



Friends of  
San Lucas

### Who we are

Friends of San Lucas is a nonprofit organization dedicated to generating support for the Mission in San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala. The staff, board, and supporters are an eclectic group, motivated in a variety of ways. Some of us are life-long followers of Christ, dedicated to bringing the kingdom of God closer in all we do. Some of us are deeply motivated by the work of the Catholic Church and its commitment to create a more just world. Some of us have been touched by the work of the Mission and by the people of San Lucas and have committed ourselves to working with them. Whatever our motivation, we are united in this: we believe in this work and are dedicated to its success.

### Our history

Beginning in 1963, Fr. Greg Schaffer, Fr. John Goggin, and the School Sisters of Notre Dame partnered with local leadership to address the immediate effects of poverty in San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala. Fr. Greg served this community until his passing in 2012, when Friends of San Lucas was formed to continue this legacy.

### Our partners

Local leadership at the San Lucas Mission is at the center of our work. Confronting centuries of systemic injustice and historic oppression, we support community-led solutions to community-identified challenges. We strive to create relationships of mutuality, built on cultural strengths and collaboration, for long-term, meaningful change.



Friends of  
San Lucas

3459 Washington Drive, Suite 207  
Eagan, MN 55122

651-508-1848

info@sanlucasmision.org



## San Lucas Mission Programs



[sanlucasmision.org](https://sanlucasmision.org)



@friendsofsanlucas





## Construction

The Mission builds 3 types of houses: block houses, hybrid houses (block and wood), and wood houses. The Mission also builds fuel-efficient stoves, which reduce firewood consumption by 50%, reduce respiratory disease, and virtually eliminate injuries caused by fires. In 2020, the Mission will build 650 fuel efficient stoves.



## Charity with Dignity

The Mission's Charity with Dignity program focuses on serving the elderly, disabled, and others identified as having the greatest need. This program provides monthly cash and food assistance. During the pandemic, the program distributed over 4,500 food bags to families.



## Visitor Program

Each year over 1200 visitors volunteer at the Mission. The Mission hosts high school, college, family, church and medical groups. Groups come to learn about the community and Maya culture by visiting the people of San Lucas.

## Café Juan Ana

Café Juan Ana is produced, roasted, and packaged in San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala. The area's microclimate, altitude of 5,000- 7,000 feet, and soil rich with volcanic ash makes for exceptional growing conditions, leading to exceptional, shade-grown, 100% Arabica coffee.

The direct trade model Café Juan Ana uses ensures that local growers receive above market prices, so growers provide the best possible product. Coffee is available for purchase at [juananacoffee.org](http://juananacoffee.org).



## Women's Center

The Women's Center was created to provide a safe space for women to gather, and take classes in sewing, weaving and cooking. It has grown substantially over the past ten years. Its biggest achievement is the increased engagement from women of all ages and religions. All women are able to take advantage of opportunities to learn new skills and earn an income for their family.



## Healthcare

Quality healthcare is a basic human right. The Mission provides healthcare for San Lucas and the surrounding communities through a clinic and a health promoter program. The clinic has been led by Dr. Rafael Tun since 1998. Services include consultations, ultrasound, x-ray, maternity & delivery room, ER, dentistry, podiatry, pharmacy and an ambulance. The Health Promoter program focuses on child nutrition, diabetes, and general healthcare support in the surrounding communities.



## Education

Colegio Monseñor Gregorio Schaffer was opened in 1968 by Fr. Greg Schaeffer and the School Sisters of Notre Dame with the goal of providing education to all children in and around San Lucas Tolimán, especially the indigenous Maya population. Today, the school is still providing preschool through 6th grade education to over 650 students annually. With a focus on Montessori in the younger grades and vocational opportunities as they get older, the school has developed a reputation for a rigorous, Catholic education which serves the whole person.

