-risk patients and provided online training to all Ministry of Health medical personnel in Sololá.

31 clinics equipped for diabetes detection
55,500 diabetes detections performed
25,630 individuals in the database
12,451 students taught about diabetes
1,240 health workers trained



Comadronas, or Traditional Birth Attendants, received a training from orthopedic surgeon Dr. Manuel on identifying and providing early treatment for ‘clubfoot’. They each also received hygiene kits.

SURGICAL TEAMS

After two years without any surgical brigades due to the pandemic, three surgical teams returned to Santiago Atitlán to provide surgical care for patients who do not have the economic resources to resolve their health problems. Patients who can pay provide a donation towards the cost. Those without financial resources receive surgeries for free.

Drs. Kevin Bjork and Brad Qualey

Dr. Kevin Bjork has been coming to HA to do life-changing surgeries for over 15 years. In 2021, the teams brigade had been canceled, but he arrived in March for several days of surgery and returned in December with urologist Dr. Brad Qualey to perform a range of operations including a circumcision, mass removals, endoscopy, hernia repair and cholecystectomies (gallbladder removals).



Patients awaiting medical consultation post-surgery

International Eye Institute

It had been two years since the last ophthalmology brigade with the International Eye Institute. In November, as well, the brigade was almost cancelled due to the level four alert from the US state department. Hospitalito's executive director Jacinto Garcia contacted an ophthalmologist in the capital who works for an NGO, who agreed to volunteer. Dr. David Dance then pulled a small team together who saw 150 individuals and performed 54 procedures. Others received eye exams.

Endoscopy and Colonoscopy

Gastroenterologists Dr. Bryan Sauer, Dr. Michael Dougherty, and Dr. Nicholas Nickl arrived with a full team of nurses and anesthesiologists in June. The team completed diagnostic tests on 31 patients during the surgical brigade. Abdominal pain is one of the most common health complaints at Hospitalito and The prevalence of H. Pylori is high for all ages in Latin America. An early and correct diagnosis can save lives.



VOLUNTEER PROFILES

Dr. Andy Smith - Chair of Amigos Hospitalito Atitlán

A note from Dr. Andy:

Now more than ever we need a vision of the future that is filled with hope. Fortunately, that vision already exists in the ongoing work of Hospitalito Atitlán. Despite the challenges of the past year, a resilient Hospitalito continues to realize its mission. Teams of dedicated local doctors see patients and attend births. Community health programs do outreach to neighborhoods in need. A few international volunteers have returned to perform essential procedures. A fully vaccinated hospital staff works tirelessly with a focus on the people it serves. As we look forward to 2022, Hospitalito will continue to adapt to the needs of the community. With hope and optimism, we plan to meet the health needs of those who have struggled.



Ten years ago, Dr. Andy, his wife Sarah, and daughter Rosie lived in Santiago Atitlán for 18 months. He has returned annually with a surgical brigade and residents until Covid-19. In 2021, Dr. Smith's team was unsure whether to come as the Delta variant had taken a heavy toll in the community. Nonetheless, the team arrived. By the end of the week, five specialists screened 90 patients and performed 45 procedures. Hand surgeon Dr. Peter Fitzgibbons operated on a three-year-old boy whose hand was contracted by scar tissue from burns.



VOLUNTEERS 2021

Volunteers are essential to our work at Hospitalito. They see patients in hospital and community outreach clinics, lead trainings, and perform procedures hand in hand with our local staff.

Non-medical volunteers assist with building maintenance, community outreach, grant-writing, reports, and fundraising.

Due to the pandemic, HA had the fewest number of medical volunteers in 2021 compared to any year in its history.



OB/Gyn George Gilson, who has worked with HA for over 10 years, volunteered for one month in September. Here he is seen at a rural outreach clinic helping with prenatal checkups.

Doctors & Nurses

Dr. Isabel Echaniz

Dr. George Gilson

Dr. Tlalli Moya-Smith

Dr. Beverly Tambe

Dr. Tina Tran

Surgical Brigades

Dr. Kevin Bjork

Drs. Bryan & Dougherty
Endoscopy Team

Dr. David Dance and
International Eye Institute
Andy Smith Surgical Team

Dr. Dawn Stapleton

Dr. Brad Qualey
Hospital Buen Samaritano

Non-Medical Volunteers

Bhavya Ancha

Skylar Avant

Courtney Baur

Pallavi Sreedhar



Pallavi Sreedhar (left) graduated from Columbia University in May 2021 and arrived as a development office volunteer in September. She has worked closely with social worker Vicenta Chavajay (center) and with the Maternal Infant Sponsorship program. Again this year, we were unable to host our annual Maternal-Infant program Christmas celebration, so the mothers came in small family groups to receive bags of essential food items and hygiene kits.

HOSPITALITO STAFF

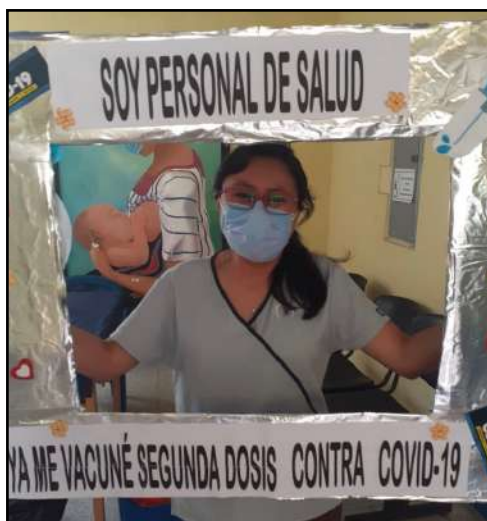


For our annual Christmas party, the HA staff rented a large boat and crossed to San Juan la Laguna to hike the recently constructed 'mirador' (look-out). The day also included a cook-out and swim on the Cristalin beach. Though a few employees had to stay behind to keep emergency medical services open, it was a nice way to end a very challenging year.

Hospitalito Atitlán has a team of medical professionals — 63 doctors, nurses, pharmacists, technicians, administrators and support personnel. Thanks to their dedication and hard work, the hospital is able to provide around the clock quality medical care.

HA meets its mission by responding to obstetrical emergencies 365 days of the year. Tz'utujil and Kaqchikel women can feel comfortable with the medical care provided by nursing and medical staff who speak their maternal language.

We are proud of our staff and grateful for their incredible work ethic and willingness to meet our mission, helping others and saving lives.



SENIOR EMPLOYEES

Executive Director

Jacinto Garcia Chipir

Medical Director

Dr. Manuel González Hi

Administrator

Jeremias Coche Pablo

Head Nurse

Concepción Damian Ixbalán

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 meet its mission thanks to the generosity of donors large and small. We would like to give a special mention to the following donors and partners:

Adelphia Foundation

Bill Falinsky Health
Science Scholarship

CAFCOM

William Cuneo

Direct Relief International

Hope for Poor Children
Foundation

IZUMI Foundation

Robert Finnegan

Klose Family

Dr. Maj StormorGipson
Memorial Scholarship

Masek Foundation

MedShare International

Sharing the Dream

Gary Sibley

Henry Schein Cares

Starbucks

Andy Smith Surgical Team

West Bakersfield Rotary

World Diabetes Foundation

8th Day Faith

Amigos Hospitalito Atitlán board member Rob Finnegan's generous donation - digital x-ray



Hospitalito can now offer X-ray services onsite with the purchase of a digital X-ray machine. Thanks to our donors we continue to improve the quality of medical care provided.



West Bakersfield CA Rotary shipped an ambulance and helped with the purchase of oxygen concentrators and cylinders that were used in Covid-19 relief efforts.

FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENSES

Employee Salaries and Benefits	\$ 404,084.02
Equipment, Utilities, and Maintenance	\$ 79,193.59
Medications and Supplies	\$ 117,433.79
Other	\$ 47,741.00
Total	\$ 648,452.40

CASH DONATIONS

Donor Contributions	\$ 387,307.73
Patient Contributions	\$ 507,654.01
Total	\$ 894,961.74

OTHER DONATIONS

In-Kind Donations (medications, equipment, and supplies)	\$ 381,181.04
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FREE AND DISCOUNTED CARE

HA Social Work Department	\$ 61,538.00
Community Outreach	
- Managing Diabetes in the Department of Solollá (World Diabetes Foundation)	\$ 88,883.00
- Other outreach programs (Adelphia, Foundation, Izumi Foundation, MASEK Foundation)	\$45,000.00
Total	\$195,471.00



Hospitalito Atitlán

Providing Healthcare & Hope to Maya Families