



 SOLIDARITYBRIDGE

**2023**  
ANNUAL REPORT

**ROOTED IN  
RELATIONSHIPS**

## MISSION

In a spirit of solidarity, we partner with communities in Bolivia and Paraguay to increase access to safe, affordable surgery and other essential health care.



## VISION

We seek a just, compassionate, and interdependent world, where the health needs of those most vulnerable are prioritized and medical professionals have the necessary resources to serve their communities.

## OUR IMPACT IN 2023



### 1,976 PATIENTS SERVED

686 Clinical Patients

465 Surgical Patients

825 Patients received supplies and financial support



### PROFESSIONAL TRAINING & MENTORSHIP

75 US Medical Professionals

195 South American Medical Professionals

19 In-Person Trainings and Exchanges

46 Virtual Trainings and Exchanges



### INCREASED ACCESS THROUGH RESOURCES

48 contracts for discounted services with local health providers

\$1,667,354 medical supplies donated

\$300,355 medical time donated

## TRANSFORMING OUR VISION INTO REALITY

The Instituto Chuquisaqueño de Oncología (ICO) was founded in Sucre in early 2018. It is one of only two public cancer hospitals in all of Bolivia. We made our first trip to the hospital just after it opened to provide mentoring in advanced gynecologic surgeries. During that first trip, Solidarity Bridge medical director Dr. Gay Garrett also presented a lecture on surgical approaches to breast cancer. This year she was invited to return and provide further hands-on training and mentorship.

The ICO treats up to 100 breast cancer patients each year—the majority of these with advanced stages of cancer. This is the case for one of our patients, 49-year-old Tomasa.

For the past year, Tomasa has been living with her stepson in a tiny room above a local church while undergoing chemotherapy and hormone therapy. Both are newly available treatment options in the region. Unfortunately, the cancer has spread to her bones. The surgical team recommended a palliative mastectomy and sentinel node dissection to improve her quality of life.

Tomasa, a woman with a delightful sense of humor, has become a fixture at the ICO, where she sells Brazil nuts, pistachios, and other delicacies that she sources from her home region. When not undergoing treatment, she can be found just inside the hospital's front door to catch doctors and nurses rushing to their shifts and families looking for a quick snack while keeping vigil over their loved ones. While Tomasa is far from home, the ICO has become her family as well as her source of income.

Improving the care and quality of life for patients like Tomasa is the reason that Bolivian general surgeon Dr. Wilfredo Campos requested that our 2023 trip include a focus on breast cancer in addition to our ongoing work in gynecologic oncology. Dr. Garrett operated alongside ICO partners Dr. Campos and Dr. Isabel Quinteros, first to observe their technique and then to demonstrate and discuss enhanced approaches and strategies for the surgical management of breast tumors.

We continue to hold fast to our vision of a world where health professionals have the skills and resources needed to serve their community. Our ICO partnership is one clear example of how ongoing training, mentorship and equipment provisioning is transforming that vision into reality.



## MORE STORIES

**DR. BIANCA BECERRA** | Dr. Becerra is a Bolivian anesthesiologist who operates in partnership with our year-round general surgery program. This year, she also had the opportunity to advance her skills through in-person training when she traveled on a Solidarity Visit to the US and completed an observership at the University of Washington.

**CARLOS** | A beloved father of five, Carlos suffered from chronic Chagas disease that began affecting his heart. Over the course of a year, his symptoms worsened, and he could not work due to fainting spells. Through our heart program, he received a pacemaker. This lifesaving device now has Carlos back in the driver's seat, managing his chauffeur business and looking forward to many more years with his children.

**CORA** | Teenager Cora suffered from acute gallbladder pain for more than a year. As her disease progressed she began to experience frequent fevers and was ultimately admitted to the hospital. Shortly after her admission, our mobile surgery campaign visited her local hospital making it possible for her to receive a timely and safe laparoscopic surgery, curing her symptoms and setting her on the path for a healthy future.



*“Solidarity is no mere ideal; it is expressed in concrete actions and steps that draw us closer to our neighbors, in whatever situation they find themselves.”*

**—Pope Francis**

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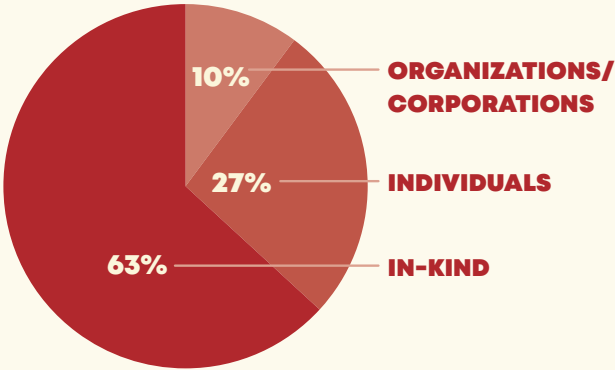


# 2023 FINANCIALS

## REVENUE: \$3,322,257.95

IN-KIND: \$2,055,326.67

CASH: \$1,266,931.28



## NET ASSETS: \$979,274.36

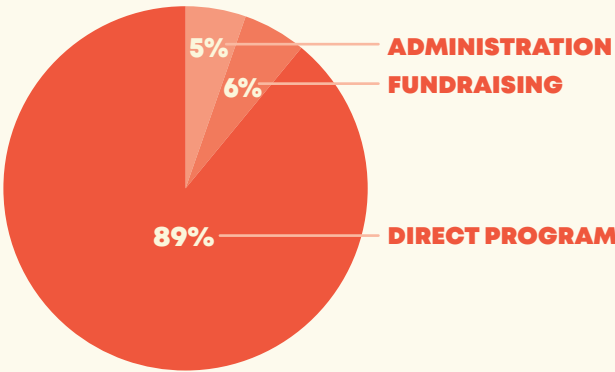
IN-KIND \$114,590.70

CASH \$864,683.66

## EXPENSES: \$3,333,184.08

IN-KIND: \$1,988,161.36

CASH: \$1,345,022.72



Through God's abiding grace, our programs made significant advances throughout 2023, resourcing dozens of hospitals, mentoring dedicated healthcare providers, and accompanying hundreds of patients on their journey to a healthier future. We are grateful for our collaborating partners and financial supporters who have loyally supported us throughout our 25 years.

As Cardinal Joseph Bernardin said, "the common good is realized in the context of a living community, which is nurtured by the virtues and shared values of individuals." Throughout our silver jubilee, we'll continue reflecting gratefully on this mission that has brought hope, healing, and the promotion of the common good to our world.

**Thank you for being a nurturing part of this community!**



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