

CONCERN AMERICA

Quarterly Newsletter

— SINCE 1972 —

Summer 2022

On June 18, we gathered to celebrate Concern America's 50th anniversary. What a gift to celebrate the past, present, and future of this organization and lift up the people and projects that have spanned 15 countries on four continents, impacting the lives of more than two million people!

At the event, we awarded the Concern America teams in Mexico, Guatemala, and Colombia with our Michael Doheny Humanitarian Award for their inspiring work providing health care, building clean water systems, organizing, training others, and so much more. We also conferred our John O'Donohue Integrity Award to the incredible Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, a group of women who have walked with, inspired, and supported Concern for decades, and who exemplify John's words, "the duty of privilege is absolute integrity." We also presented the John Emrich Education Fund, profiled on the next page.



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Looking back over five decades, we are inspired by how our work has expanded, has had a greater impact, and is sustained by people committed to uplifting others as they change their lives. We know there is still more to do, which is why we have challenged ourselves to raise an additional \$500,000 so that we can double our impact over the next 10 years. We have reached 70% of our goal with donations and commitments totaling \$350,000!

As you plan your charitable giving over the next three years, please consider a special gift(s) to Concern. With the extra generosity received this year, we have already expanded high-quality, low-cost services to more than 20,000 people through new practitioner trainings in all three programs.

One of the most impactful ways to support Concern America is through monthly donations, enabling us to carry out our work now AND strategically plan for the future. You can become a monthly donor, or increase your current monthly donation, by check, signing up online, or arranging an ACH transfer through your bank. Please consider becoming a sustaining donor, currently accounting for more than 10% of our income!

As we continue to celebrate this special year, we are grateful for each and every member of our Concern America community. We couldn't have reached this milestone without you!

With gratitude and peace,



John Straw
Executive Director



Multiplying Our Impact Through Training

To honor the life and legacy of an individual who was key to developing our transformational health model, the John Emrich Education Fund supports local leaders and field volunteers to further their education with the intent of multiplying their learning in their communities. Susan Emrich, John's wife, spoke at our 50th Anniversary event about the impact of teaching people with little to no access to education. "John used to always say to me, medicine is not hard, people can learn this, it is really easy." And they have. Now, over 255,000 people have access to quality health care, not through a doctor, but because of the hundreds of community health care workers trained by John, Susan, and many others.

"Teaching is helping others, which in return helps me... That is, this instinct of mine of continuous learning, has allowed me to dedicate myself to others. I believe sharing your knowledge and building together gives us a feeling of abundance."

The first recipient of the fund, health promoter practitioner and local leader in Guatemala for more than 15 years, Eva, is in her second of three years of physical therapy school. She is at the top of her class and already teaching her team what she is learning, adding physical therapy to the ever-expanding tool kit. She recently shared, "Hence [my] life lesson is I learn, I do, and I teach. Therefore, teaching is helping others, which in return helps me...That is, this instinct of mine of continuous learning, has allowed me to dedicate myself to others. I believe sharing your knowledge and building together gives us a feeling of abundance."

The second recipient is Julia Kim, a nurse who has been on the Guatemala team since 2013. Julia is now in the first year of a hybrid nurse practitioner program, studying online from Guatemala until next year when she will come to the US to do her clinicals, and then return to Guatemala to share her new knowledge with the team.

This model of passing along acquired skills and knowledge is at the root of Concern America's work and how we have grown into the organization we are today. Trained leaders like Eva and Julia continue to multiply and expand the skills and the number of community health workers, which, in turn, further multiplies the number of people who now have access to quality, affordable health care.



Above: Field Program Coordinator Cat Quinn presents the Michael Doheny Humanitarian Award to one of the recipients, the field team in Guatemala, for their dedicated work providing health care, clean water, and more.



Above: John Emrich assisting midwives as they learn techniques to safely deliver newborns and care for their mothers.



Left: Eva, Guatemalan health promoter practitioner and first recipient of the John Emrich Education Fund, demonstrates how to check a patient's eyes while leading a course.



Right: The second recipient of the John Emrich Education Fund, field team member Julia Kim provides clinical support for a newer practitioner.