



Health for Humanity
Annual Report
2021

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| Land Acknowledgement | 2 |
| Message from the Board of Directors | 3 |
| Culture, Communication, and Community | 4 |
| Primary Care, Public Health, and Partnerships | 4 |
| A Coffee Partnership which serves up Children’s Education | 5 |
| Days for Girls | 5 |
| The EcoFilter Program | 5 |
| Culture, Community, and Communication | 6 |
| Future Partnerships and Activities | 6 |

Land Acknowledgement

Health for Humanity would like to acknowledge that our charitable organization is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded land of the Coast Salish Peoples including the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. Health for Humanity would also like to acknowledge that our humanitarian volunteer work occurs on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Maya, Garífuna and Xinca Indigenous Peoples, or Creole (Afrodescendants), including the distinct Mayan Indigenous Peoples of the Achi', Akateco, Awakateco, Chalchiteco, Ch'orti', Chuj, Itza', Ixil, Jacalteco, Kaqchikel, K'iche', Mam, Mopan, Poqomam, Poqomchi', Q'anjob'al, Q'eqchi', Sakapulteco, Sipakapense, Tektiteko, Tz'utujil and Uspanteko.

We would like to humbly express our thankfulness to the Indigenous stewards and caretakers of these beautiful lands since time immemorial.

A Message from the Board of Directors

Over the past two years with travel restrictions in place, it has not been possible for Health for Humanity to undertake its longstanding commitment to the care of patients and families in Guatemala. Our board has had to pivot creatively and find opportunities to contribute to our local partnerships and make a difference.

With the help of our donors, we have been able to execute some important humanitarian initiatives:

- ✓ We sent a 40 foot shipping container of humanitarian aid supplies to the Obras that included much needed Operating Room consumables, OR equipment, PPE, hand sanitizers, wheelchairs, computers, etc., with an estimated fair market value in excess of \$200,000. This was our 7th container. This historic H4H legacy has fostered an extremely strong bond with the Obras and the people that we serve in Guatemala.
- ✓ We have been able to support the renovation and redevelopment of the operating room at the Obras Sociales del Santo Herman Pedro, which will serve as an important resource for Guatemalan patients and families accessing high-quality surgical care in a modernized hospital setting.
- ✓ Through donations and teamwork we have been able to provide meaningful support to girls and women in terms of menstrual health and education through a sustainable program called Days for Girls.
- ✓ Through our partnership with the Zelaya coffee plantation, we have been able to support the children's education program at Finca Santa Clara through the local sales of coffee here in Vancouver. Proceeds from every bag of coffee helped create and transform school program for children of plantation workers.

Through all of our work and community partnerships, our donors have been steadfast in supporting Guatemalan patients, families, and communities. This report is imbued with our gratitude to all our Health for Humanity donors, friends, colleagues, and stakeholders as we were able to achieve some important goals in Guatemala through your generosity, compassion, and vision.

The H4H Board of Directors is looking forward to a very bright future with our many volunteers who heartily give of their time and talents to advance our work in Guatemala. Indeed, we are very fortunate to have many engaged and enthusiastic volunteers, and we are excited to see what their continued passion will bring to the next chapter in Health for Humanity.

We are looking forward to working with you over the coming year.

With sincerest thanks and warmest wishes,

The Board of Directors, Health for Humanity

Ermin Badzak, President
Cheryl Davies, Secretary
Judy Rothwell, Treasurer
Damian Duffy, Vice President
Gloria Garraway
Lupita Swan-Jones
Joe Del Vicario
Mark Chilvers
Jason Alessio
Diana Sanchez

2021 in Communications Review

While there were no missions in 2021 due to the ongoing pandemic, our communications team was hard at work. Early in the year, we undertook one of the biggest media projects to date by producing a 90-minute streaming program for our 2021 virtual fundraiser. The programming included many video segments and live interviews that introduced our audience to the breadth of H4H's humanitarian work. This year's fundraiser was hugely successful and surpassed even our most optimistic goals. But perhaps more importantly, it has informed the captive audience about all of the programs that we support. This has been our communications goal for several years now as our supporters and even volunteers are often only familiar with our main initiatives.

Later in the year, during the weekend of November 26th we ran a photography exhibition titled *One Light in Guatemala*. OLIG is a collection of surgical and primary care patient portraits by Ermin Badzak. The portraits were photographed during our last pre-pandemic mission in November of 2019. OLIG will be back at a different location and time.

During 2021, we added the option of online purchasing of our popular H4H coffee by Finca Santa Clara. While the coffee sales profit support the children's scholarships, this coffee is also a communications and publicity vehicle that introduces H4H to new and different demographics.

A New Operating Room

The announcement that the Obras would pursue their long-delayed Operating Room modernization and expansion program spurred us to source OR lights, anesthetic machines, central vacuum system and OR consumables, etc. We shipped all that was collected on a 40 ft container.

Through the help of our generous donors, Health for Humanity has been able to contribute financially to the significant operating room renovations at the Obras Sociales del Santo Herman Pedro. This means at our next surgical mission that our volunteers will be treating patients in modernized operating room theatres and wards with up-to-date operating room equipment.

This investment in patient care by Health for Humanity will not only benefit our work but for the many other charitable organizations who partner and provide surgical care in the Obras setting.

Primary Care, Public Health, and Partnership

The pandemic has afforded Health for Humanity the time to consider access to primary care for patients and families living in remote communities. Our primary care mission in 2019 served patient and families in remote communities within the Antigua region. In looking back on the demographics, patients receiving care were mostly women and small children. In planning for the 2022 mission, we are planning on an interdisciplinary outreach team comprised of nursing, pharmacy, logistics, interpreters, general practitioners, pediatricians and obstetrician-gynecologists.

We are fortunate to have a volunteer and member of the board who is a clinical pharmacist. This skill set will be most useful in terms of procuring, prescribing, maintaining inventory, and counselling patients and families on administering essential medicines safely.

At the time of this report, our complement of team members for the autumn 2022 mission is almost complete. To ensure that primary care is a sustainable component of Health for Humanity's mission, we will look to engage our donors and granting agencies so that primary care and essential medicines are available, free of charge, and within reach of patients, families and communities who need it most.

The outreach missions present an important health care encounter where patients and families may receive timely and relevant public health education and health promotion activities. In collaboration with our local partners, we plan to add value to the primary care outreaches with public health activities which are of greatest priority at the local community level.

The primary care activities of Health for Humanity are only possible through our vibrant local partners including Obras Sociales del Santo Herman Pedro, Asociación Compañero para Cirugía, Club de Leones Guatemala, and through our dedicated volunteers who contribute their time to support primary care health delivery in rural and remote communities.

A Coffee Partnership which Serves Up Children's Education

According to UNESCO, Guatemala has a literacy rate of 80.8%, which is the lowest literacy rate in Central America. While there have been improvements to access to education over the past decade, many rural and Indigenous children have been left behind with such low literacy rates that just 33% of Indigenous adults have the ability to read and write.

Many of H4H friends, donors and colleagues know of our coffee program which allows us to have a taste of some of the finest coffee in the world. Importantly, with every bag of coffee sold, we are able to help support children's education at a grassroots level through the Finca Santa Clara Scholarship Program. This program supports the education of the children of coffee plantation workers and allows girls and boys to attend school and access learning resources, computers, and school supplies.

H4H has facilitated donations to this program with a formal MOU and currently 38 students from grade school to university levels are receiving financial assistance.

Days for Girls

We are also pleased to share that Health for Humanity has managed to coordinate the efforts of 6 different NGOs across three countries to support the Days for Girls International Project in Guatemala (DFG). DFG is a public health initiative which aims to improve access menstrual care education and supplies for girls and women. The Days for Girls program provides not only menstrual education kits, it also helps to empower girls and women, eliminates silence, stigma and shame associated with reproductive health, and creates sustainable businesses and social enterprises which engage women in this important health programming. This means, because of donors' support, girls are less likely to miss school because for menstruation-related reasons and actualize their full potential and shine! The cooperation of this multi-national effort looks like this:

1. Days for Girls International (\$3, 000 USD) USA
2. Sask/Alta Days for Girls (\$4,250USD) Canada
3. The Panahachel and the San Jose Poaquil Days for Girls Enterprise (Assembly of kits) Guatemala
4. Health for Humanity Service Society (\$5,250 USD) Canada
5. District Grant Rotary Club of West Vancouver Sunrise (\$2,700CDN) Canada
6. Asociacion Compagnero Para Cirugia (ACPC or Partners For Surgery)...Guatemala

With the combined donated funds of \$14,250, we have purchased 1250 kits which have been distributed to the young girls and women in rural Guatemala by the ACPC organization.

The EcoFiltro Program...Ceramic Pot Filters to provide safe drinking water to schoolchildren in rural Guatemala.

This technology invented in Guatemala and made freely available worldwide is recognized by WHO as the most effective low cost means of decreasing diarrhea of bacterial and parasitic etiologies.

H4H has spearheaded the collaboration of Rotarians in Canada and Guatemala and Ecofiltro to fund about 1000 filters to schoolrooms in rural Guatemala. To date only about half of these filters have been deployed, the rest have been delayed because of school closure due to the Pandemic. H4H plans to reignite our longstanding partnership the Ecofiltro champions in Guatemala this November, and we look forward to reporting back to our donors on this.

Culture, Community, and Communication:

As stated in our 2020 H4H AGM, the H4H Board continues to develop and strengthen our discussions around providing culturally-sensitive care to Guatemalan patients during our Missions. The current decolonization of global health movement focuses on a post-colonial perspective which is aimed to lessen the power imbalances between countries and promote equity and sustainability. The idea and process behind decolonizing global health should be on the forefront of all motives and decisions made by various stakeholders and non-governmental organizations when providing global health.

The H4H board is committed to the process of decolonizing global health. Our focus is on providing culturally safe and sensitive care to all patients and to create a sustainable model that supports our Guatemalan partners in the provision of healthcare. The H4H board is in continued discussions with members of our Guatemalan partners about providing orientation material surrounding the provision of culturally sensitive care in Mayan Indigenous populations. We will be disseminating this information as it becomes available.

Future Partnerships and Activities:

Over the years, Health for Humanity has cultivated strong and integral relationships with organizations both within and outside of Guatemala in order to facilitate our mandate of improving health for communities who face barriers to access and as a result, poor health outcomes. Many of our partnerships, including those with the Obras Sociales del Hermano Pedro Hospital, Partners for Surgery, Rotary Clubs, Santa Clara Scholarship Program and Days for Girls are robust and we anticipate continued collaboration in the delivery of surgical, primary care and public health initiatives.

As this pandemic has served to highlight the state of global inequities on many dimensions, as well as the critical importance of building capacity locally to ensure sustainment of healthcare services and needs, Health for Humanity is committed to exploring ways to strengthen our collective impact. And, doing this always in response to the voices of those people and communities we aim to serve. In doing so, we remain committed to keeping abreast of evolving changes in global health strategies as Board and organizational members participate in virtual learning opportunities, which are increasingly available and necessary.

As we have all experienced, the only certainty is change. With that, we are keen to create and leverage new opportunities with current and new partners that potentiate the amazing resources and support of our organization's donors, supporters and members to make a difference. As we look forward to resuming our in-country surgical and primary care activities, we are excited to engage new health volunteers who also bring more ideas for fundraising and program development. Further, we have emerging partnerships with other global health entities that may create resources for new projects in the area of population health promotion and disease prevention – something that we all aspire to.

In the end, none of our work would be possible without the steadfast dedication and demonstrated support of our volunteers and donors – a key partnership that we aim to honour and strengthen through ongoing engagement activities.