



Friends of
San Lucas

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2024

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend of San Lucas,

Did you know that half of the population of Guatemala lives in substandard housing? With your help, the Mission can change that, one home at a time. Dignified housing can transform the health and livelihood of a family for generations.

The Mission builds roughly 80 homes each year. Each house includes a fuel-efficient stove, which in and of itself can have a tremendous impact on a family's well-being. Many Guatemalans cook their daily meals over an open fire, which often leads to burns, chronic headaches, or respiratory disease. Cooking over an open fire also requires large amounts of firewood, thus contributing to deforestation, which increases the odds of landslides.

But the Construction Program doesn't just build homes and stoves; this innovative program is doing much more to advance community development. They've been working on new facilities for the Mission Hospital, which will accommodate more patients for dental care and surgeries. They've installed a new space at the Women's Center for learning opportunities on a traditional wooden loom. The Construction Program is also installing solar panels for homes that aren't connected to the electrical grid, as well as at the Café Juan Ana facilities.

In this newsletter, you'll learn more about these exciting new projects, made possible by your gifts to the Construction Program. I am so grateful for your generosity. Thank you for your continued commitment to the people of San Lucas.



Britt Kellerman
Executive Director
Friends of San Lucas

IN THIS EDITION

- Learn how your gifts are supporting innovative construction projects in San Lucas
- Read about how Café Juan Ana's direct trade model benefits families and communities
- Discover how your planned gift can make a difference in Guatemala

**You can be a part of
this incredible work!
Make your gift today.**

sanlucasmission.org/give

INNOVATIVE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS MADE POSSIBLE BY DONORS LIKE YOU

The San Lucas Mission Construction Program builds about 80 homes per year. But did you know that your donations also fund other construction initiatives to support the community? Read on to learn about three new construction projects transforming the future for the people of San Lucas.

WATER ACCESS



For many communities surrounding San Lucas, easy access to water had been a distant dream. Families had to walk to the river or visit neighboring plantations to request water. But with your support, the Mission's new water infrastructure projects are finally making water accessible for rural communities. The Construction Program is upgrading systems for water capture, transportation, storage, and distribution. These initiatives have already improved two communities' water systems and aim to benefit more in 2024.

The construction of a new surgical wing at the Mission Hospital will double the capacity for operations. The upgraded facilities will include piped in oxygen and carbon dioxide, more advanced imaging machines, and separate pre-operative and post-operative spaces. This project is vital for improving healthcare access for Guatemalans, as it enables life-changing surgeries in a more efficient and better-equipped environment.

SURGICAL WING



DENTAL CLINIC



The renovation of the Mission dental clinic allows for the treatment of up to four patients simultaneously, significantly improving the clinic's capacity. Previously, all patients were treated in a single, crowded room. Now, with the expansion, each treatment area offers privacy and functionality. By expanding dental facilities, the Mission is taking a meaningful step towards improving health outcomes and enhancing the quality of life for the people of San Lucas.

Your gifts can help more Guatemalan families gain access to healthcare and clean water. Visit sanlucasmision.org to make your donation today!

CAFÉ JUAN ANA: EVERY SIP SUPPORTS SMALL GROWERS

At Café Juan Ana, we often say: "Direct Trade, Direct Impact." But what does that really mean?

In the 1990s, the coffee market crashed. Small Guatemalan growers didn't have any stocked-up resources and lived day-to-day. These growers were actually losing money on their coffee crop.

A group of growers approached our founder, Fr. Greg Schaffer, and said they couldn't feed their families with what the market was offering. Fr. Greg had them calculate what they needed to make ends meet. He started Café Juan Ana so that they could support their families with their harvest. This was the beginning of our direct trade model.



Today, the coffee market continues to fluctuate erratically, and Café Juan Ana continues to pay a stable, dependable price above what the market is offering.

Some coffee companies have been using the term "Direct Trade" loosely, and it has lost some of its meaning. So now, some smaller coffee companies are starting to use the term "relational coffee." Café Juan Ana buys directly from small coffee growers with the purpose of impacting their quality of life with fair rates. We know the growers by name and have a relationship with them. This past year Café Juan Ana bought from 90 small growers, paying 40% more than they received from other buyers on the street.

Buying directly from these small growers greatly impacts their livelihoods. Access to a predictable income strengthens families and communities through economic opportunity. Every time you buy Café Juan Ana, you are providing direct support for small Guatemalan growers.



**You can support small coffee growers by drinking Café Juan Ana.
Make your purchase today at juananacoffee.org.**

LEAVE A LEGACY IN SAN LUCAS



By including Friends of San Lucas in your planned giving, you can build a brighter future for people experiencing poverty—even beyond your lifetime. Picture a world where all people have access to dignified housing, quality education, and life-saving healthcare, so that they can achieve their true potential. Here are a few reasons to consider this decision:

- 1. Lasting Impact:** Your thoughtful gesture can ensure that the vital work of the Mission continues to thrive for generations to come.
- 2. Tax Benefits:** Depending on your individual circumstances, including Friends of San Lucas in your estate plans may offer tax advantages for your heirs and estate.
- 3. Joining a Community of Supporters:** You'll become a member of our Legacy Circle, joining a community of like-minded individuals dedicated to making a lasting impact in San Lucas.

If you have any questions about including Friends of San Lucas in your estate plans or would like more information, please contact Director of Development Shelby Schmidt at shelby.schmidt@sanlucasmission.org. or (319) 541-4250. We're here to support you every step of the way. Thank you for considering this opportunity to leave a lasting legacy of compassion in San Lucas!

**GO PAPERLESS
AND MAKE A
DIFFERENCE
FOR THE
PEOPLE OF
SAN LUCAS.**

For every mailing we send, we pay for printing and postage. We value keeping our supporters up to date, and we also strive to be as efficient as we can with our funds, so that we can maximize our impact in San Lucas. **If you'd like to receive digital newsletters and save us the cost of print mailings, please email us at contact@sanlucasmission.org.**