Dear Friend of Concern America,

“We build the road, and the road builds us.” This motto, from a community development organization in Sri Lanka, truly resonates with the work of Concern America: when we accompany a community and build a water system together, the resulting water flowing to every home improves the health and quality of life of the village. Simultaneously, the building of the system also builds local leaders and community, further transforming lives.

Concern America’s health work follows this same model: community members grow as leaders as well as exceptional health care providers. In 1997, Concern’s health program in Guatemala had eight field volunteers working in 40 villages; today, there are only four field volunteers and the program reaches more than 300 communities. This transformation has taken place because of the strong, local team of advanced Health Promoter Practitioners and Midwives who now lead most of the training courses, community visits, and clinic days. In fact, Guatemalan Practitioners and Midwives frequently travel to Colombia in place of field volunteers to staff Concern’s health program in that country.

To better support our work with inspiring leaders like the Health Promoter Practitioners, we recently launched our three-year, Grow A Global Heart Fund campaign with a goal of raising $1 million. We have already raised more than $250,000 in donations and pledges!

How are we doing this? From supporters just like you! In fact, 90% of our donors give up to $1,000 per year. Many of you make this possible through monthly donations, which amount to $120,000 a year, mostly from gifts of only $25-$100 per month!

For this reason, we hope to expand our group of monthly donors through the Grow A Global Heart Fund campaign. If just 40 people become new monthly donors, and/or if existing supporters increase their monthly gifts, we could raise an additional $75,000 over three years.

We have a special gift for the first 35 new or increasing monthly donors who respond to this challenge: a one-of-a-kind, vintage Concern seed pendant from El Salvador! You will receive this unique memento of Concern America while furthering our impact in health, water, education, and income. Will you join and help us reach our goal?

With gratitude and in peace,

John Straw
Executive Director
Concern America’s Impact in 2017

Health
- 28 new Health Promoter Practitioners and 25 Midwives were trained in Guatemala, expanding health care to 9,000 people
- 200,000 received quality health care services by Health Promoter Practitioners in Mexico, Guatemala, and Colombia
- The local Mozambique team continued its life-changing prevention, counseling, testing, and HIV/AIDS treatment with a population of 28,000. As of January 2018, direct support from Concern America was no longer needed

Environmental Health
- 1,750 gained access to clean water in 7 communities in Mexico
- The Guatemalan Environmental Health team constructed one water system with community members, bringing clean water to 100
- 25 fuel-efficient and healthy stoves were built, improving the health of the families and the environment in Guatemala

Education
- New indigenous language textbooks were created for schools in 300 communities in Mexico on music, the alphabet, writing, and indigenous culture, serving 4,000 children and youth from pre-school to high-school
- The Education Team led trainings with the local Education Commissions on monitoring and evaluation, IT, and the development of materials

Income
- 10 community-centered artisan cooperatives throughout Latin America, Africa, and Asia were supported with accompaniment in logistics, quality control, and designs. Concern America purchased $25,000 worth of their incredible hand art that was sold at 60 venues and online

At Home
- Concern America’s Cómo Enseñar Sobre La Salud (How To Teach Health), a comprehensive, 24-book resource for training Health Promoter Practitioners, was completed after more than 5 years in development. It is now available globally and can be purchased through Hesperian Health Guides (www.hesperian.org)
- Educational events were held across Southern California on global justice topics, reaching more than 8,000
- Concern successfully launched its three-year, Grow a Global Heart Fund $1,000,000 campaign. Already, $250,000 has been raised and pledged

Concern America’s Income and Expenses

From fiscal year July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017 (audited figures)
For the complete audit visit www.ConcernAmerica.org

Limited Offer: Huipil Blouse Made for You

The amazing artisans of the Las Abejas weaving cooperative of Acteal, in Chiapas, Mexico, create beautifully woven and embroidered pieces, including blouses known as huipiles. To further support the women and families of Las Abejas, these magnificent pieces of wearable art are available in a special, one-time offer. Choose from one of four designs/colors, and your individual huipil will be made especially for you. See the choices and place your order online at our fair trade marketplace at www.concernamerica.org.

The order deadline is June 1, and the huipiles will arrive by Thanksgiving, in time for holiday gifts and gatherings.