



# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Hospitalito Atitlán  
Santiago Atitlán, Sololá,  
Guatemala  
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### President

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Angelika Muller

Hospitalito Atitlán is a non-profit institution that offers curative and preventative medical services, accessible to all. These services are provided with a focus on maternal and infant health and the continued medical education for national and international health care professionals.



*Health Promoters received a training on use of tablets for education during home visits*

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



**Hospitalito Atitlán**  
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February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Dear Readers:

2025 was undoubtedly an unforgettable year for our institution.

Celebrating our 20th anniversary allowed us to look back with profound gratitude and emotion. Reconnecting with the founders, the first volunteers, and remembering those initial steps that gave life to this hospital was magical. It was also a moment to honor our history and reaffirm the purpose that unites us.

At the same time, it was a year of progress and transformation. We grew significantly, modernized our laboratory, equipped our blood bank, which will be the first in our region, expanded the number of medical outreach programs, and strengthened continuing medical education with the participation of expert professionals.

One of the most significant milestones of the year was the first graduating class of our School of Nursing. This achievement represents a direct investment in the future of the healthcare system and in the training of committed, compassionate, and skilled professionals.

None of this would have been possible without the effort, dedication, and commitment of every staff member, volunteer, and partner. To all of you, thank you for believing in us, building with us, and serving alongside us. Your efforts are transforming lives in our region.

We continue to move forward with pride in what we have experienced and with excitement for all that is to come.

  
 Dr. Manuel G. González Hí  
 Ejecutivo Director  
 Hospitalito Atitlán



Dirección Médica  
 Hospitalito Atitlán

# WHAT WE DO

Hospitalito Atilán (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 Atilán 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.

## 2025 BY THE NUMBERS

**13,662**

Outpatient Consultations

**3026**

Emergencies

**193**

Births

**896**

Surgeries

**4,555**

Ultrasounds and X-Rays

**38,469**

Laboratory Tests

**920**

Hospitalizations

**59,172**

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.



*Chonita hospitalized after surgery*

## Saving a Young Girl's Leg

Caring for complicated medical cases locally is best for the patient and the family. That became clear when Chonita's parents begged the pediatrician at Hospitalito for help because they didn't want to go to the National Hospital where they would not be able to stay with her. Dr. Manuel immediately took Chonita into the operating room where he performed a biopsy and started a 30-day antibiotic treatment for her. Chonita's bone was cleaned several more times during those 30 days, but having her parents by her side made those 30 days a lot easier to young Chonita. The treatment and hospital stay, although expensive, was fully covered by Hospitalito's funds.

## Nutrition Recovery Kits

In the fall of 2024, we asked for your help to purchase 'Nutrition Recovery Kits' for children in the war-torn region of Santa Catarina Ixtahuacán - and you responded. Outsiders are unwelcome in the region because of the conflict, so we worked with the Ministry of Health to make sure the families with a malnourished child received the the kits. 75% of the malnourished children who received the kits made a complete recovery during the six months they consumed the additional supplements of milk, oil, sugar, and Incaparina. The IZUMI Foundation in Boston MA supports HA's nutrition program that supports families throughout the department of Sololá, but the recovery kits are an extra, thank you.



*Donations to patients in Finca Metzabal*

## Providing Care When the National System Cannot



*Dr. Manuel treats Diego's fracture*

Diego broke his collarbone playing basketball. He first went to a *huesero* (traditional bone setter), but came to HA when his shoulder continued to hurt. Diego studied as a bookkeeper and works as an accountant at a local hotel. The family with nine children was abandoned by the mother, and their father struggles to make ends meet as a day laborer. His sister accompanied him to his post-op consult. The family requested help from the social worker to cover surgical costs. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to help.

# A YEAR OF SUCCESSES



*Testing lung function at the fair*

## 20-Years-Old, a month of Celebration!

A small grant from the European Lung Foundation was the inspiration for the three day 'Feria de Salud' (health fair) in the center of town during the anniversary month of April. More than 350 individuals lined up to have their vital signs checked at the health fair, many received their first diagnosis and were provided with educational materials and recommendations. Our nutrition program leaders had a table with government food educators and a NGO demonstrated improved stoves to keep smoke from fires out of the home. At Hospitalito, CPR trainings were organized for staff and local rescue workers. A lunch and activities in the Hotel Tiosh Abaj was enjoyed by all.

## Saving Mothers & Babies Global Grant

In 2025, HA made great advances in the care for new mothers with a Rotary Global Grant, "Saving Mothers and Children". In collaboration with Lake Atitlán Rotary Club in Panajachel and Jon Gresley as the International partner from Truckee Sunrise CA, with donations from Rotary clubs in Oakland, Tahoe - Incline, Corral de Tierra in California and Clubs in Reno, NV, Fort Collins, CO, we succeeded in meeting requirements for the Global Grant. The grant upgraded most laboratory equipment, and provided new medical equipment to ensure that HA is providing quality care when women arrive to bring their baby into the world. New lab equipment, a new ultrasound, a portable ultrasound, two neonatal resuscitation tables, pulse oximeters, fetal monitors and fetal dopplers will ensure we are well equipped and trained for childbirth.



*Cristobal with a new equipment*



*Nursing school graduation was held on November 28th*

# EDUCATION AND TRAINING



*Home visit by health promoter*

## Improving Maternal and Infant Care in Rural Areas

Nurses Gladys and Andrea lead Hospitalito Atitlán's community clinic programs, which provides free medical care in the rural communities of Cerro de Oro and Chacaya. Beyond these clinic visits, eleven trained health promoters coordinate follow-up care and serve as trusted liaisons between patients and the health system. Thanks to support from Rotary International, Gladys and Andrea developed 18 educational videos covering topics ranging from lactation and family planning to warning signs during each trimester of pregnancy. Health promoters were trained on the video content, equipped with tablets to deliver these educational materials during home visits with the pregnant women and new mothers in their sector.

## Visiting Physicians Deliver Talks

Visiting specialists provide 30 minute talks on the up-to-date standards of medical care to Hospitalito personnel. Dr. Greg Eudy, a rheumatologist who volunteers annually, led a talk on management of arthritis-related disorders for our nurses and doctors. He discussed diagnosis of autoimmune disease, and medications commonly used in treatment of common health problems that often lead to inflammation and arthritis. Continuing medical education between national and international physicians, is part of Hospitalito's mission.



*Dr. Eudy's discussion in HA's library*

## Preparing for Trauma Emergencies

Frequent trainings are necessary to keep staff prepared to respond to all emergencies. Josue Lacán, Hospitalito's ambulance driver who recently graduated as a paramedic, coordinates simulations and training programs for local rescue workers and personnel at Hospitalito. When he heard that emergency trainer Fredi Ralda would be willing to volunteer, he facilitated trainings at HA and online. The photo shows a device invented by Ralda (in center of the photo) that teaches how to apply pressure to a trauma wound. The participants found it harder than expected to prevent blood loss. It was good practice and greatly appreciated by the local rescue workers.



*Bombero Fredy Ralda with students*

# 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.



*Dr. Sauer's team during a procedure*

## Central America Outreach & Endoscopy

In 2025, Hospitalito Atitlán's patients had three opportunities for the diagnostic services of the CARE teams, for a total of 144 procedures. The team has volunteered for 14 brigades since the service was offered in Atitlán. Dr. Bryan Sauer, from the University of Virginia brought the first team. The team of specialists, nurses and anesthesiologists bring supplies to keep prices at a minimum.

A National Institute of Health study reports helicobacter pylori infection rates above 80% in adults, especially in lower income families in rural areas, With the high-incidence in Guatemala, an accurate diagnosis via endoscopy can save lives.

The CARE team also performs colonoscopies and is concluding a study on colorectal cancer at Hospitalito Atitlán.

## Minnesota Atitlan Surgical Team

The Minnesota Atitlan Surgical Team (MAST) is amongst Hospitalito Atitlán's longest standing partnerships. Led by Dr. Kevin Bjork, this team has been working with Hospitalito Atitlán since 2010 and mainly focuses on general surgery procedures. In 2025 alone, they performed 89 procedures of which 53 were operating room procedures. 2025 marks the final year that Dr. Kevin Bjork will lead the MAST team with Dr. Dawn Stapleton leading the MAST team from 2026 onwards.



*MAST's team of surgeons and support staff*



*Andy Smith's team in the OR*

## Andy Smith's Surgical Team

18 members made up Dr. Andy's surgical team; a general surgeon and specialists, including a urologist and a hand surgeon. They helped 63 families resolve medical problems during the week. These low-resource families would have had to wait years for these surgeries within the national hospital system. Families with financial resources donated toward the cost of surgery, several received treatment at no cost, including a life-changing procedure for a young woman with a fistula.

These teams make a difference in the lives of people in our community. They are key to HA's ability to meet the organization's mission.

# VOLUNTEER PROFILES

## A 16-year-old Volunteer at HA

Calvin Parzick is a high school student who has volunteered with Hospitalito Atitlán since 2023. Having spent time in San Pedro la Laguna as a child, Calvin has a longstanding connection to the people and culture of Lake Atitlán. In 2025, Calvin conducted a study on food insecurity in Mayan communities in San Pedro la Laguna. He interviewed more than 30 families and found that over half did not consistently have enough food to eat. In addition to his research, Calvin continues to support Hospitalito Atitlán through generous donations of supplies from our wish list.



*Calvin conducts Interviews in San Pedro*

## Our FIRST Medical Volunteer Returns for the 20th Anniversary



*Gabe, Mary, Rafael and Leah Suarez-Abraham*

Hospitalito's partners involved since the beginning (2005), will remember Dra. Leah, our first medical volunteer - who provided all emergency obstetrical care the first two and a half years. She returned to the US in 2007, and within a year her three children were born. Her husband Antonio Suarez didn't join the family on this trip, but they all plan to return in the near future. Dra. Leah Suarez-Abraham practices family medicine and obstetrics at 'La Salud para La Gente' in Watsonville CA. Her work from 2005 - 2007 cannot be overestimated in the success of Hospitalito Atitlán.

## Dr. Avantika Waring - Returns to Atitlán

Dr. Avantika Waring was among the first non-medical volunteers at Hospitalito Atitlán from University of Pennsylvania with Dr. Kent Bream's Guatemalan Health Initiative. She worked to prepare the temporary hospital in Tzanchicham after the mudslide in 2005. 20 years later, Dr. Waring returned to Hospitalito Atitlán alongside Dr. Kent Bream. In the course of just one week, Dr. Waring attended to 27 endocrinology patients.



*Dr. Waring Treats an Endocrinology Patient*

# VOLUNTEERS 2025

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. Neus Busquets
- Dra. Camila Chile
- Jack Corbett
- Dra. Allie Dyer
- Dr. Greg Eudy
- Dr. Ciaran Fallon
- Fernando Delgado
- Dra. Linda Harris
- Dra. Yulianna Jimenez
- Susan Kass
- Dra. Brenda Navarro
- Marie Payment
- Joann Rochette
- Dr. Saad Siddiqui
- Dr. Mark Schmalz
- Dra. Avantika Waring
- Mishell Whitacre
- Dr. Sasha Yakhkind



*Dr. Schmalz leads intubation training*

Dr. Mark Schmalz, an emergency medicine physician from Oahu, Hawaii, volunteered at the hospital for two weeks. During this time, he set up mannequins in the education room and led training sessions on emergency intubation. He was available all day, so that when doctors had time between patients, they were able to practice their skills. For many of our medical staff, including Dr. Kathy Velasquez, (next to Dr. Mark) this was their first formal training in intubation.



Neus Busquets is a pediatric resident from Barcelona. She spent two months providing pediatric care at HA, in community clinics and at the health department. She recently became a sponsor in HA's Maternal Infant program.

## Medical Students

- Belén Gudín
- Jasmine Frances
- Olivia Lotz
- Patricia Medina
- Lauren Moore



*Development office volunteers, Piyusha, Maia and Dana*

## Non-Medical

- Pranav Addepalli
- Chloe Chif
- Cleo R. Davidowitz
- Dana Karson
- Piyusha Kundu
- Maia McAllister
- Music is Love Exchange
- Ava Mooney
- Calvin Parzick
- Cristina Schmalz
- Gabriela Valenzuela

## Medical Teams

- CARE
- Hand Surgery: Dr. Thomas McDonald
- Minnesota Atitlán Surgical Team
- Papa Mission
- Dr. Andrew Smith
- USAC – CUNOC
- C.H.I.M.P.S Pediatrics Team
- LOVE IN ACTION
- Pediatric Dental: Dr. Cameron Qualey
- PENN - INDERMA Dermatology
- International Eye Institute

# HOSPITALITO STAFF



*Hospitalito staff at the 20th Anniversary celebration in April*

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.

## **Executive Director Hospitalito**

Dr. Manuel O. González Hí

## **Director of Development Office**

Alverta Lyn Dickey

## **Administrator**

Jeremias Coche Tziná

## **Head of Nursing**

Reyna Melendez Musteller

## **Social Worker**

Vicenta Chavajay Cortéz

## **Volunteer Coordinator**

Lidia Sojuel Mesia

## **Director of Escuela Maya**

Concepción Damián Ixbalán

# FRIENDS OF HOSPITALITO

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

- Adelphia Foundation
- ADISA
- Bruce B. Allen
- Amigos Hospitalito Atitlán
- Bill Falinski Health Scholarship
- Matt Cutts
- Lynda Murtha-Griffith
- Direct Relief International
- Michael and Jennie Dougherty
- Eighth Day Faith Community
- Robert Finnegan
- Peter and Shimae Fitzgibbons
- Nicole Haberman
- Hope for Poor Children
- International Eye Institute
- IZUMI Foundation
- Margaret Jolley
- Susan Kincaid
- Klose Family
- Masek Foundation
- Corinne Maund
- Stephanie McDonald
- Minnesota Atitlán Surgical Team
- Martha Jo Morehouse
- Salinas Rotary Club
- Finn Sisson
- Dr. Andrew Smith
- South Valley Anesthesia
- StormoGipson Family

## Dr. Andy Smith's Family Knows How to Make Friends



Staff enjoying the Smith's invitation

Sarah Yablon Smith, wife of Dr. Andy and their children (right) started a joyful tradition years ago. On the final day of surgery, they invite all HA staff for ice cream sundaes.

## Blood Bank Success!

HA's Director of Development was elated to partner with the Salinas Downtown Rotarians, who agreed to provide a matching grant toward the purchase of equipment for HA's blood bank.

In late August, thanks to the match, and our dedicated donor family, all funds had been raised.



Salinas, CA Rotarians

## StormoGipson Family - International Eye Institute



Dr. StormoGipson (center) operating

Ophthalmologist Dr. Justin and his wife pediatrician Maj StormoGipson founders of the International Eye Institute arrived at HA in 2010, to begin to provide services for low-resource families. Tragically, Maj lost her life in a kayaking accident, and shortly after a memorial scholarship fund at HA was established in her memory. The

studies for a chemical biologist for the blood bank, and more recently supported the construction for the nursing school and support for the student education. Since 2020, IEI team members have performed more than 500 eye surgeries at Hospitalito.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## EXPENSES

Employee Salaries and Benefits	\$1,005,159.55
Medications and Supplies	\$363,183.82
Equipment, Utilities, and Maintenance	\$236,224.04
<a href="#">Other</a>	\$168,181.89
Discounts	\$156,186.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,928,935.35</b>

## CASH DONATIONS

Hospitalito Atitlán	\$1,475,235.02
Asociación K'aslimaal (Community Clinics)	\$333,319.31
Nutrition IZUMI	\$43,048.52
Maya School for Auxiliary Nursing	\$41,427.27
Chronic Diseases (World Diabetes Foundation)	\$35,905.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,928,935.35</b>

## DONATIONS RECEIVED

Contributions of Patients	\$1,310,915.51
Contributions of Donors	\$431,684.35
Donation of Equipment	\$93,019.80
Other Contributions	\$51,647.79
Tuition	\$25,206.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,912,476.75</b>

# K'aslimaal, Asociación

Pro Salud Educación Y Desarrollo



Hospitalito Atitlán

Providing Healthcare & Hope to Maya Families