

CONCERN AMERICA

Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2024

Dear Friends,

The past two years have been extra special here at Concern America. In 2022, we celebrated our 50th anniversary, including the initiation of a campaign to enable us to expand our impact in the coming years. Your generosity has been so great that in less than a year we already did just that: in 2023, we started our first new project in nearly 20 years, training health promoter practitioners in the communities outside of San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. We also broadened our health, water, education, and income generation work in our three existing programs in Mexico, Guatemala, and Colombia.

To make this growth possible, our community of global hearts has continued to grow and blossom. In 2023, our staff, board, and field teams expanded; the number of monthly donors has increased; there has been record support at all of our events; and, more individuals and couples have included Concern in their estate plans. Thank you!

"I love that [Concern America has] a focus that enables people to help themselves, create a better, more secure and safer life for themselves and their community and sustain those gains. It is so much better than just giving them money or things. It honors and preserves their dignity as people and respects the nature of their culture and experience. They partner with the communities they serve and offer hope rather than mere help, which endures."

~Bobi Keenan, Concern America donor and friend from 1982 till her passing in June, 2023

Your support has brought hope to thousands of communities, allowing them to thrive. We invite you to give during this time and continue this partnership with communities to create accessible health care, clean water, and income opportunities.

We are honored by this trust and support that each of you share with Concern when you donate, volunteer, attend an event, etc. In this spring newsletter, we share our annual report, which includes an overview of our finances and accomplishments from the previous year. We deeply value transparency to ensure that you know where your support is going and we work hard to be good stewards of your generosity. And of course, it is another opportunity to share some photos and stories from our field programs, the reason we do what we do. A huge thank you to everyone who makes the work of Concern America possible, and for all that we will continue to do together in the months and years to come.

With gratitude and in peace,



John Straw
Executive Director



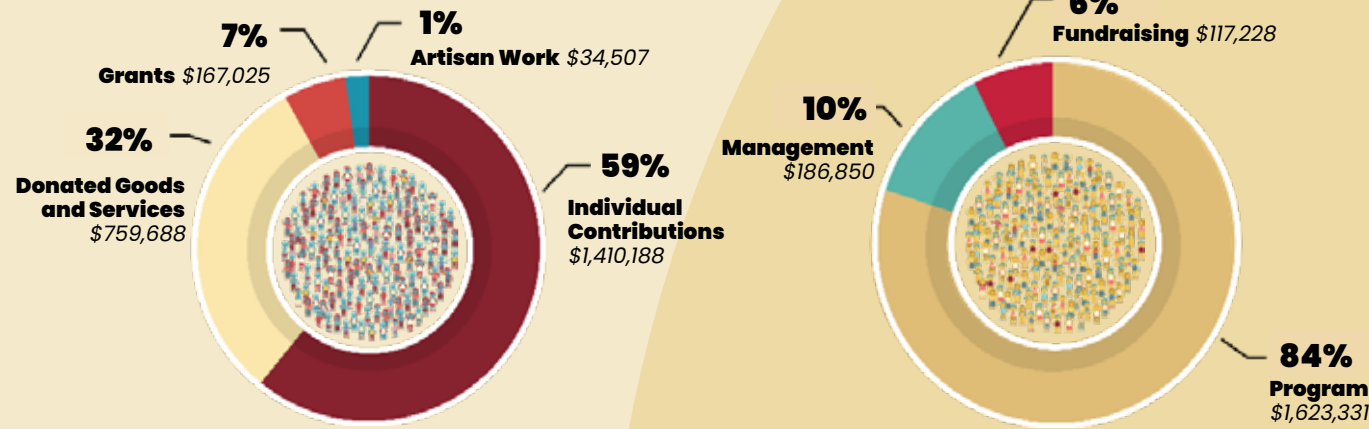
Donate by mail,
at concernamerica.org,
or scan code.



Expanding our Work / Exceeding Expectations

Revenue: **\$2,371,408**

Expenses: **\$1,927,409**



From Concern America's 2022-2023 audit. See the full audit at concernamerica.org.

New San Miguel de Allende Project Matching Campaign

	In-hand	\$70,620.00	Matching Goal: \$140,000.00
	Committed	\$58,507.00	
	Total Raised	\$129,127.00	

% of Campaign Goal Reached: 91%

IMPACT 2023



Health Care

- Improved health care services to a population of 255,000 and expanded this year to an additional 17,000 people previously without access.
- Advanced health training courses for practitioners and midwives included topics such as Environmental Health, Women's Health, Ultrasound Machines, and Physical Therapy. In San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, Concern America started its first new project in 20 years! While training the first cohort of 40+ health promoter practitioners begins in February 2024, discussions and planning with community members began in early 2023.



Crafts

- \$15,000 of items were directly purchased from the cooperatives and supported training to improve skills and administration.
- Because the items are sold at fair trade prices, artisans earn the full value of their work, taking into the costs of materials, labor, and skillset.
- The beautiful hand-made items continue to be sold online, at the office, and in 2023 at 45 weekend sales through the support of many individuals, churches, and businesses.



Medicines and Equipment

- Life-saving medicines are accessible and affordable through each trained practitioner, and medicines are provided even when families are unable to pay or travel to get them.
- New practitioners received medicine kits and equipment according to their skill level, starting a rotating medicine supply and fund in each community.
- In addition to medicines, some programs are able to provide additional care through the use of advanced equipment including a portable ultrasound machine and oxygen concentrators.



Education

- Community-based Education Commissions received support in creating educational materials in mathematics, government, and database compilation for schools in 300 indigenous villages.
- More than 13,500 students ranging from preschool to high-school now have access to curriculums that include their culture, language, and historical context.



Training a New Generation

- The new cohorts, made up of a total of 145 new practitioners in Mexico, Guatemala, and Colombia, continued their training in topics such as Suture, Chronic Illness, Anatomy, Pregnancy and Birth, Reproductive Health, and Dental Health.
- Training is now mostly led by the local, advanced practitioners, with support as needed from Concern America field personnel.



Environmental Health

- Over 400 household water filters were distributed to various communities in Mexico.
- In Guatemala, Mexico, and Colombia water testing and community workshops were led to cover topics such as filter/water system maintenance and cleaning, and the prevention of chronic illnesses like diabetes and hypertension, reproductive health, mental health, and nutrition.



UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

“What is health?
Health is life!”

Water is Life



Silvestre

“One year after construction of a rain collection tank, we returned to the community to monitor and do some analysis. Many families have told us that it has been helpful to obtain water very close to their home. During the visit, we met with 15 families from different parts of the community. They told us that they mostly use the rainwater collected in the community tank, and in our testing, the water is without E.coli contamination. They also commented that our visits to the schools and their homes to talk about water pollution and ways to keep it purified have helped. It is also worth highlighting that there have been fewer children with stomach problems and worms, according to the mothers of this community. Some families have mentioned that they hope an additional tank can be built in the future.”



Health is Life

“On February 19, the first training course in the San Miguel de Allende, Mexico project for the first group of health promoter practitioner students began! 42 women and one man arrived for the week course, representing 23 communities without access to health care services. This incredible group of community members, ranging in age from 13 to 68, has volunteered to be their town’s primary health care provider, embarking on a three-year journey of courses, community visits, and becoming a health leader.



The first course focuses primarily on what it is to be a health promoter practitioner and exploring the question “what is health?”. In response to this question, one student exclaimed “¡la salud es vida!” (health is life!). The five-day course ended with much excitement and hope for the future of health in these communities outside of San Miguel de Allende, a hope in the hands of the people themselves.”

