



Hospitalito Atitlán

A new beginning for Hospitalito

Below is a letter to all of you, who have supported Hospitalito Atitlán throughout the years, both as donors and as volunteers. You made it all possible.

"Thanks to the loyal and generous support of people like you, Hospitalito Atitlán continues to bring hope and excellent healthcare to the population on the southern shores of Lake Atitlán. Each one of you has been most valuable in offering excellent service to the previously underserved population, and thanks to your hard work and donations, we are able to keep the patient cost down.

As you know, our history has been one of changes and challenges. That continues today and we are eager to share news of the latest change with you, our good friends and volunteers. Here is some of the background on how this came about.

When K'aslimaál and Hospitalito Atitlán and Pueblo a Pueblo (PaP) began collaborating in 2003, it was mutually beneficial: K'aslimaál and HA had a great cause, a newly refurbished community emergency hospital soon to open that needed operating support. PaP had a 501(c) 3 acquired for a small nonprofit it had attempted to set up in Antigua Guatemala. Together, we developed a website which was up and running in October 2005, when mudslides buried six months old Hospitalito.

As word of the tragedy spread, donations of all sizes poured in - larger gifts came from volunteer physicians, their friends and families, from churches and organizations familiar with

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The Winning Ticket

Sometimes, what may seem like an insignificant event turns out to have enormous impact. My involvement with the hospital started with a raffle ticket a friend bought in my name at a local music festival in support of Hospitalito Atitlán. I ended up winning a CD, but more than that, I gained a cause. When I went to collect my prize, Karin and Lyn were waiting for me. They welcomed me warmly, gave me a tour of the hospital, and by the time I left, I was infected with their spirit and enthusiasm. Afterwards, I wrote to the Kendeda

Fund, outlined the project and explained how I felt its success hinged on securing a significant challenge grant that would inspire other donors to give generously.

In June, 2008, the fabulous news came. The Kendeda Fund would match every campaign gift, dollar for dollar, up to \$750,000. The dream of providing quality health care to the suffering indigenous population of Lake Atitlán was closer to becoming a reality.

We soon began organizing the fund raising campaign. We developed campaign marketing materials I agreed to serve as Campaign Chair and we recruited an exceptional group of international friends and supporters to serve on the Honorary Campaign Cabinet and the Campaign Steering Committee. Through their early efforts, we have already been able to claim \$230,000 from the Kendeda Fund.

Plus, thanks to much hard work on the part of Narda and Ulysses Sherman, devoted volunteers from Portland, Oregon, Amigos Hospitalito Atitlán, www.amigosha.org has been established and will serve as the US based funding supporter for Hospitalito. From now on, all donations to Hospitalito can be made directly to this organization and donors will be assured that their gifts will be directed to the hospital.

With the separation from Pueblo a Pueblo, this is a time of transition, a time of anticipation, but also an exciting time of newer and bigger opportunities. Having already surmounted enormous obstacles, the staff and volunteers of Hospitalito are optimistic and determined to move forward. But they need your help. Please be as generous as you possibly can. Your gift, which may be pledged over three to five years, will be doubled. With your support, we can not only Give New Life to Hospitalito but bring new hope and health to the poor and suffering people of Lake Atitlán.

With deep gratitude and warmest wishes,

Bonnie O'Neill

Chair, Amigos Hospitalito Atitlán

P.S. As AHA still is a small organization, built on volunteer work, we prefer not to use our resources on sending out letters asking for donations. Instead, we encourage you to go to www.hospitalitoatitlan.org and join our donor family.



Bonnie O'Neill.

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Hospitalito, but many smaller gifts were received from people around the world who read about the disaster and wanted to help. This allowed K'aslimaal to re-open and sustain operations in a leased facility and helped with the purchase of land for the new hospital.

However, each year since 2006, as the services provided by HA grew, the support received from PaP declined, for several reasons. The failing economy is one, and another is PaP's decision to support other Santiago Atitlán humanitarian organizations and programs, apart from the hospital. PaP and K'aslimaal are in agreement as to the terms of this transition and are committed to making it a smooth and positive one for both organizations. We continue to wish PaP the greatest success in their support of these projects.

During this same time, fortunately, K'aslimaal and Hospitalito Atitlán have developed a strong following of medical volunteers and an ever-growing number of donors deeply committed to its success. Many of whom want assurance that their gifts will go exclusively to help the hospital.

Thus, it has become increasingly clear that K'aslimaal needs to be in control of its own destiny. To address this, K'aslimaal supported the creation of a new US based organization, **Amigos Hospitalito Atitlán (AHA)**. Incorporated in March 2009, AHA is dedicated to supporting subsidized healthcare services in rural Guatemala by providing financial, material and human resources support to Hospitalito Atitlán. All subsequent donations in the US will be solicited by and secured by AHA, which has an administrative office in Portland, Oregon. You can learn more about AHA through its website, www.AmigosHA.org.

Amigos Hospitalito Atitlán is dedicated to support the operational costs of Hospitalito Atitlán, so that the 24-hour emergency care will remain available and to insure that the most underserved segment of the population will have access to quality health care.

Board of Trustees of Amigos Hospitalito Atitlán



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It will also help launch the capital campaign to build a new hospital.

We feel extremely fortunate because of our many hardworking volunteers. One of them, professional fund raising consultant Bonnie O'Neill, facilitated the Kendeda Challenge Grant. This challenge, pledged by a U.S. woman philanthropist, will match every dollar donated towards construction of the new hospital, up to \$750,000.

Bonnie O'Neill has agreed to chair the AHA Board of Trustees. Other members of the Executive Committee are: Vice Chair - **Lyn Dickey**, founding K'aslimaal Board member and Treasurer; Secretary - **Narda Sherman**, a physician's assistant and loyal volunteer at Hospitalito; Treasurer - **Ulysses Sherman**, a principal in the financial planning firm of Aspen Capital and a community leader in Portland. Additional trustees include: **Juan Manuel Chuc**, M.D., founding K'aslimaal Board member and current medical director of Hospitalito Atitlán, **Brian Strom**, M.D., M.P.H., Vice Dean for Institutional Affairs, School of Medicine, and Senior Advisor to the Provost for Global Health Initiatives, at the University of Pennsylvania, **Robert Meyer**, M.D., a Harvard's School of

Medicine physician as well as a very dedicated volunteer at Hospitalito, and **William Cuneo**, philanthropist and retired business man and financial analyst, founder of the Marin County Guatemala Health Mission.

A new website for the hospital, www.hospitalitoatitlan.org, with news about the hospital, and information for medical volunteers.

Later this year, we will launch a number of fundraising and friend raising events in Philadelphia, Boston, San Francisco, Austin and the DC area... all cities where there are good connections with volunteers and friends.

Thanks for all you do to help us serve the sick and suffering people of Atitlán. We deeply value your dedication and commitment to our mission. We will keep you posted on our progress, but in the meantime, please visit our new website. It will include up to date information on this challenging yet very exciting change in the life of Hospitalito Atitlán."

Thank you!

*Asociación K'aslimaal,
The Board of Directors
of Hospitalito Atitlán*



Guatemalan businessmen step up to the challenge

*From the desk of Dr Juan Manuel Chuc,
Medical Director, Hospitalito Atitlán*

I would like to thank all of you, who directly or indirectly have supported the activities at Hospitalito Atitlán and the construction project.

We live in Santiago Atitlán, a town that suffered through an armed conflict and its latent aftermath, which manifests itself in poor physical and mental health.

It was not the armed conflict, but a natural disaster, Hurricane Stan, which created the area's recent social, housing and economic chaos. Our organization was no exception. We were also left homeless through the loss of the hospital facilities in Panabaj and by the government decree that declared the area uninhabitable.

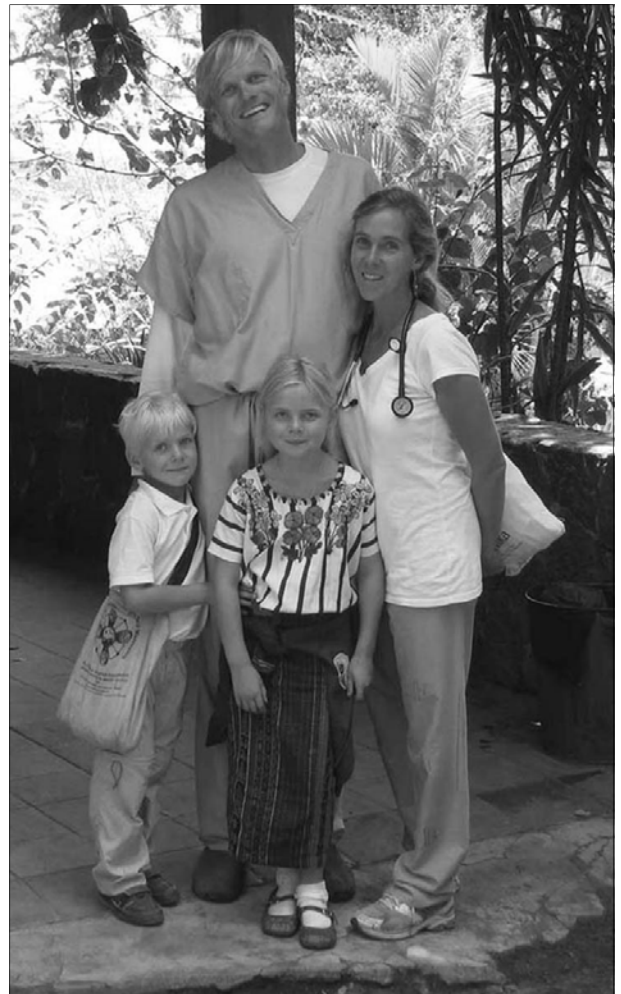
Thanks to the efforts of many, for nearly four years we have provided quality healthcare that is economically, geographically and culturally accessible in a temporary location.

I have always believed that good health leads to development. Our dream is to have an adequate, functional and secure health care facility. Therefore we are putting forward our best efforts to complete the construction of the new Hospitalito Atitlán.

I would like to thank the international community, the people that support the care offered by the hospital, the medical volunteers who contribute to its sustainability, to the board members, and to the employees, without whom we cannot function. It takes a continued effort to achieve the common good.

I would like to share a few points of what this joint effort recently has accomplished:

- Two of our employees are enrolled in the country's best universities, Universidad de Rafael Landívar and Universidad Galileo. One studies professional nursing, and one is studying laboratory technology, thanks to Sharing the Dream.
- We are organizing a local Hospitalito support group, composed of influential Guatemalan business leaders and owners of homes of Lake Atitlán. It is evident that we Guatemalans should be responsible for supporting local development projects.
- We have created a new webpage www.hospitalitoatitlan.org for raising funds for operations and construction, with lots of information about Hospitalito Atitlán, including volunteering.
- Another excellent note is that Hospitalito Atitlán in 2010 will welcome two long-term physicians from Mission Doctors. They both will work with us for 3 years!
- We have signed agreements with the University of Virginia and the University of Pennsylvania for medical and cultural exchange.
- We have received a laparoscopy camera through the efforts of national and international Rotary clubs.
- We see more patients, and save more lives, especially women that go through high-risk pregnancies and suffer from various causes, such as preeclampsia, problematic fetal position, diabetes and more.



A Family Experience — Peter Emblad, M.D., and Gillian Emblad, physician assistant, arrived in early 2009 and spent five months volunteering for Hospitalito Atitlán. Their children Alex and Annika attended a local school, and quickly adjusted to the beautiful dress code. The family resides in the San Francisco area.



Specialist: Panamanian pediatric neurologist Ivan Abadia Herrera and his wife Ana, a radiologist volunteered a week of their time in May. Dr. Herrera saw about 30 children with special needs, not only from Santiago Atitlán, but also from distant villages.



A hospital built by strength



Since work began on the hospital building in November 2008, many rocks have been split by skilled hands to prepare for the foundation.



In April all construction workers donated one day of labor. Dr. Chuc helped serve lunch.



By March the work moved up above ground for the footings.



The columns stick out of the dry April ground.

Finally, on June 5th, the second floor was poured and the building is taking shape just in time for the new rainy season.



Hospitalito Atitlán

Please, contact us at info@AmigosHA.org so that we can keep you updated electronically.

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