

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



**Primeros
Pasos**



OUR MISSION

To improve the quality of life of rural communities in the Palajunoj Valley in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala through the implementation of integrated health education projects, and by offering access to medical, dental, and nutritional services with highly qualified professionals.

**A
LETTER
OF
OUR
GENERAL
DIRECTOR**



Dear friends:

2020 was, without doubt, a challenging year, with significant changes for everyone worldwide level, the COVID-19 pandemic completely turned around all the structured plans for the development of our projects, there was a lot of uncertainty about the steps to follow so that the activities were not suspended, of course, we always receive the support of all of you, your kindness, your faith, and your love towards our work and communities allowed that our wings will take more strength to be able to continue giving a quality health care and education to our families in the Valley of Palajunoj.

With great enthusiasm and enormous gratitude, I present to you the 2020 annual report, a year that without a doubt taught us that not everything is set in stone, that plans change suddenly, but with the love and support that you have given us the trials are opportunities and in the following annual report we share our dedication and love for the most vulnerable communities.

Lovely,

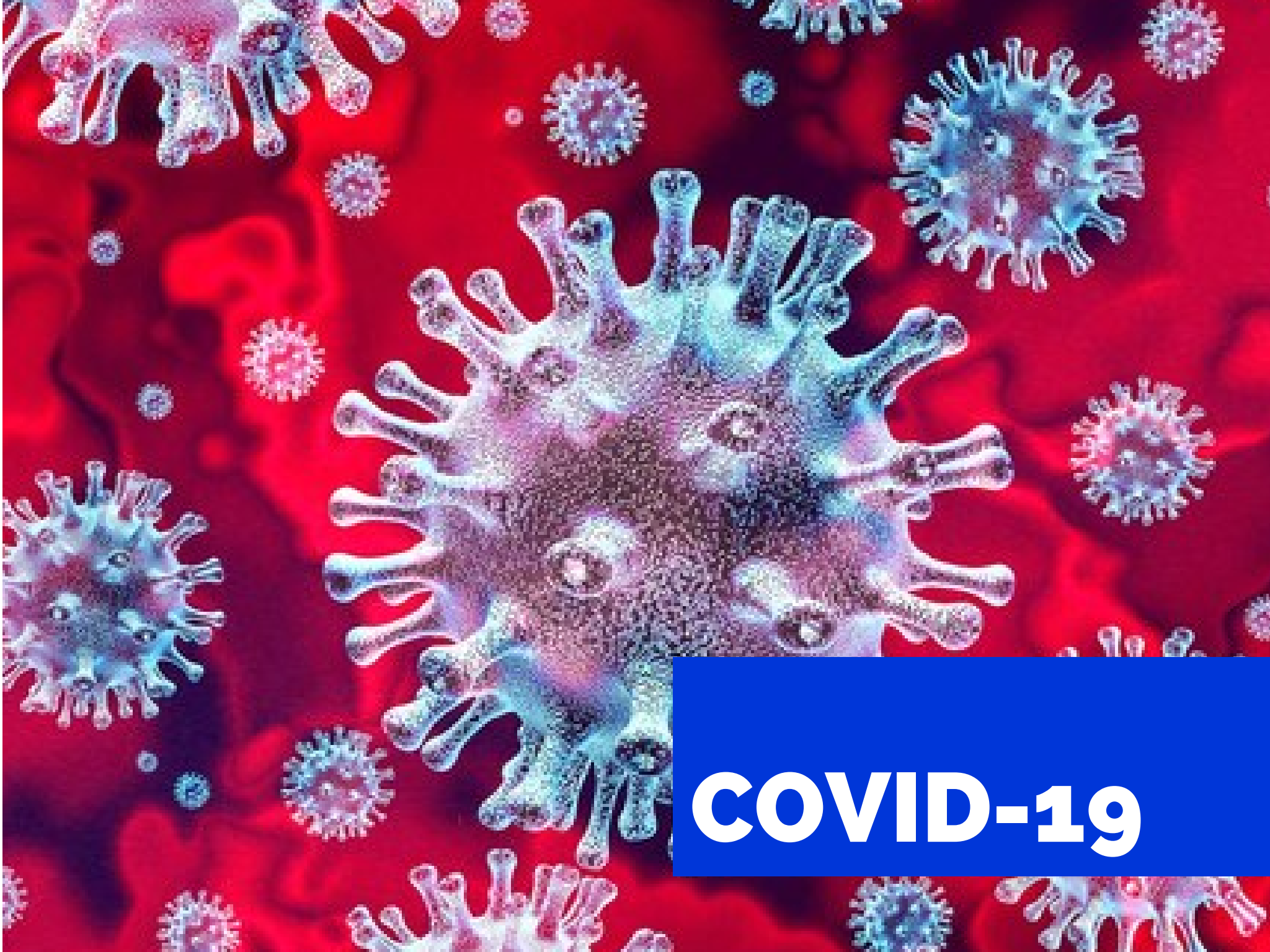
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scarlet Samayoa'. The signature is stylized and cursive, written over a horizontal line.

**LICDA.
SCARLET
SAMAYOA**

ABOUT PRIMEROS PASOS



Primeros Pasos is an accessible primary care clinic focused on comprehensive and preventive health, offering medical and dental care, on-premise pharmacy, laboratory services, mobile clinics, and nutrition-focused community outreach program. Located in Tierra Colorada Baja, we serve as the only reliable, affordable, and comprehensive source of primary health care in the 10 communities of Palajunoj Valley. Founded in 2002 through a collaboration of Quetzalteco and US medical students, Primeros Pasos' partners and supporters are both global and local. We are incorporated in Guatemala as a nonprofit organization, Asociación PASOS, and sponsored in the US by the 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the Inter-American Health Alliance.



COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic was challenging the world threatened the quality of life in rural communities. Indirect impacts disproportionately affected those who were already vulnerable, including many of the families we serve. As national resources were focused on COVID-19 patients and rural health posts remained less stable, often closing unexpectedly due to possible exposures or lack of supplies or PPE, Primeros Pasos was since the beginning the only clinic open in the Valley with a medical doctor, dentist, and licensed nutritionist.

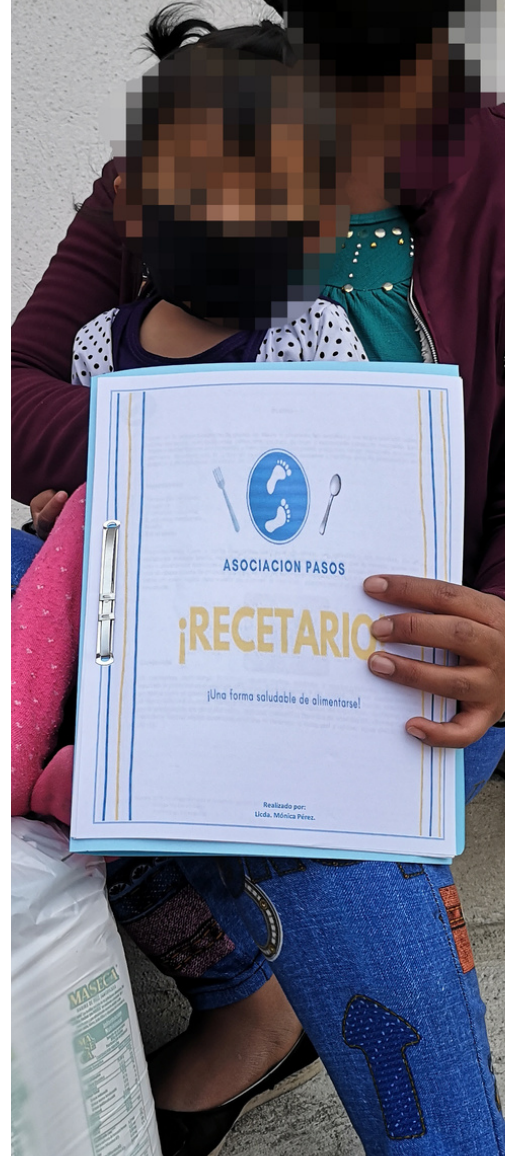
HIGHLIGHTS 2020



The clinic opens its doors again. after 5 days closed



We continue working mobile clinics



The food bank program was created



Primeros Pasos



Samantha Zaragoza

Remote work was designed, executed, and applied.

HIGHLIGHTS 2020

Primeros Pasos Impact

(so far!) during the COVID-19 response

100%

Of our team continues working each day to support the Palajunoj Valley communities in this time of great need



100%

Programs continue - adapted to ensure the safety of our patients & team



800+

Patients accessed affordable care through our walk-in clinic



250+

Families received free care at community-wide mobile clinics



14

Families received monthly food packages and family gardens

80%

Improvement in weight & height gain in young children of the nutrition program

14



Children actively receive monthly nutritional support

10

Remote Volunteers

&

245

Individuals & Partners supported Primeros Pasos through every step!

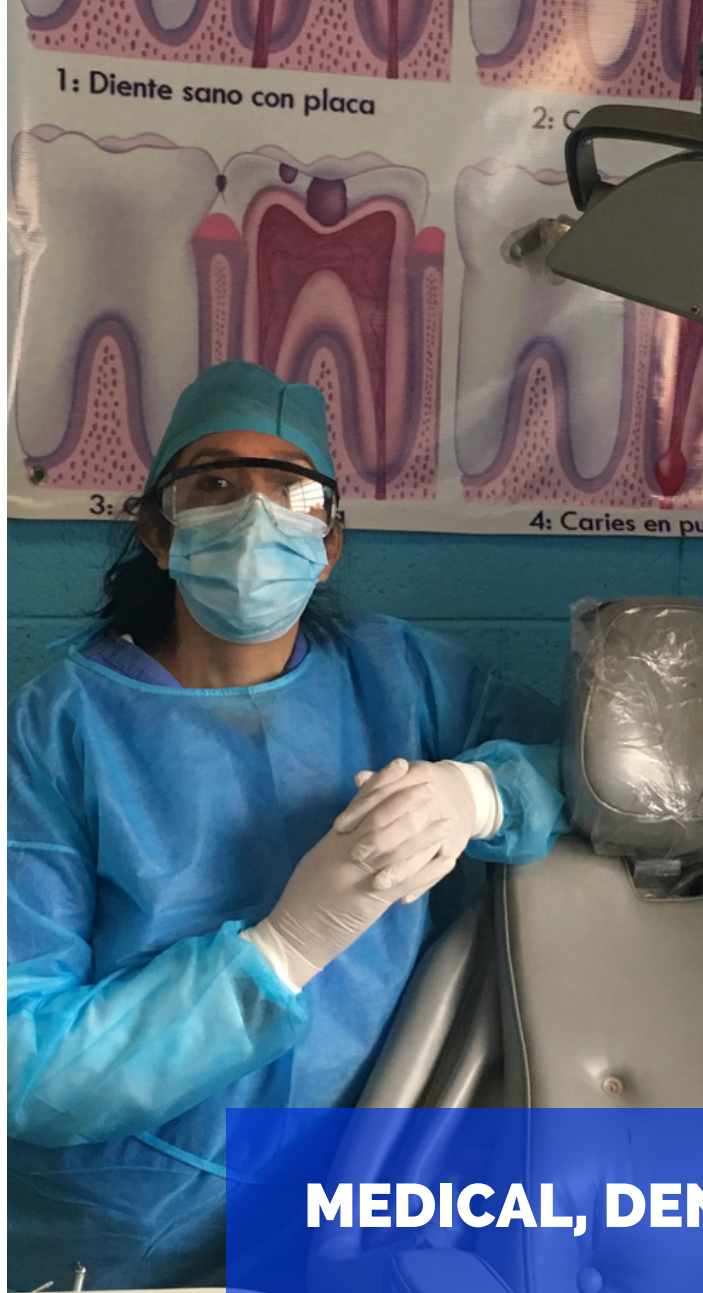
CLINICAL CARE AT PRIMEROS PASOS



The Primeros Pasos' doors closed for 5 days in order to establish safe care protocols for both patients and staff.

During those 5 days, telephone consultations were implemented, without success because most of the inhabitants of the communities don't have a cell phone, most of the house doesn't have electricity, and many other factors made this new modality too complicated.

After a week, Primeros Pasos opened the medical, dental, and nutritional care again with safety protocols, the patients were so happy to once again have a place with safe and professional care for the different pathologies and necessary controls.



MEDICAL, DENTAL & NUTRITIONAL:

1,647 PATIENTS

772 Medical, 702 Dental, 15 Nutritional, 158

Returning Patients

NUTRITIONAL RECUPERATION & FOOD SECURITY

A photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a white patterned top, holding two children. On the left is a toddler in an orange shirt, and on the right is a baby in a white shirt. They are sitting on a patterned surface, possibly a bed or sofa, with a red and gold patterned cloth in the background.

Before reopening the clinic, the PP team supported short-staffed primary schools in distributing food staples to families in need.

At the beginning of May, THE FOOD BANK program was created considering the immediate needs of children with acute malnutrition, caused by the pandemic, for this, a campaign was launched to collect non-perishable food and pylons.

15 packages of food were delivered from May to December in 6 of the 10 Valley communities! We shared information with concerned families on what COVID-19 is and how they can protect themselves, including prevention and hygiene recommendations. We also donated soap to each mother so they can increase household hand washing.



**57 PEOPLE WERE BENEFITED WITH 15 BAGS OF FOOD
DELIVERED TO 6 OF THE 10 COMMUNITIES OF THE VALLEY**

FROM MAY TO DECEMBER 2020

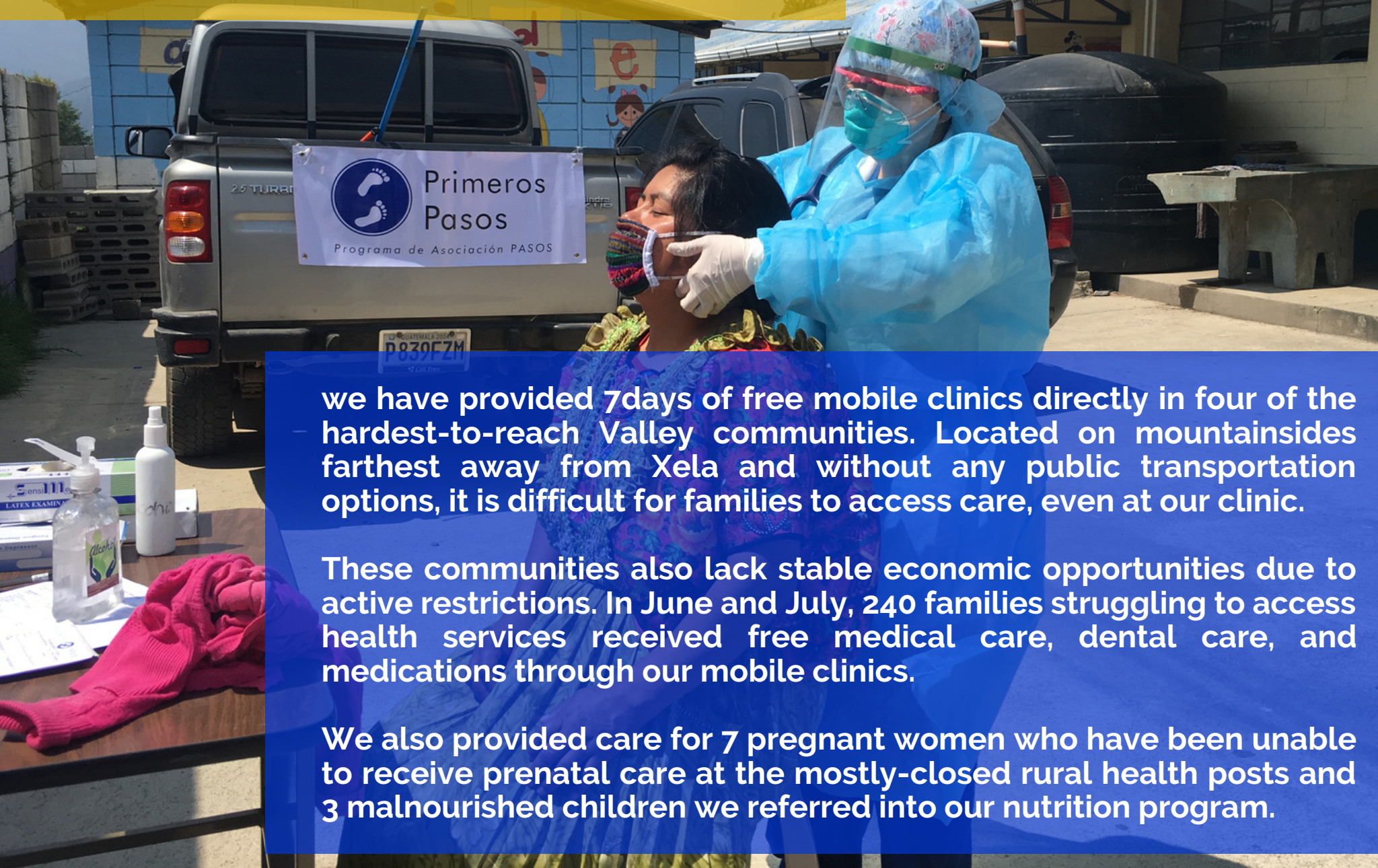
Chuicavioc, Tierra Colorada baja, Chuicaracoj,
Xecaracoj, Llanos del Pinal, Candelaria



**57 PEOPLE WERE BENEFITED BY 15 GARDENS WAS CREATED
TO 6 OF THE 10 COMMUNITIES OF THE VALLEY FROM MAY
TO DECEMBER 2020**

Chuicavioc, Tierra Colorada baja, Chuicaracoj,
Xecaracoj, Llanos del Pinal, Candelaria

MOBILE CLINICS IN HARD-TO-REACH AREAS



we have provided 7days of free mobile clinics directly in four of the hardest-to-reach Valley communities. Located on mountainsides farthest away from Xela and without any public transportation options, it is difficult for families to access care, even at our clinic.

These communities also lack stable economic opportunities due to active restrictions. In June and July, 240 families struggling to access health services received free medical care, dental care, and medications through our mobile clinics.

We also provided care for 7 pregnant women who have been unable to receive prenatal care at the mostly-closed rural health posts and 3 malnourished children we referred into our nutrition program.



**226 PEOPLE WERE BENEFITED FROM OUR 7 DAYS OF FREE
MOBILE CLINICS DIRECTLY IN FOUR OF THE HARDEST-TO-
REACH VALLEY COMMUNITIES.**

Las Majadas, Bella Vista, Tierra Colorada Alta, and Chicavioc

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE



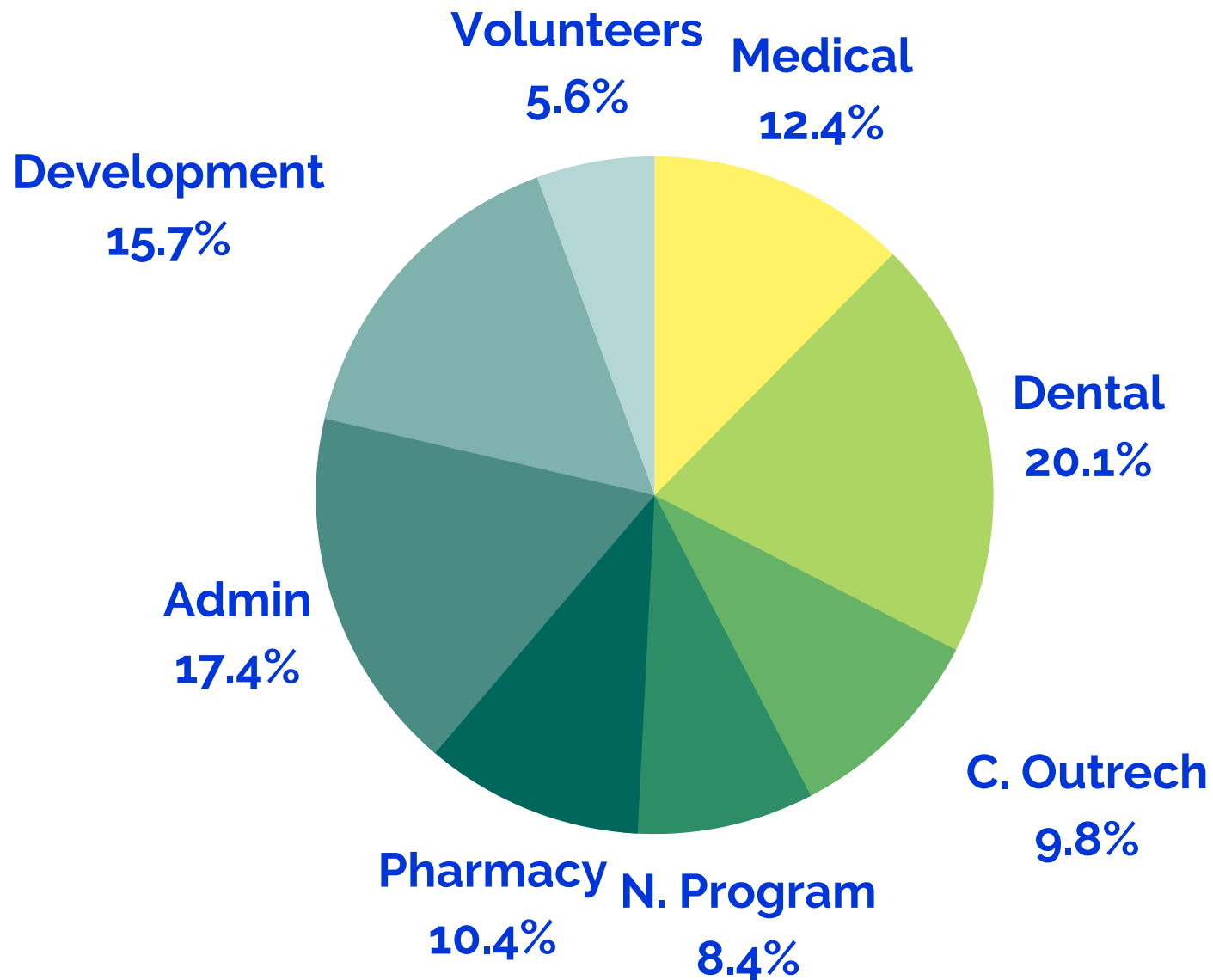
Providing reproductive care and education, prenatal care, family planning, ultrasounds, PAP, and all kinds of gynecological and obstetric care, is one of our priorities in our clinics.



104 WOMEN WERE BENEFITED FROM OUR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE .
69 Prenatal Care, Pregnancy Test 6, 20 PAP, 6 IUD Extraction, 1 IUD insertion, 6 Jadelle Extraction

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

OPERATING EXPENSES
\$ 95,250.00



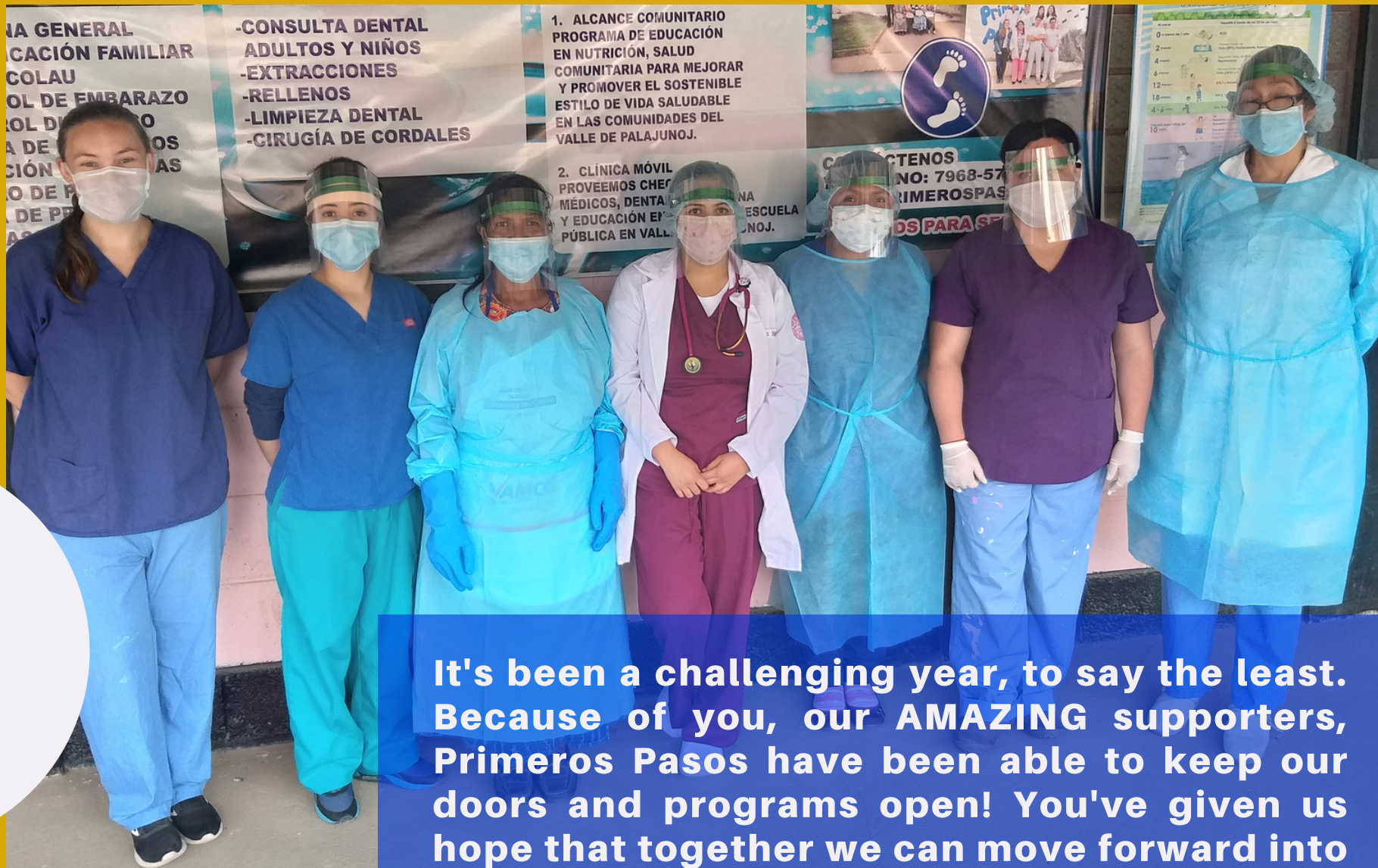
Primeros Pasos relies almost solely on small individual donations and grassroots fundraising initiatives and works diligently to make these donations go as far as possible. Fundraising for Primeros Pasos is coordinated by the Inter-American Health Alliance (IAHA), a U.S.-based 501(c)3 non-profit founded in 2007 to support Primeros Pasos' operations. Primeros Pasos is a program of Asociación PASOS, a Guatemalan-registered non-profit organization founded in 2004. Its NIT (tax ID) is 8147040-1.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP



- General Director – Licda. Scarlet Samayoa
- Director of Development – Rhiana Smith
- Volunteer Coordinator – Maria José Chajon
- Medical Program Director – Dra. Marcela Santa Marina
- Dental Program Director – Dra. Francia Angel
- Dental Assistant - Marta Ystazuy
- Community Outreach Director – Licda. Monica Pérez
- Cleanin Assistant - Maria Florinda García

THANK YOU!



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It's been a challenging year, to say the least. Because of you, our AMAZING supporters, Primeros Pasos have been able to keep our doors and programs open! You've given us hope that together we can move forward into 2021.

Primeros Pasos Team