

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Hospitalito Atitlán
Santiago Atitlán, Sololá,
Guatemala
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 Angelika Muller

“We’ve been to other hospitals, it is different here. You are LOVE!” Mother of boy with hand surgery

Hospitalito Atilán is a non-profit institution that offers curative and preventative medical services, accessible to all, with a focus on maternal and infant health, and with continued medical education for national and international health care professionals, to improve quality of life in the region.



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Hospitalito Atitlán
 Cantón Ch'ut Ch'aaj, Santiago Atitlán, Sololá
 TEL. 7721 7683 / 7721-7692
 info@hospitalitoatitlan.org



Dear Readers:

It is my pleasure to tell you that in recent months we have felt the winds of change. The seed that our founders sowed, continues to evolve and show new fruit.

That is why it is with great excitement that I share with you that we will soon be inaugurating our long-awaited School of Nursing, followed by the opening of our Blood Bank and the transfer of our biomedical laboratory equipment to a new space. These achievements are faithful testimonies of the work passion of those of us who make up this noble institution.

I want to express my deep recognition and appreciation to our local team, who always work hard, dedicated and committed to providing dignified and humane care to our community. Also, I want to thank all our volunteer friends from other countries, who with their generosity and continuous support, their presence and invaluable collaboration have allowed us to nourish our growth.

I am confident that these new projects will positively impact our community, thus increasing our capacity to continue saving lives.

I know that growth brings new challenges, but here supported by the shoulders of our founders, we will visualize the new horizon that we will reach by continuing to work as a team between foreigners, nationals and locals.

We will continue with greater impetus in our surgical sessions, in our community programs, our in-hospital social programs and supporting other institutions that trust in our work.

With sincere gratitude,

Dr. Manuel O. González Hí
 Director Ejecutivo
 Hospitalito Atitlán



Dirección Ejecutiva
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 care within a two-hour radius, as well as a 24-hour lab, x-ray, orthopedic services and pediatrics. 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. HA promotes ongoing medical education for Guatemalan and international health professionals, helping to improve the region’s quality of life.

2023 BY THE NUMBERS

10,577

Outpatient Consultations

2250

Emergencies

113

Births

719

Surgeries

2,999

Ultrasounds and X-Rays

23,893

Laboratory Tests

510

Hospitalizations

52,257

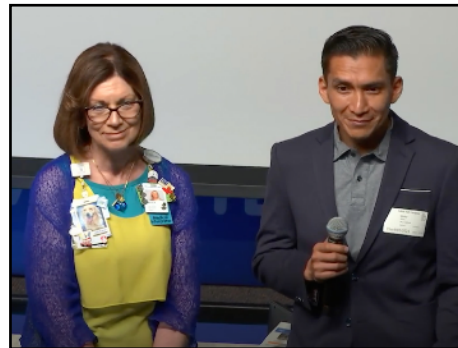
Patients Served 2005 to Date



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 do what is necessary to help the patients, at little or no cost to families.



Patient hospitalized with injury

Responding to Emergencies

When tragedy strikes, it is good to get medical care close to home. 17-year-old twin sisters were involved in a fatal automobile accident on the coast highway which claimed the lives of five people from Santiago Atitlan. Both girls suffered broken bones. Their family members insisted they be transferred immediately to Hospitalito Atitlan, where our staff speak Tz'utujil, their maternal language. Recovery will take time, but they have been set up with physical therapy and they feel fortunate to be alive. Our staff made home visits and provided psychological counseling.

International Eye Institute

Jorge lives two hours away in Escuintla. He was a plantation worker, until he lost his arm at work. Over the years his vision has deteriorated and his neighbors recommended he come to HA for the ophthalmology jornada.



Life changing procedure



Hearing exams

Maternal and Infant Sponsorship Program

Children sponsored in the MI program receive free medical care until five years of age. Mothers can bring their children day or night for emergency care. They also receive well child check-ups every six months. The children and their mothers participate in monthly classes on nutrition, early stimulation and healthy lifestyles.

A YEAR OF SUCCESSES



Engineer Roberto Silva, (right) with HA technicians

Improved Oxygen Distribution

Direct Relief International (DRI) has partnered with Hospitalito Atitlan for more than a decade, sending medications and supplies several times a year. Working with a USAID program they offered to improve our oxygen delivery system. The application and delivery of the system took more than a year, but well worth the wait. Engineer Roberto Silva arrived from the US to set up and train our staff. He commented on our very professional equipment maintenance team of electricians and engineers, saying, “You are in good hands with these guys”.

When completed, the new O2 generator will reduce the need to move cylinders within the hospital.

Construction of clinics, lab & blood bank and nursing school is completed!



Nursing Director shares experiences.

Thanks to you, our donors, construction of the new nursing school, four clinics, lab and blood bank was completed in December.

Construction began on August 1st, 2022, and was completed within budget and on schedule.

Key to opening the nursing school was funding from USAID and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), to complete the complicated application process. All was on schedule when the application was accepted in May 2023 and we passed the inspection in August with flying colors. However, the Ministry of Health updated their requirements to include a geographic study, and after our application was accepted, we were required to submit new documents. As a private non-profit organization, we were

unable to use government specialists for the report on geographic safety. In November we contracted an engineer to create the study and report.

A volunteer carpenter will install cabinets in the lab and blood bank area. Our team awaits word on the donation of funds to purchase solar panels and batteries for the new annex.

The need for the blood bank is urgent. A Chemical Biologist will begin work at HA in 2024, and help with the adquisición of refrigeration equipment needed.



The new annex was completed in December 2023

EDUCATION AND TRAINING



Staff receive Ministry training on TB

TB Prevention

Tuberculosis can affect anyone whose immune system is depressed. Ministry of Health nurse, Lic. Flor Castro presented to HA staff the current situation in the department of Sololá. Due to lack of testing during the pandemic, the numbers tripled in 2022. A great deal of discussion followed the training. Staff recalled neighbors with tuberculosis who received treatment and recovered and others who avoided medical care, and succumbed to the disease.

Continuing Medical Education for US Physicians & Nurses

Hospitalito's Medical Spanish and cultural immersion course is offered several times a year. Physicians and nurses receive 26 hours of live CME credit from the University of Pennsylvania.

In 2024, the course will be available for non-medical participants, who want to learn more about the Maya culture.



Dr. González presents the tradition of bone-setters to CME students

HA Ob/Gyn Attends Conference in Cartagena

Dr. Miguel Yajcom, is an Ob/Gyn from San Pedro la Laguna who has worked at Hospitalito Atitlan since 2017. In 2023, he attended a conference in Cartagena, Columbia on maternal-fetal distress. Immediately upon his return, he shared the course content with HA physicians and nurses.

Dr. Yajcom is a native Tz'utujil speaker, which inspires confidence with the women he helps. The course was provided by Fetal Medicine Barcelona. Continuing Medical Education is part of Hospitalito's mission and key to insuring quality medical care.



Dr. Miguel Yajcom at the conference

SURGICAL TEAMS

Several 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.



Pediatric dentistry is a speciality unavailable in Guatemala

SPRIG Oral Health Technologies

Dr. Cameron Quayle, from Utah brought a team of 14 pediatric dentists to volunteer in November. A number of children who had extensive problems were taken to the operating room to receive treatment under sedation. SPRIG manufactures zirconia crowns for children and provided all supplies during the week. It was a great opportunity for families to improve the oral health to their little ones.

Minnesota Atitlán Surgical Team

Each year we ask our staff what skills they want to learn. Ambulance driver, Josue Lacán will complete a three-year course to become a paramedic, thanks to a Bill Falinski Health Science scholarship.

However, the online classes during the pandemic did not allow learning and practicing intubation, an essential life-saving technique.

Doctor of anesthesia Rohan Anton, offered to teach Josue how to intubate a patient to open the airway. Working with an interpreter, they first studied theory, and then practiced.



Dr. Anton instructs on intubation



Dr. Thomas with little Juanito and his mother

Life-Changing Hand Surgery

Four year old Juanito was terrified when a firecracker exploded in his hand. The injury resulted in an a deformity and then bullying. Fortunately, orthopedic surgeon Dr. Thomas McDonald, and his wife Stephanie contacted HA about volunteering. He is a specialist in hand surgery. Juanito's surgery took six hours. He returned with his mother a month after the surgery with a big cake for staff. His mother told our personnel, "We've been to other hospitals, and it is different here, You are LOVE."

VOLUNTEER PROFILES

Longterm Volunteer Dra. Erin

Dra. Erin Bassett-Novoa met her husband Ricardo Sojuel in the summer of 2009, when she came to Atitlán with the University of Pennsylvania's Guatemalan Health Initiative program. The couple kept in touch while she completed medical school and Erin returned in 2012 to volunteer for one year at the Hospitalito. The next year, the couple was married at a lakeside ceremony. After completing medical school, Erin did her residency in Family Practice at Lawrence General Hospital in Massachusetts, under the guidance of Dr. Andy Smith. Ricardo and Erin spent eight years in Boston. Earlier this year they returned with their daughter, remodeled a family apartment and Erin began volunteering again at HA.



Dra. Erin Bassett-Novoa

Washington Paramedics and Pediatric Volunteers Helping in Santiago Atitlan

Firefighters and paramedics from Tacoma Washington coordinated a CPR training for HA staff and local rescue workers in January and a second training in March.



CPR trainings and simulations are part of ongoing continuing education for medical professionals



Pediatricians and staff at the beginning of the week

Pediatricians

Nine pediatricians from Seattle Washington were able to volunteer in February and March - a plan that had been in the works for years. Team members set up clinics in surrounding villages and rural areas to reach hundreds of children. Before departure, they began working on plans to return.

VOLUNTEERS 2023

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

Doctors & Nurses

Dra. Ingrid Avila

Dr. Randall Blankers

Brittney Blais

Dra. Erin Basset - Navoa

Dra. Jessica Boerner

Dra. Roxanna Guggenmos

Thomas Kuttner

Dra. Grace Milburn

Dr. Jorge Quiros

Dr. Ricardo Reyes

Dra. Nahara Saballos

Dr. Saad Siddiqui

Dra. Chandra Swanson

Dr. Rodrigo Velásquez



Traditional medicine for diabetes

Fredy Lopez completed his thesis for the University of San Carlos in pharmacology and the use of medicinal plants in Santiago Atitlan for treatment of diabetes. He returned in 2023, to present his results to the diabetes club. Some plants have promising results, but he encouraged their use with medication.



Patricia Luna helps at a diabetes clinic

Jornadas

Dr. Glen Dean

Endoscopy Team

International Eye Institute

Minnesota Atitlán Surgical Team

PENN - INDERMA

TANGO

Non-Medical

Courtney Bauer

Jeff Lang

Patricia Luna

Ricardo Sojuel

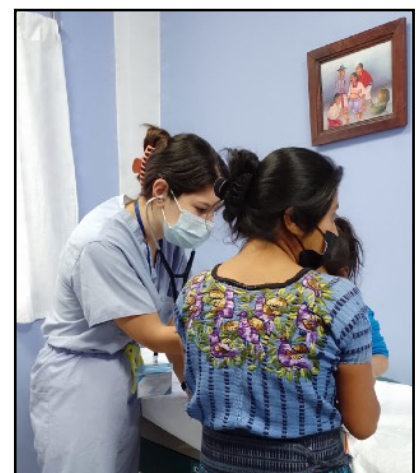


CPR training



Mentoring staff in use of Ultrasound

Somos Hermanos is a non-profit organization in Xela, that hosts groups of Spanish students. The group leader brings the young people to tour HA. This year they had a radiologist who arrived to work with doctors and our x-ray technician.



Pediatrician Dra. Chandra Swanson at well-child check-up

Medical Students

Sara Esteban Carvajal

Piter Vicent Sherman

Carla Rizzardini Serrano

HOSPITALITO STAFF



HA staff, rescue workers and family members help a patient in emergency

Hospitalito Atitlán has built a team of medical professionals — 64 doctors, nurses, pharmacists, lab and anesthesia technicians, administrators and support personnel. Thanks to their dedication and hard work, the hospital is able to provide around the clock quality medical care.

We are very proud of our staff and grateful for their incredible work ethic and willingness to meet our mission, helping others and saving lives. Hospitalito also promotes ongoing medical education for Guatemalan and international health professionals, which helps to improve the region's quality of life.

Many of our patients cannot afford care. Vicenta Chavajay makes home visits to follow up on patient care and evaluates the families ability to pay for services.

SENIOR EMPLOYEES

Executive Director

Dr. Manuel O. González Hi

Administrator

Jeremias Coche Tziná

Head Nurse

Concepción Damian Ixbalán

Social Worker

Vicenta Chavajay Cortéz

Volunteer Coordinator

Lidia Sojuel Mesia

Director of Development

Alverta Lyn Dickey

FRIENDS OF THE HOSPITALITO

Hospitalito Atitlán meets its mission thanks to the generosity of donors. Donations of all sizes and kinds help to insure we are able to provide quality care to Guatemala's low resource families. We would like to give a special mention to the following partners:

- Adelphia Foundation
- Amigos Hospitalito Atitlán
- Bill Falinski Health Scholarship
- Matt Cutts
- CAFCOM
- Glen R. Dean
- Salah Danial
- Direct Relief International
- Eighth Day Faith Community
- Robert Finnegan
- International Eye Institute
- Hope for Poor Children
- Christian & Margarita Klose
- Corinne Maund
- Masek Foundation
- Martha Jo Morehouse
- Minnesota Atitlán Surgical Team
- MedShare International
- Heather Pierce
- Whitney Smith
- David & Jennifer Wasik

Adelphia Foundation - MASEK Family Foundation



Dra. Jessica Boerner, pediatrician from Children's Mercy Hospital

Ten years ago, Hospitalito Atitlán received funding from Adelphia to provide educación and free monthly medical clinics in rural areas where there are no physicians. Many people who live outside Atitlán cannot afford the cost of transport to see a doctor at Hospitalito Atitlán or at the Ministry of Health clinic in town.

Amigo - Rob Finnegan

Rob Finnegan became a Trustee of Amigos Hospitalito Atitlán (AHA) after admiring his father's involvement for more than a decade. Larry Finnegan has held several positions with AHA since 2009. Rob has a special interest in Atitlán, his 16-year-old daughter is Tz'utujil, adopted from a family in Chicacao.

Rob has motivated the Hospitalito board and donors by providing matching funds for Challenge Grants.



Dr. Manuel with Rob during his December visit



Gudrun and Jon Gresley

Rotarian Friends

Jon and Gudrun Gresley are Rotarians who have been involved with Rotary International Global Grants throughout Guatemala over many years. It was wonderful to receive them in 2023. After their visit, Jon wrote a proposal to equip the four new clinics with treatment carts, otoscopes, gooseneck lamps and a pediatric scale, purchased with a grant from the Truckee California Rotary Club. They also introduced us to the Directors of Tahoe Forest Hospital, near their home in Truckee. We love the work that Rotarians do.

FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENSES

Employee Salaries and Benefits	\$ 560,187.95
Equipment, Utilities, and Maintenance	\$ 32,156.14
Medications and Supplies	\$ 223,728.69
Other	\$ 123,138.24
Total	\$939,211.03

CASH DONATIONS

Donor Contributions	\$ 147,657.56
Patient Contributions	\$ 752,058.62
Total	\$ 899,716.18

OTHER DONATIONS

In-Kind Donations (medications, equipment, and supplies)	\$137,322.91
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FREE AND DISCOUNTED CARE

HA Social Work Department	\$ 88,454.72
Community Outreach	
Other outreach programs (Adelphia, Foundation, Izumi Foundation & MASEK Foundation)	\$59,373.55
Total	\$147,828.27

K'aslimaaal Asociación

Pro Salud Educación Y Desarrollo



Hospitalito Atitlán

Providing Healthcare & Hope to Maya Families