

CONCERN AMERICA

Quarterly Newsletter

— SINCE 1972 —

Winter 2022

Celebrating 50 Years by Ensuring 50 More

Throughout this year of celebrating Concern America's 50th anniversary, we have been deeply moved by our history and all that has been accomplished. From the earlier days working in refugee camps in Southeast Asia, Africa, and Central America, to our training and accompanying of community leaders, healthcare workers, artisans and more, we are humbled by the thousands of community members, field volunteers, and supporters who have committed to make this world a better place.

Our 50th year is also about the future, expanding to more communities, regions, and countries. You have been incredibly generous, giving towards our 50th anniversary \$500,000 campaign, in addition to your regular support, and many have also committed extra support for the next two years. We are excited to report that, to date, the Concern community has donated and pledged \$375,700! Your generosity has already enabled us to expand each of our three projects this past year by training new groups of health promoter practitioners and midwives, and we move forward with the confidence that we can keep growing in the near future.

We also are looking further ahead and invite you to help secure the legacy of Concern America with your legacy. We now have 35 individuals and couples who have indicated that Concern is in their estate plans, and as part of our 50th campaign, our goal is to grow that number to 50. If you have already made this commitment, would like more information, and/or are hoping to take this most generous step, please let us know!

As we approach the end of 2022, I invite you, as you are able, to be generous with a year-end gift, and to consider a pledge for the next two years. Concern America engages with communities over the long term, taking the time to build sustainable health, water, education, and income programs from within that the people themselves carry forward as their own. Local teams in Mexico, Guatemala, and Colombia are already doing this, and with your help, we can double their impact over the next 10 years.

With deep gratitude and peace,



John Straw
Executive Director



Updates From the Field:

50th Anniversary-Supported Expansions

A key reason for Concern America's 50th anniversary campaign is to enable us to expand our impact, and this is already happening in all three of our programs! We launched the Dr. John Emrich Education Fund to support our team members to pursue advanced trainings to broaden the skills of their local teams: Guatemalan health promoter practitioner Eva is at the top of her class in physical therapy school and already making a huge impact in the health care of the region. We have also been able to start new health promoter practitioner training cohorts in all three programs. Below are excerpts from each of these efforts, all made possible because of you.

Restoring Mobility with Physical Therapy

Three weeks ago, Mrs. Irlanda from a neighboring community had a stroke due to hypertension. She was brought in a wheelchair. We began working on mobilizations and massage and the following week we started on resisted assisted exercises to improve strength. Now she's already using a walker and happy to already be able to do some simple household chores. And she even went out to watch the local soccer game. She is steadily improving. And although I see her every Sunday, she understands the importance of doing the exercises at home to continue her recovery.

-Eva, Guatemalan Health Promoter Practitioner



New Health Promoter Practitioner Group in Colombia



This year in Colombia we initiated a new group of promoters of the various ethnicities in the region, all from the most remote and difficult-to-access communities. There are 28 new promoters in total, all who express their happiness and gratitude for their health training. One recently shared his joy and pride at making miracles happen through the care he can provide because of his training.

This year we have held four trainings and what is learned is put into practice during our community visits with them. To date, we have already visited three Indigenous communities, one Afro-Colombian, and one mixed ethnicity, all located on the river. **Here in Colombia, this phrase is definitely a reality: where there is no doctor there is a good promoter.**

-Sister Elisabet, Colombian Health Promoter Practitioner



Our Next Event

April 1, 2023

26th Annual Walk Out of Poverty

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