Letter from the Executive Director

We have completed a year filled with great satisfaction and success. We share the joy of having helped 204 children with heart problems, providing them the opportunity for a healthy future.

This is a feeling felt by the whole Latidos de Esperanza team, including the medical and administrative professionals at Hospital Benjamin Bloom who have worked hard with passion and commitment to take care of these children in the best way possible.

Also, we extend our gratitude to all the companies and altruistic people who have joined this effort and contributed resources and time to continue healing hearts. We reiterate our mission to continue working with all our efforts and dedication to bring hope to all those hearts who are waiting for a second chance at life.

We wish you a 2015 full of success and blessings.

Ivonne López
Executive Director
The Community Investment Committee of TELUS International in El Salvador delivered in the second half of the year about $61,000 US dollars to seven nonprofit organizations to support 2015 social projects in the areas of health, education, art and culture.

Of the 22 applications received, Latidos de Esperanza was one of the non-profit organizations that the Committee selected. We are very honored and grateful for this selection which will allow us to continue healing Salvadoran hearts. The project will begin early next year and will benefit nearly 39 Salvadoran children. Through this donation we will acquire complete perfusion packs and other supplies.

This was the second installment of funds in 2014 with a total of $100,000 US dollars donated annually by the Community Investment of TELUS in El Salvador.

Catheterizations

In the last quarter of the year, 21 children received catheterization procedures. These children are now in excellent health. Thanks to the support of the Rotary Clubs of Santa Tecla, and Charlotte Harbor and Rotary International who partnered Rotary Global Grant 1420310 and were further supported by Rotary Districts 6960, 4240, 5130, Rotary Clubs of Noroeste, Sanibel-Captiva, Stratford, Naples, Tampa Interbay, Burlington, Woodstock-Oxford, Palgrave and Petaluma and also Chain of Hope UK, and Oakland Rotarian Peter Sherris. We are also grateful for additional Salvadoran support from Digicel, Melher, JPS equipment, and the Latidos de Esperanza Bowling for Heart event.

In 2015, we have set a goal of completing at least 40 catheterizations. These children have spent years on a waiting list. We invite you to join our efforts and together transform the lives of Salvadoran families.
We are grateful for the donated supplies and medications, which allowed the Salvadoran team to perform at least 13 additional open-heart surgeries. Thank you to Medtronic, Abbott Laboratories and MAP international for their product donations.

Latidos de Esperanza is a program that works throughout the year with Bloom Hospital in order to ensure that the surgeries are performed in a sustainable and reliable manner.

**Surgeries performed at Hospital Bloom**

We did it! We completed 2014 successfully, closing the year with 154 surgeries performed at Hospital Bloom.

Our main objective has been to support the completion of at least 150 pediatric heart surgeries annually at Hospital Bloom and to have worked together with the Salvadoran medical team, hospital administration, Rotary clubs, national companies and altruistic people who have contributed to the welfare of 154 families.

**Another year that our goal is reached!** We will continue working in 2015 to bring hope and a healthy future to children with heart problems.

**Nutritional Assistance Program**

Our nutritional program has been a success since its inception. It is a program that allows us to monitor the health of the children after healing their heart.

In the last quarter, we have added 8 families to the program who have received a monthly distribution of food, vitamins and toiletries. Also, the children are assessed by a nutritionist to ensure that they are in optimal health and reach a healthy weight.

Currently there are 31 children incorporated into the nutritional program from different parts of the country.
EVENTS

October - December 2014

Boston Children’s Hospital Training Visit

During the week of October 12th - 18th, 2014, the visiting team from Boston Children’s Hospital (rated #1 in pediatric cardiac surgery in the U.S. and globally) worked side by side with the Salvadoran surgical and ICU team to transfer knowledge and skills while operating on 10 Salvadoran children in need of cardiac interventions.

For the first time, the visiting team was joined by cardiovascular surgeon Dr. Luis Quinonez, a Salvadoran who now lives in the U.S. and currently operates at Boston Children’s Hospital. He had not returned to El Salvador for 37 years. We cannot think of a better way for Dr. Quinonez to have returned to his home country than by joining the team to help save the lives of Salvadoran children.

We thank the medical students from the University Dr. José Matías Delgado for assisting with translation during the training visit.

C. S. Mott Children’s Hospital, University of Michigan Training Visit

During the week of December 1st - 5th, 2014, the visiting team from C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital, University of Michigan (rated #3 in the U.S.) and Monterrey, Mexico continued to enhance the skills of the entire pediatric cardiovascular surgery and aftercare team at Hospital Benjamin Bloom.

Also, Dr. Mark Morales was the guest cardiovascular surgeon who for 11 years has been visiting our country to help children with heart problems.

During this training visit, 11 complex surgeries were performed and all children are back home enjoying excellent health for the first time in their lives.

We thank the sponsors who made this training visit possible including the Rotary Clubs of Santa Tecla, and Charlotte Harbor and Rotary International who partnered Rotary Global Grant 1420310 and were further supported by Rotary Districts 6960, 4240, 5130, Rotary Clubs of Noroeste, Sanibel-Captiva, Stratford, Naples, Tampa Interbay, Burlington, Woodstock-Oxford, Palgrave and Petaluma and also Chain of Hope UK, and Oakland Rotarian Peter Sherris. We also thank Salvadoran sponsors Hotel Sheraton President and Digicel.

We thank the translation and interpretation students from the Evangelical University of El Salvador for assisting with translation during the training visit.
On December 17th, 2014, Digicel held the annual Christmas party that year after year we have coordinated together. About 200 children and their families joined us to celebrate Christmas.

It was a morning full of surprises, entertainment, gifts and food. In addition, each child received a great gift, thanks to Digicel volunteers.

This festival is very special because it is a celebration of life, a celebration that allows us to see children running, playing, and smiling after their heart surgery, giving us confidence that they are in excellent health.

Special thanks to the Rotary Club San Miguel and Santa Ana Sirama for providing the necessary transportation for children coming from the East and West parts of the country so that they could join in the celebration. Also thank you to Industrias La Constancia for donating the drinks for the party.
Sponsors

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- Rafael Giammatei
- Personal del programa cardiovascular pediátrico del Hospital Bloom
- Frieda de García
- Gustavo Benítez
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- Sandra de Rubio
- Flor Ventura
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- Esmeralda Martell
- Lucy Bolaños
- Rita Cornejo
- Rebeca Rivas
- Ingrid Rivas
- Eunice Cañengues
- Lidia Cortez

UPCOMING EVENTS

Electro-physiology Mission
(February 2015)

Salvadoran-only Mission
(January 12th - 16th, 2015)

DONATE IF YOU CAN THROUGH THE FOLLOWING:

Bank Account (Banco Agrícola):
Fundación Latidos de Esperanza de El Salvador
Account Number: 5550025612
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www.latidosdeesperanza.org.sv