



# ODIM

Organization for the Development of the Indigenous Maya

## Annual Report 2012

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# Our Mission

We work within the  
Guatemalan community  
addressing education and  
healthcare needs.  
Our vision is for the Maya to  
have a hopeful future for  
themselves and their children.

## *Letter from the Executive Director:*

Dear Friends of ODIM,

What an amazing year we've had in 2012. It was truly a year of new beginnings, based on the needs that have presented themselves in San Juan and San Pablo La Laguna. Our Nutrition Project, spurred by the overwhelming malnutrition of children in Guatemala, "graduated" 86% of its children to healthy heights and weights by the end of the year. We finished 3 houses in San Pablo and began moving dirt, slashing roots, and "stomping & shaping" adobe bricks for our new clinic there. The new diabetes program, again initiated because of an incredible need, showed great results by decreasing blood sugars by 12% in our patients with diabetes. As a result of growing demand, we began a search for another dentist to increase the days we can see dental patients.

Under the new leadership of Pedro Mendez, the scholarship program for children has added new subjects for learning, outside of homework demands. And the children are assuming some ownership and pride in their learning environment. The Children's Cultural Exchange this year was held the last week of November, and targeted boys from ages 9-13. Their experiences were culturally comprehensive as well as fun!

All of this would be impossible without the support we receive from volunteers and donors. We have truly been blessed by you all in 2012.

Abrazos,  
JoAna Dwyer



## *New Clinic/Education Building in San Pablo La Laguna*

In the spring of 2012, thanks to a generous donation from the First United Methodist Church of Durango Colorado we purchased land in San Pablo La Laguna to begin construction on a new clinic/education building to meet the ever-increasing needs of this village. ODIM has always focused our efforts on the two villages of San Juan and San Pablo, but with our current clinic located in San Juan we have realized that we cannot currently meet the great need for healthcare that exists in San Pablo.



*Exterior model of the new building*



*The University Park UMC team stomping adobe bricks*

San Pablo is a village that suffers from poverty, with 97% of the population living in poverty and 79% in extreme poverty. 72% of the population is considered illiterate. Chronic malnutrition is also a major problem in the village children. Access to quality, affordable healthcare in the village is virtually non-existent.

With this new construction we are building a clinic and classroom facility that will provide ample space for two exam rooms, a pharmacy, an office, meeting areas and a classroom for our scholarship students. We are working with a local specialist in natural building and are planning, when feasible,

to build this structure from "natural" materials such as bamboo and adobe, a change from the cement block houses we normally construct. With the new "green" building, we can offer health services, diabetes and nutrition classes, and tutoring for our "Beca" children in a safe, light, inviting environment.

In 2012, volunteer teams started to make adobe bricks, cleared and leveled the land and started to construct the foundation of the building. Volunteer construction teams will continue to be actively involved in this project throughout 2013.



*Living Water UMC team with local foreman*

## Medical Services

Our medical services are provided Monday through Thursday mornings in the Clinica Sanjuanerita in San Juan, and Friday mornings in a small auxiliary clinic in San Pablo. Despite only working half days, we welcomed 4,230 patient visits during normal clinic hours.

Our nurse continued to provide daily primary care to patients in their local language Tz'utujil, while a supervising Guatemalan doctor made bi-monthly visits to the clinic to assist more complex patient cases. Visiting medical professionals also provided valuable care for patients and education for our staff.



*Our pharmacist Antonia assisting a patient*

During 2012, we continued to expand our services and staff at the Clinica Sanjuanerita and our auxiliary clinic in San Pablo. In August, we were happy to welcome a new receptionist, Aracely Mendoza Quic, who comes to us with a valuable background in social work and several years of experience as a health promoter with ODIM. Gloria Mendoza, who served as our receptionist for 3 years, moved into a new role as Health Specialist for the clinic. In this role she balances 3 different responsibilities: providing family planning consults and methods to women, providing Bach Flowers consults for patients with emotional health concerns and performing simple lab tests in our new lab which was completed in 2012.

In addition to offering new services in the clinic, we have continued to expand our network of referral options for patients. We have negotiated discounted fees with a local lab and have partnered with several other NGO's around Guatemala who offer surgeries or additional treatment for complicated patient cases that are identified in our clinic.



*Visiting Dentist Doug with a patient and her daughter*

## Dental Services

The demand for our affordable dental services continues to grow as the word spreads around the community and no other affordable options exist. A local dentist provided treatments to our patients two mornings a week, and we had over 806 dental visits. We stress oral hygiene and we offer extractions, fillings and cleanings in our fully-equipped dental clinic. Two volunteer dentists also contributed their time in 2012.

## Health Education

Our group of 20 health promoters continues to be a core component to ODIM's success within the community. In 2012, our health promoters received trainings ranging from health topics such as HIV, microbial infections and dehydration to emotional health, stress management and Tai Chi. Classes were taught by Ashley Micikas who coordinates our Health Education Program as well as various volunteers who contributed their specialized skills.

Several of our health promoters have been selected to provide ongoing education to our patient population and other community members. Our two biggest areas of focus in 2012 were diabetes and nutrition. Details of each program are included below.



*Health promoters learning new exercises*

## Diabetes Education Program

To address the escalating number of patients with diabetes in San Juan and San Pablo, a group of graduate student from Emory University led by Mary Micikas implemented a comprehensive diabetes education program at ODIM. Eight health promoters from the two villages were selected and extensively trained on the topic of diabetes. The program consists of weekly education classes stressing diet, exercise and overall lifestyle changes along with monthly individual consultations with health promoters to check blood sugars and discuss their progress. In 2012, over 80 patient with diabetes actively participated in this program. In November, we celebrated World Diabetes Day with a health fair focused on diabetes education. The event was a huge success in raising awareness in the community and getting people more excited about diet and exercise.



*Patients walking in a parade for World Diabetes Day*

## Nutrition Project

Our nutrition project continued to support seven families in 2012 with children who were identified as being severely malnourished. The program consisted of classes taught by health promoters in nutrition, hygiene and budgeting as well as emergency food assistance and a community garden. Six of the seven children in the program "graduated", reaching healthy height and weight. Also, in 2012 we screened 275 children under 2 in San Juan and San Pablo for malnutrition. From this study, 64% of children in San Pablo and 42% in San Juan for found to be malnourished.



*A young nutrition project patient*

## *Becas (Scholarship) Program*

Due to poverty and the cost of attending school in Guatemala, children often work in order to help provide food for their families. Many in San Pablo do not have the opportunity to attend even primary school. While there are public government schools, even these are out of reach for many children because of the need to purchase uniforms, books and school supplies.

Our scholarship program provides 10 children in San Pablo the resources they need to attend and thrive in school. Our program goes above and beyond many other scholarship programs and chooses to focus on quality not quantity. The donations for this program cover registration, monthly tuition, books, supplies, school uniforms and 4 hours of tutoring per week.

In April of 2012 we were excited to welcome a new staff member, Pedro Mendez Coche, who took over coordination of our Beca and Diabetes programs. Pedro has helped us tremendously in ensuring that the children in our program always have the tools they need to succeed.



*Scholarship recipients practicing multiplication*

## *Children's Cultural Exchange*



*CCE Participants in Guatemala City*

The purpose of the Children's Cultural Exchange (CCE) is to dissolve the racism and prejudices between the Maya and Ladino populations in Guatemala. Five boys from San Juan la Laguna and 4 boys from Guatemala City participated in the 2012 CCE, all between the ages of 9 and 13. A common thread among these children is the poverty they suffer in their everyday lives. This week-long, shared living experience offers the opportunity for the children to learn that on many levels Ladinos and Maya share common human traits, even though they come from totally different lifestyles.

While in the capital, the group explored the Children's Museum, the TransMetro, and urban life. Then during their time in San Juan they bonded making ginger bread houses, baking bread, and swimming in Lake Atitlan. It was a wonderful week that these boys will never forget!



## Volunteers in 2012

Our work here at ODIM would not be possible without the help from all of our dedicated volunteers. In 2012, we welcomed six construction teams, two medical teams and four joint medical & construction teams as well as several other groups and individual volunteers. In the first half of 2012, construction teams built three houses for families in need in San Pablo. During the second half of the year, we started construction on our new clinic/education building in San Pablo. Teams worked hard clearing and leveling the land, chopping tree roots, as well as stomping in the mud to make adobe bricks. Our medical teams saw 1,142 patients during medical jornadas! They helped to treat patients with complicated and chronic conditions and worked alongside our local staff providing valuable continuing education. We had so much fun with all of our volunteers and look forward to seeing many of you again in 2013!

### ***A Big Thanks to all of our Volunteers in 2012***

#### Volunteer Teams

- FUMC Emporia – Emporia, Kansas
- Missouri UMC – Columbia, Missouri
- St. Marks UMC – Kansas City, Kansas
- FUMC Durango – Durango, CO
- P'nai Or – Portland, Oregon
- West End UMC – Nashville, TN
- St. Stephens UMC – Dallas, TX
- FUMC Denton – Denton, TX
- Northaven UMC – Dallas, TX
- University Park UMC – Dallas, TX
- First UMC of Canadian TX – Canadian, TX
- Living Water UMC – Marion, IA
- Yucaipa UMC – Yucaipa, CA
- Emory University Graduate Students
- Sierra Service Project



*University Park UMC "roots" warriors*



*Medical team from Portland, OR*



*Dr. Brogan with his wife and son*

#### Individual Volunteers

- Elisabeth Rogolsky – Panajachel, Guatemala
- Elizabeth Dequine - Bainbridge Island, WA
- Dr. Kevin Brogan - Ireland
- Dr. Christoph Weber & Louise Killens –Canada
- Nancy Campau & Colette Swietnicki – New York
- Doug and Leuke Kelly – British Columbia
- Kenny Wickline – Dallas, TX
- Hannah Johnson – Denver, CO
- Jeanne Nakamaru - Iowa
- Cameron Fralick - Washington
- And our many wonderful translators throughout 2012!

## 2012 Statistics

- 5372 Medical Consults
- 806 Dental Consults
- 321 Family Planning Consults
- 79 Bach Flowers Consults
- 160 Hours of Diabetes Education for Patients
- 160 Hours of Nutrition Education for Patients
- 275 Number of Children Screened for Malnutrition
- 90 Hours of Training and Activities for Health Promoters
- 12 Volunteer Medical and/or Construction Teams
- 3 Houses built for families in San Pablo



# 2012 Financial Summary

## ODIM Operating Financials

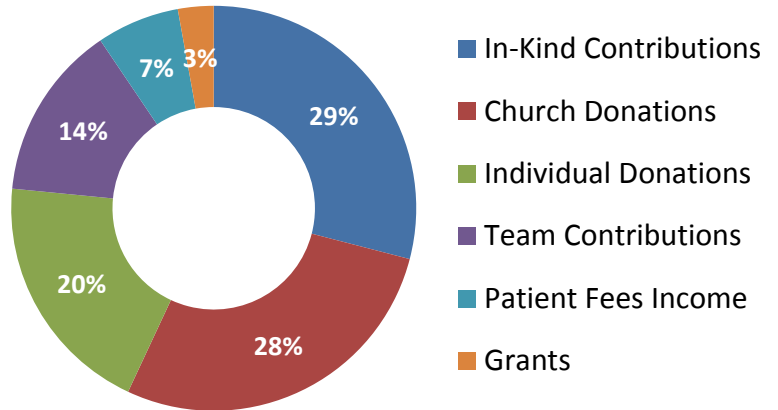
Operating Revenue	2012
In-Kind Contributions *	\$ 35,690
Church/Group Donations	34,304
Individual Donations	24,091
Team Contributions	17,205
Patient Fees Income	8,118
Grants	3,500
Interest Income	471
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 123,379</b>

## Operating Expenses

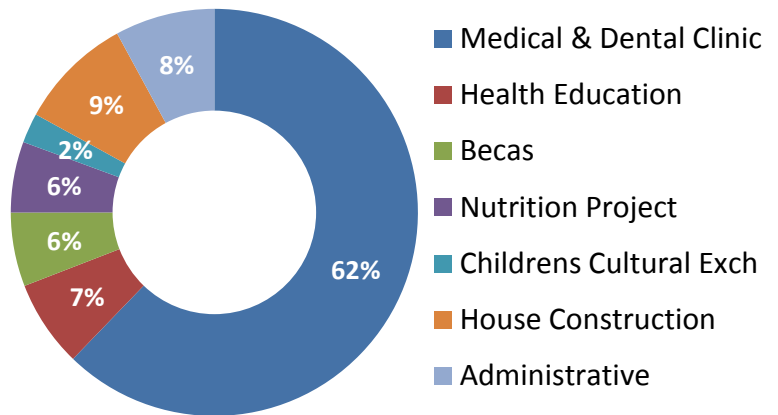
Medical & Dental Clinic	\$ 61,642
Health Education	6,846
Becas	5,811
Nutrition Project	5,579
Childrens Cultural Exch	2,349
House Construction	9,005
Administrative	7,852
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 99,082</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 24,296</b>

\*Primarily donated medicine

## Operating Revenue Sources

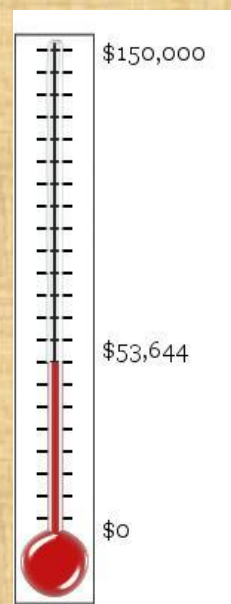


## Operating Expenses by Program



## ODIM Capital Campaign for Clinic/Education Building in San Pablo

Donation for Land Purchase	\$ 18,600
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Budget for Capital Campaign	\$ 150,000
Amount Raised Toward Campaign Goal	53,644
Amount to be Raised as of Dec 31, 2012	\$ 96,356
<hr/>	
Campaign Expenses Spent in 2012	\$ 25,848



## 2012 ODIM Board and Staff

### ODIM Staff

JoAna Dwyer

*Executive Director*

Noelle Battle

*Business Manager*

Ashley Micikas

*Clinic Administrator & Nutrition Program  
Coordinator*

Elizabeth Jewett

*Volunteer Coordinator*

Pedro Mendez Coche

*Diabetes and Scholarship Programs  
Coordinator*

Timoteo Ixcaya Ixcaya

*Clinic Nurse & Nutrition Program Educator*

Antonia Cholotio

*Clinic Pharmacist & Diabetes Educator*

Gloria Mendoza

*Clinic Health Specialist*

Aracely Mendoza Quic

*Clinic Receptionist*

### Board of Directors

Ronald Wilhelm, PhD

*Board President*

Rev. Jeannie Jensen

*Board Treasurer*

Noelle Battle

*Board Secretary*

Mary Micikas

*Board Member*



*Our staff: Back row from left – Ashley, Elizabeth, Pedro, Noelle,  
Timoteo. Front row from left – Antonia, Aracely, Gloria*

*Help Us Grow!*

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**Follow us on Facebook** at ODIM Guatemala

**Donate online** at [www.odinguatemala.org](http://www.odinguatemala.org)

**Send a check made payable to ODIM** to Karrell Johnson

7111 Fenton Dr. Dallas, TX 75231

**Volunteer by Inquiring at** at [odinguatemala@gmail.com](mailto:odinguatemala@gmail.com)



Organization for the Development of the Indigenous Maya (ODIM) is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

San Juan and San Pablo La Laguna, Solola, Guatemala