



Maya Health nurses and community health workers provide thousands of women's health home visits a year.

Dear Friend,

We are thrilled to share that [Wuqu' Kawoq | Maya Health Alliance has been selected as an awardee of Action for Women's Health](#), a global open call funded by Pivotal! We're among 80+ organizations selected to receive a \$1-\$5 million award after a rigorous peer and expert review process of applications. More than 4,000 organizations from 119 countries applied. Founded by Melinda French Gates in 2015, Pivotal works to advance social progress and expand women's power and influence in the U.S. and around the world.

This investment will allow us to **enhance and extend the reach of our work in women's health**, including fighting cervical and breast cancer and bringing timely, quality care to tens of thousands of women in rural Guatemala.

We would not have received this award without your support, and we look forward to partnering with you to make the most of this transformative opportunity!

In the meantime, our remarkable team continues to deliver the best possible care together with patients and partners, and to share what they're learning to help scale effective practices across Guatemala and beyond. Read on for more!

With gratitude,

Anne Kraemer, CEO

CONGRATS, TEAM!

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Waleska López Canú was [honored as a top finalist in McGill University's 2025 Paul Farmer Lectureship and Award for Global Health Equity](#). The award recognizes individuals whose work embodies Dr. Farmer's lifelong commitment to health as a human right.

In other honors, **our Center for Indigenous Health Research has been named a finalist in the investigation category of the Galardón Esperanza Award!** The award from Hospital Esperanza recognizes organizations and individuals who are driving significant improvements and helping to strengthen health services in Guatemala.

It is wonderful to see our fantastic team receive recognition for their work!



Dr. Waleska López Canú



Junawäch. Community. Comunidad.

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!

We're excited to launch our annual campaign with an unprecedented Board match of \$140,000!

Thanks to our Board of Directors, all donations received before midnight December 31 (Pacific Time) will be matched 1:1!

This year's theme is community - stay tuned for email stories that show how community is at the core of all that we do!

DONATE NOW!



Chief Medical Officer Dr. Waleska López Canú (lower right) at the leadership gathering in Bogotá, Colombia.

CO-CREATING STRATEGIES FOR LATIN AMERICA

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Waleska López Canú joined fellow changemakers last month in Colombia for "When we need each other most! Amplifying Latin American leadership for a Global South movement."

"We were called together to generate a transformative dialogue and co-create a continental roadmap for the next five years based on shared values, diverse knowledge, and a common vision for Latin America and the Caribbean," said Dr. López Canú. "The days were filled with deep exchange, concrete proposals, shared actions, and collective dreams in motion — but also a celebration of our diversity as a source of energy, of imagining development differently, in ways that do not mean the destruction of our land, and of embracing hope as a collective strategy."

The gathering at the Universidad de América in Bogotá brought together 50 emerging leaders from a broad range of networks, including IMAGO Global Grassroots, Balloon Latam, Alianza Socioambiental Fondos del Sur, the Better Politics Foundation, the Obama Foundation, and APC Colombia.

Communications and Development Manager Andrea Enríquez participated in the annual [Central America Donors Forum](#) in Guatemala City. The theme of this year's forum, which brings together civil society, philanthropy, and government to discuss priority issues, was "Resist, Bridge & Rebuild in Times of Change." This was the second year in a row that the forum, hosted by the Seattle International Foundation, took place in Guatemala. Guatemala's President Bernardo Arévalo delivered the inaugural speech. Attendees shared solutions to strengthen democracy, promote sustainability, create economic opportunities, and protect civic space.

SHARING OUR WORK

We're always looking for the chance to share what we are learning and to learn from others, and in recent months, we've been fortunate to have many such opportunities.

Integrating Culture and Technology to Reduce Infant Deaths - We're proud to share [this thoughtful article](#) investigating the challenges and barriers that contribute to high rates of newborn deaths in Maya Kaqchikel communities and how to address them. The article, published in the journal *Global Health Action*, notes that distance, cost, and mistrust discourage families from seeking care for sick infants. In response, Maya Health has created a program in which trained neonatal technicians and Maya midwives equipped with an app for detecting risks conduct home visits in the critical first days after birth to help support families in caring for their newborns and accessing advanced care when needed. Although successful hospital referrals are increasing, the authors note that challenges remain, including limited capacity in area hospitals and a high proportion of children born at low birth weights, which increases health risks. Congratulations to research team members Anahi Venzor Strader, Esteban Castro, Enma Coyote, Andrea Aguilar, and Peter Rohloff for this important work!

Fostering Healthy Development - Our research team (pictured below) was well represented among the presenters at the Universidad Rafael Landívar's first International Congress on Early Childhood in

Guatemala, which brought together experts from national and international organizations, students, educators, and the Guatemalan government, including Vice President Dr. Karin Herrera, to reflect on the challenges and opportunities surrounding the education, development, and comprehensive well-being of Guatemalan children.



Research team members Scott Tschida, Sara Hernández, Magdalena Guarchaj, Vilma Boron, Eva Tuíz, and Karyn Choy at the International Congress on Early Childhood.

Increasing Access to Family Planning - Susy Tambríz, Women's Health Program Manager, shared our approaches for making family planning education and services accessible in rural Guatemala at the seventh International Conference on Family Planning in Bogota, Colombia. Participants explored strategies for maintaining access to family planning in the rapidly shifting funding environment.

We're grateful to The Erik E. and Edith H. Bergstrom Foundation for supporting Susy's participation!



Susy Tambríz at the International Conference on Family Planning.



The Maya Health Board and team leaders at their annual retreat.

CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Our fabulous **Board of Directors** recently came together for their annual retreat in Guatemala.

They spent a packed day at our headquarters in Tecpán learning about our work. The Maya Health team created interactive presentations that offered a glimpse at all that it takes to deliver quality care to 11,000 patients a year, from HR to logistics to intensive training.

Equipped with that knowledge, the Board spent the next couple days with Maya Health leaders mapping out the coming year and beyond.



In October, **we welcomed new friends and old for an inspiring Insight Trip!** We joined our team on field visits to care for a first-time mom and her newborn, check up on a mom in her eighth month of pregnancy, and meet the dedicated parents of five who are doing everything they can to support their young son who has cerebral palsy. We also got the chance to sit in on a women's health workshop that we provided with our partners Mayan Hands, a weaving cooperative. In this class, part of a six-session workshop, the women exchanged experiences and thoughts about healthy relationships and dealing with domestic violence. It was amazing to see the diverse approaches our nurse Blanca Chiroy used to keep the women engaged and comfortable taking on these difficult conversations.

This journey with Maya Health Alliance, or Wuqu' Kawoq, was a powerful reminder that healthcare is as much about culture and compassion as it is about medicine... Maya Health Alliance shows what's possible when healthcare honors both science and spirit. - Insight Trip Participant Bob Hermann

[Learn more about our Insight Trips here.](#)



Insight Trip participants enjoy a scenic lunch on Lake Atitlán.

In a **September visit to the San Francisco Bay Area**, CEO Anne Kraemer had the chance to **personally thank our friends at Rotary Club of San Francisco** for their support of our work fighting cervical cancer by

making screening and early-stage treatments more accessible in rural communities. **We've also enjoyed support for this program from the Rotary Club of San Francisco Chinatown and the Rotary Foundation.**

Overall, the visit was a great opportunity to connect with our growing community of supporters and Board Members in northern California!



WELCOME, DR. DAVID STRAWHUN!

Dr. David Strawhun has joined us as a Volunteer Attending Physician as part of our collaboration with the University of Cincinnati. In addition to coordinating the Cincinnati team's regular medical trips, he is providing care for patients.

Dr. David is sharing his experiences and insights on the challenges and rewards of volunteering in rural health settings on his blog. Check it out here: <https://dstrawhun.wordpress.com/>

Thank you so much for your ongoing support!



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