

HEALTH TALENTS INTERNATIONAL

Worthy of Celebration

Confession: I am not extremely good at celebrating, just not a rah-rah kind of guy!

I will leave it to the therapists and those who know me well to diagnose the underlying reasons; old fogey comes to mind, introvert fits as does "reserved nature." Translation, boring.

In my defense, I enjoy supporting and honoring those who are being celebrated. I traveled to Montana to celebrate a young friend's high school graduation in 2019 and to Oxford, MS for a recent wedding. Even now, my heart is grieving over two weddings I missed in December, Claire Coleman on December 2 and Amanda Covalt on December 3, both of them Health Talents treasures who invited me to their blessed events. *(I missed those weddings because I was attending our 50th anniversary activities in Guatemala.)*

A celebration of life for one who has passed...I'll do all I can to be there, drive, fly, walk or crawl!

Maybe I am better at celebrating with ...and maybe you are like me.

Our 2023 annual report is written so that you might celebrate with us. After all, fifty years is big deal.

A little over four hundred of you were present for our 50th anniversary celebration in Nashville, and a few from the US were able to join our 50th anniversary events in Chichicastenango and Clinica Ezell Hospital in Montellano. We had more than 2,000 present for our Chichi events and 850 at Ezell, and we want to add you to our celebratory number.

I invite you to celebrate with us by thumbing through the following pages. If you have a "rah-rah" moment, shout one out for me. If the angels celebrate one who is lost and then found, if Jesus deemed it worthy to celebrate weddings and feasts...shouldn't we?

Signed by one who is practicing the art of celebrating. *Rick Harper*



The banner at the top of this page is a photo of the wainscot painted to replicate the fabric loomed in Chichicastenango. The artist is HTI employee, Rafael Yeltzin He is legally blind!



DID YOU KNOW?

There are 756 children enrolled in the ABC program
57 need sponsorship
Prenatal ABC moms - 59
Prenatal ABC babies -32
5 moms need sponsors



To sponsor a child or prenatal mother, point your phone camera to the QR code.

Hand in Hand. That’s how the ABC child sponsorship program and scholarship opportunities work. Children are given assistance to stay in school, then when the time comes, scholarships are available for higher education. Life-changing opportunity! Please read this unsolicited letter from Otto, a recent recipient of a college degree.

“Good evening Brother Kemmel.

I just wanted to thank you, as the current director of TSI for all the support you gave me all these years. I thank my dear godmother Kristina Scott for the support she provided to me and my family, from elementary school to the diversified level.

I thank HTI, for giving me the opportunity to work, a job that was not only a source of economic income but also unconditional support during these almost 4 years, thanks to which I was able to graduate in: Nursing Technician from the Rafael Landivar University. I am grateful to the HTI team who make it possible to bring this service to several families to contribute to their social development and spiritual growth.

**Thank you very much for everything, you all are very much appreciated.”
Ottoniel**

Julie Stanley, Chair of the Scholarship Committee comments: “The Bennie McDonald Strawther Scholarship sponsors Guatemalans pursuing a career in nursing. Many HTI team members are previous scholarship recipients. You may have met Brenda Yacón. She is a previous recipient and graduate who works at Clinica Caris. She travels three hours to help on surgical trips at Ezell when needed. Or, maybe you met Ceci Quino? She is one of three current nursing students who lives in the Highlands but travels to Ezell when needed. What a great experience for a nursing student! Both of these women are bilingual in Spanish and Quiche, which is a blessing our patients. What a joy to see fruits of education!

25 of our Guatemalan HTI team came through the ABC or Scholarship program!



Staying Sharp! It has long been the aim of HTI to keep God at the forefront of all we do. So, a women's seminar was planned to encourage and educate ladies from the coastal region with Michelle Goff Founder and Executive Director of Iron Rose Sister Ministries, Author and International Speaker. She reports:

"A diverse group of women, ages 12 to 82 from more than 10 congregations, gathered at Clínica Ezell Hospital for a three-day seminar on "Knowing the I AM," presented by Iron Rose Sister Ministries. One delightful moment was when the women illustrated their favorite name(s) of God through a drawing or a song! By the end of the seminar, we noted the excitement of the equipped women to share what they had learned, their lightbulbs of understanding and discovery, and a new passion for the I AM who is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

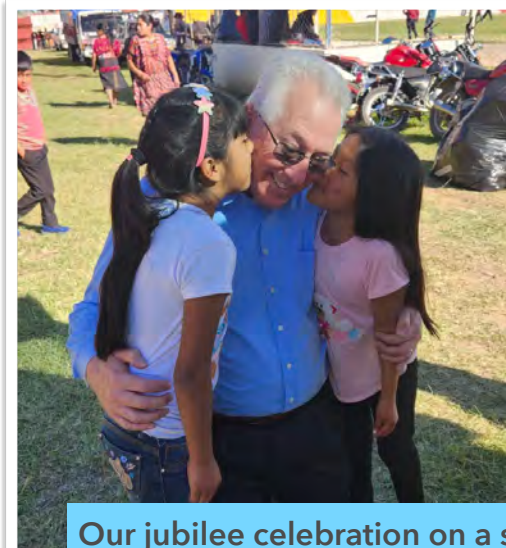
DID YOU KNOW?

There have been dozens of baptisms this year directly attributed to contact with mobile clinics and ABC!
1,000+ Bibles distributed
50 lay ministers have participated in leadership training over the past 3 years.

DID YOU KNOW?

ABC
Communities:
Highlands = 33
Coast = 19
Capital = 4,
112 volunteer ABC Coordinators.
Serving 756 Children

Jubilee! Chichi and Clinica Ezell Hospital



Our jubilee celebration on a soccer field in Chichicastenango, at least for me, concluded with a kiss...two of them in fact, sealing a glorious day with "un beso." Two precious young girls, giggling and seeking a little attention wandered over for a photo. Kneeling between them, surrounded by sweetness and innocence, I was blessed by tender kisses on each cheek. Is my joy evident?

A similar joy filled my day as Health Talents' board members, Mike Duncan and Gary Tabor joined me and 2,050 others for a morning of worship and celebration, followed by a meal. Yes, more than 2,000 were fed in the space of an hour, a testament to planning, ingenuity and servant hearts.

Our highland ministry team, along with dozens of area churches orchestrated a magnificent event. We enjoyed a cappella performances by various choral groups from area churches. Following lunch, each of the ABC coordinators were recognized; Kimmel and Lisa were honored, and multiple ABC performances were given. The churches of Christ in the highlands wanted to celebrate their relationship with Health Talents International and our fiftieth anniversary. Those on stage in leadership roles included children from our ABC and Scholarship programs who are now evangelists, accountants, teachers, nurses, dentists, physicians, song leaders and Bible teachers.

It was an honor to be among my Guatemala brethren and enjoy such a remarkable day! If you wish to work among a people who understand service, humility, and love...come to Guatemala. If you wish to see a church body, one made up of many who have been mistreated by others, live out the command to treat your neighbor as yourself...be a part of our ministry. And if you are lucky, your time might be sealed with a kiss! *Rick Harper*



Celebrate 50 years of Health Talents' Ministry!

I was privileged to attend the 50th Anniversary celebration held at Clinica Ezell Hospital with 850 guests from twenty-five churches surrounding Montellano as well as the Ezell TSI staff members.

The Spirit of God filled the tent as the worshipers sang songs of praise and celebration for what God has done through His people over the years. God has richly blessed the HTI/TSI work in Guatemala. He continues to bless each church that is sharing this life-changing message with growth.

These churches use HTI as a resource for outreach and healthcare for their congregants while also using us as a tool for bringing in those who need medical or dental care in their communities. It was a true blessing to be a part of such a service.

The celebration was made complete by hearing from Nery Castillo, a long-time President of the board of Talentos De Salud as well as the ABC coordinator in Guatemala City, Violeta Campos Gaitan de Bran. We also heard from elders and ministers from various churches and were led in worship by praise teams from the area.

It was a glorious day to sing, worship, eat, and give thanks to God who has so richly provided for fifty years. Our prayer is that He continues to allow our employees and volunteers to bless and be blessed by this ministry. **Bode Teague**



Jubilee! Celebrating Closer to Home



On October 28, 2023, the HTI board members gathered with more than four hundred of their closest friends at the Country Music Hall of Fame to celebrate the birthday of a mission born fifty years ago. Indeed, it was quite a celebration, one worthy of the Music City on a Saturday night.

The blowout was spectacular, and the venue exceeded expectations. In true Nashville style, guests were greeted at the door by a medley of live music, having bluegrass and mariachi bands competing for their attention. During the mocktail hour, we greeted old friends and made new ones. Many of us perused the silent auction where Guatemalan artwork, jewelry, and crafts were on display. Soon, guests were summoned to the main hall for dinner and presentations.



An auctioneer entertained the crowd by creating bidding wars between SEC rivals for team bracelets. Who knew that a Vols fan would donate \$125 for an orange good luck charm? (It doesn't work, in case you're wondering). The showcase of the evening was provided by Dr. Strawther who donated his mother's diamond solitaire for bidding...a huge success.

The festivities were well deserved, but if you weren't there, you might be wondering WHY we celebrated so enthusiastically. By anyone's standards, reaching fifty is a significant milestone and cause for reflection. In an era when half of all nonprofits fail in the first twelve months (according to Forbes), surviving fifty years is a big deal. And HTI isn't merely surviving. We are flourishing by any standard. More people are now involved than ever. You'll find the financials included elsewhere—the numbers speak for themselves. The organization is healthy both stateside and in-country. HTI is achieving its mission of spreading the good news through medical evangelism, and it's gaining momentum through a network of churches and supporters like you who are faithful to the cause.



There's also something special about the number fifty, specifically for believers. You might recall in Leviticus that Jubilee was celebrated every fifty years. Property rights were reverted to the original owners, slaves were freed, and the fields were allowed to rest. In the New Testament, the word Pentecost comes from the Greek word for fiftieth. Also known as the Feast of Weeks or Firstfruits, it took place fifty days after Passover, when God poured out his Spirit on his people as a sampling of the first fruits of the resurrection waiting for us in full. So in the first instance, the people offered their first fruits to God, and in the second, Jesus offered his first fruits to us. If that's not reason for Christians to celebrate, I'm not sure what is.



So there's no need to feel guilty for partying. In fact, we are commanded to do so. In Hebrew, Jubilee literally means "the blast of a trumpet". It was great seeing everyone there. And if you missed out, well, you did. But there is still hope. You can celebrate with us next time. We look forward to seeing you soon! **Stephen Harvey, MD**

Deliverers of Vision



Thomas Kincade is known as the painter of light... seventeen on our November Eye team are the *deliverers of vision*; and were very excited about the prospect of a week of eye surgeries and the many patients who would walk through the door.

Upon arrival, we were met by a dozen or so patients with stories to tell and lives to live. As the blind man told Jesus in Luke 18, "I want to see."

After unloading and getting settled in, we were off to the races to get everything done to prepare for the next day; we had vision to deliver and a God to glorify!

Sunday was the typical church experience, meeting with Dr. Walter, and then a quick lunch before beginning our surgeries with the first fourteen patients. Everything went well and by the end of the day, we were all ready for a good rest, anxious to learn of the surgical results in the morning and to hear these patients praise the giver of life.

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday meant getting up early, grabbing that first cup of hot coffee, then checking on patients from the day before. There were more older patients this week than usual; this made for difficult and sometimes time-consuming operations. What made a huge difference were the new surgical scopes that were purchased and delivered since our last eye trip. These new machines were fantastic and worked well for the surgeons. There were several occasions where they made comments about how good they were and how easy they worked.

Thursday evening, we celebrated our last day by enjoying some Choco-bananas and passing the mic to tell a quick story about our favorite moments during the week. Everyone had stories to tell.

Overall, the trip was an enormous success. Eighty-seven patients received sight during the week, and all were treated with the love of Christ, many for the very first time. It was a wonderful group of people to work with and all were very excited and already discussing their return in 2024. **Bode Teague**

In 2023 we treated 21,300 Medical Patients /10,800 Dental Patients

Donor Revenue*

Individuals \$943,959
 Churches, Foundations & Other-
 \$412,764
 Board Members \$185,235
 ABC \$324,070
 Mission Team/Trips \$119,520

*From our 2022 audit

Investments in Guatemala Ministry*

Operational-\$424,794
 Capital-\$196,500
 ABC-\$278,260
 Medicines and Supplies-\$119,540
 Guatemala Based US Leadership-\$144,198
 Mission Teams-\$45,975
 Scholarships-\$51,000
 Leadership Training-\$6,000

VISIONARIES
Pledging Page

Health Talents (HTI) has sought to provide healthcare and spiritual direction in Central America for 50 years. Today, God has established, through us, a team of over 75, Clinica Ezell Hospital, Clinica Caris, almost 800 sponsored ABC children, numerous scholarship students and a volunteer base of thousands. Join us as we begin our sixth decade and let's SEE where God leads us!

HEALTH TALENTS INTERNATIONAL
 1973 2023

Talento de Salud Internacional

You have seen glimpses of those we serve, and those we call family, our fellow servants.

You have seen love in action and received love in abundance; you honored the Father and you honored His Son.

God has blessed our shared ministry and in return, He has blessed you.

With eyes on the cross and hands on the hurting, we invite you, our VISIONARIES, to launch us into our sixth decade by sharing your blessings with a gift or pledge.

Help us grow God's Kingdom, help us grow our Health Talents family.



To view the video

“Glimpses of the Past, Eyes to the Future”,
Point your phone camera to this QR code.