



ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW JULY 2011

Our Mission:

We collaborate with communities in the development of the best sustainable public health practices and integrated medical services.

Partners:

Salud Juntos is a non-profit NGO, incorporated in Washington State, and registered for fundraising purposes in the states of New York and Arizona since 2008. It represents a successful partnership among collaborators including faculty and students from: University of Arizona Health Sciences Center, Cornell University (NY) Whitman College (WA) and University of Washington, as well as interested community members. (See table at end of document)

Salud Juntos has built strong, productive and respectful partnerships with national, regional and local government, businesses, not-for-profits, community health committees, clinical administration, clinical staff and promotoras (health workers), and community members.

Community Partners:

- **La Guacamaya (LG), Honduras**
The village of La Guacamaya is 25 minutes south of the city of El Progreso, Department of Yoro, Honduras. It has approximately 6,000 residents, and a service area of nearly 10,000 residents. The clinic was completed in 2004, and became affiliated with the national health care system in 2008 with the assistance of Salud Juntos.
- **Punta Ocote (PO), Honduras**
The village of Punta Ocote is 30 minutes west of Yoro, Department of Yoro, Honduras. It has approximately 850 residents and a service area of approximately 3,500. A new clinic affiliated with the national Ministry of Health was built collaboratively by the community and Salud Juntos in the spring of 2010.

Public Health Programs:

Salud Juntos actively strives to “work with” rather than to “do for.” Through the collective efforts and expertise of epidemiologists, global public health practitioners, multidisciplinary clinicians, health services researchers, and college student volunteers, Salud Juntos creates sustainable public health and clinical programs, using the World Health Organization (WHO) Chronic Care Model and demonstrated best practices. Programs are targeted to chronic disease prevention and/or management and are planned and implemented to optimize the allocation and integration of resources (volunteer, consultative, monetary and in-kind) needed to meet the goals and objectives of each, while recognizing Salud Juntos constraints (scope, time, and budget.)

Clinical Programs:

Our clinical programs are targeted to provide primary and specialty care as requested by our partner communities, with a focus on helping to develop sustainable models of clinical care and training of local inter-professional providers (e.g., physicians, nurses, and promotoras). Clinic and hospital staff gain knowledge and experience in evidence-based care, assessing referral needs, and attempting to assure continuity and follow-up



where required. Clinics and training thus far include pediatrics, family medicine, internal medicine, geriatrics, gynecology, cardiology, rheumatology, vision, and physical and occupational therapy. Every effort is made to abide by in-country protocols, and to emphasize skill-building and referral pathways, rather than to sweep in as “the experts”. We encourage health sciences and public health students and practitioners to help develop and participate in programs, and build meaningful long-term relationships, instead of less substantive “in and out” medical brigade experiences.

Evaluation and Research:

Salud Juntos is committed to building sustainable and effective models of public and clinical health. We value research and evaluation when it serves the community and meets with the full approval of the both the community and the affiliated academic investigational review boards. We make every attempt to disseminate our findings so that others might benefit.

Based upon Salud Juntos goals, we ask the following of all of our proposed and ongoing programs:

1. Is the goal of this program to empower and enrich the lives of people in Honduras through improved health practices?
2. Does evidence-based and on-the-ground data suggest a need for this program?
3. Have the local health committee and other Honduran partners (local and regional health department and Honduran Salud Juntos Board members) been consulted in the need for, and the development of, this program?
4. Do program components empower all aspects of the community, including the promotoras?
5. How will this program be tracked and evaluated?
6. What are the projected resources required (volunteer, consultative, monetary and in-kind), and how will the program be paid for? Will the program be self-sustaining?
7. How will program success be sustained?

Programs (as of 10/2010)^{1*}:

Our programs have evolved based on careful assessment of community needs and desires, consonance with the Salud Juntos mission, and an eye towards fiscal responsibility. When possible, programs are self-supporting; when not, focused fund-raising efforts are utilized to maintain the program. Our programs include:

- *Proyecto de Vista* (Vision Project-LG)- Vision screening project, training and evaluating the effectiveness of using promotoras for vision screening for correction (distance and near) and diagnosis of eye disease (with referral). (Drs. Dan Twelker and Joe Miller, Marion Robine)
- *Grupo de Hipertensión* (Hypertension Management - PO): This program involves group classes, medication management education and physical activity for community members with hypertension; services are provided by promotoras who are overseen by clinical staff, as well as leadership from the group membership; the program is low cost and self-sustaining. (Drs. LoGerfo, Harris, Fain, and Mohler, Sheridan Reiger)
- *Promotoras* (Community Health Representatives- PO & LG): Promotoras are the backbone of our community programming in Honduras, and are trained to run the hypertension, asthma, dental, and waste management programs. Each also assists with post-brigade patient follow up, attends all health

¹ Contact Sheridan Reiger, Executive Director or Jane Mohler, Co-Director, Clinical Programs at sheridanr@saludjuntos.org or jmohler@aging.arizona.edu for full program descriptions



committee meetings, hold a monthly health fair in one of the aldeas (satellite communities), and helps to advertise for coming brigades. (Sheridan Reiger, Sarah Zelek, Robin Bigelow, Dr. Jane Mohler)

- *Sonrisas Saludables* (Healthy Smiles-PO & LG): This dental education program is conducted in primary schools by promotoras and student volunteers, and consists of a *charla* (health talk) to educate about proper dental hygiene, a song entitled ‘Dolor de Dientes’, toothbrush, toothpaste and fluoride gel treatment every 6 months at a cost of 10 L (\$0.50) for children. (Dra. Ofelia Nazar, Robin Bigelow and Marion Robine)
- *Asma* (Asthma Management- PO & LG): Community households are trained on the operations of nebulizers (when to use, how to use, how to clean) in the treatment of asthma. Albuterol is provided by the Honduran Ministry of Health /Centros de Salud. (Sheridan Reiger, Robin Bigelow)
- *VÍA* (Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid-LG): Visual inspection of the cervix using acetic acid (vinegar) to detect cervical cancer has been successfully demonstrated in low-resource settings. Screening for women using this method can reduce the incidence of cervical cancer by 65%. This Program is in the training and evaluation stage. (Drs. Pam Lotke & Ilana Addis)
- *Grupo de Diabetes* (Diabetes Management – LG & PO): US and Honduran physicians, as well as promotoras are currently developing a diabetes group with methods similar to that of the hypertension mangament program. The first groups will be formed by the end of 2011. (Dr. Jim LoGerfo &Sheridan Reiger)

Please contact us if you are interested in learning more about participating with Salud Juntos.

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