

WINGS to Introduce New Integrated Program Model in One of Guatemala's Most Disadvantaged Areas

One baby is born every 15 minutes in the northern Guatemalan department of Alta Verapaz, and the likelihood that they will go on to live healthy, prosperous lives is tragically low. Starting in January 2013, in an effort to improve the health and wellbeing of all residents of this region, WINGS will unveil our new Reproductive Health Integrated Model (RHIM).

Meeting a Dire Need

The poor health and socio-economic indicators in Alta Verapaz present a clear challenge for WINGS to tackle. A majority of people live in poverty, over half are chronically malnourished, and the growing number of reported cases of sexual violence presents an enormous public health threat. Alta Verapaz also suffers from some of the highest rates of maternal and child mortality and teenage pregnancy in the country. Between January and August 2012, there were 3,593 births to teenage mothers. This means that roughly nine percent of the 38,645 teenage births reported this year nationally have occurred in a region that represents less than five percent of Guatemala's population.

A New Approach

The RHIM is an inclusive strategy that will improve the lives of families and empower people to advocate for their sexual and reproductive health rights. WINGS will offer education and capacity building to women, men and teens through outreach to schools,

community groups, and public and private organizations. We will also provide the important link to services through a family planning and cervical cancer detection mobile unit, referrals for permanent methods, and a network of Family Planning Promoters trained to distribute temporary methods.

Previously, our programs did not operate in the same regions at the same time. This led to obstacles for some families. For example, if a woman attended a family planning talk in Quiché and decided she wanted to start using a family planning method, she may have been prevented from doing so by her partner. Because the WINGS for Men program did not operate in that region, her husband may have not supported her choice due to a lack of family planning information. The RHIM will avoid these issues by saturating target communities with all of WINGS' services and working with every member of the family unit to understand the benefits of family planning.

"Our goal is to reach whole families and we want to involve the community, the schools and other organizations. We are excited to be going forth with a model that will educate men, women, teens, community leaders, government officials, and NGO workers in the same communities," explains WINGS' Executive Director, Janeen Simon. "We also plan on closely monitoring and evaluating the results over the next few years to measure our impact in this region where we have never before been



Our new integrated approach will meet the needs of the entire family in each targeted community.

active. This will help us to continue to improve our work and replicate the model in the future," she emphasizes.

Forging Alliances

Out of the 23 active NGOs in the department, WINGS is the only organization specifically dedicated to reproductive health. Based on our strong track record, we have quickly made inroads with government officials and community groups in Alta Verapaz. Both the Ministries of Health and Education have pledged to work alongside us in specifically addressing the high rates of teenage pregnancy and sexual violence. In addition, we are now part of a department-wide working group, assembled by the Health Director of Alta Verapaz, to avoid duplication of services and create a formal referral system to best address the needs of the population.

With this important new step forward, WINGS is confident that we will make your support go even further. We look forward to keeping you informed of our developments in the coming months.

Faces of WINGS



Youth WINGS participants take a pre-test as part of WINGS' ongoing Monitoring and Evaluation efforts.



WINGS Educator, Karina, with a class of Youth WINGS participants in Petén, watch a video in a makeshift classroom.



A mother and son listen to a talk about cervical cancer prevention.



WINGS Family Planning Educator, Ana (right), talks to María about finding a trustworthy family planning method.



The women and men of Asunción Chibox enjoy themselves during an interactive family planning activity.

Visit Us in Guatemala on a WINGS Discovery Tour

Have you ever wanted to hear directly from the people whose lives you touch through supporting WINGS? Breathe the crisp mountain air, walk the picturesque cobblestone streets, and explore the ancient Mayan ruins? Gain a deeper understanding of Guatemala, its people, and its landscape?

Beginning in February 2013, WINGS invites you to experience Guatemala and see WINGS' work first hand. In a vacation package that combines leisure, site seeing, and awareness-raising, our Discovery Tour will give you an in-depth view of WINGS' programs, impact, and the challenges facing Guatemala that can be tackled through family planning.

See Amazing Sights and Make Unforgettable Connections

Along your journey you will explore the colonial ruins of Antigua, the vibrant market of Chichicastenango, and the Mayan pyramids of Tikal. You will be welcomed into the homes of people like Gloria, from the community of San Pablo La Laguna, who received a tubal ligation, and Saulo, a WINGS for Men Peer Educator working in the department of Chimaltenango. They will share with you their culture, and explain first-hand how your support of WINGS has affected their lives.



The beautiful Lake Atitlán, one of the majestic places you will visit on the WINGS Discovery Tour.

the people you will meet and sights you will see. There are many wonderful memories to be made in "The Land of Eternal Spring." We hope you will join us to meet the people WINGS has impacted and see the beautiful country they call home.

Please see the sample itinerary (right) for a glimpse of a day on the tour. To view the full itinerary, prices, and learn about booking your reservation, please visit our website at www.wingsguate.org/get-involved/discovery-tour, or contact us at 415-230-0441.

We look forward to seeing you in Guatemala!

SAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 3

Morning

TRAVEL TO PANAJACHEL Take a private shuttle from Antigua to Panajachel, located on the shores of Lake Atitlán.

Afternoon

BOAT RIDE Take a boat trip with a local bilingual guide around the famous Lake Atitlan. Often called "the most wonderful lake in the world," the lake was formed by a volcanic explosion, and over time three volcanoes developed, creating the magnificent views you will enjoy today. You will have the opportunity to visit three villages where you will meet traditional weavers, take in the scenery, and shop for local handicrafts.

Visit with WINGS Beneficiary: In one of the villages, you will also meet a beneficiary of WINGS' Family Planning Program. Gloria will welcome you into her home for a traditional Guatemalan snack and explain how WINGS made a difference in her life by subsidizing her tubal ligation.

Evening

OVERNIGHT IN PANAJACHEL

Enjoy your time in this enchanting bohemian town, which over the years has attracted and inspired hippies, artists, and intellectuals such as Aldous Huxley, Ingrid Bergman, and Ernesto "Che" Guevara.

Thank You For Your Support

Without the commitment of our generous supporters and volunteers, our programs could not exist. We would especially like to recognize the following people for their outstanding contributions to WINGS and to Guatemalan families this year.

For their support as WINGS Sustainers:

Darren Carlton, George Cresswell, Kathryn Diamond, Barbara Leaver, Richard Ploth, and Susan Slater

For their generous donations of stock and in-kind donations:

Kathie Amble, Susan Cushman, Marty Bischoff, Hilary Duffy, and Milton Saier

For hosting benefit events for WINGS:

Linda Freedman, Hetty Friedman, and Suisan Sinclair

For lending their technical and creative expertise to WINGS to produce video materials:

Video Xonico

For providing WINGS with gorgeous photos of our staff and the people we serve:

Martin Herrera and Leslie Neale

For her continued advocacy on behalf of WINGS in Antigua, Guatemala:

Deet Lewis

For their volunteer support of the Development Department:

Regina Starkey Schmidt and Kathryn Diamond



Hetty Friedman (left) and Linda Freedman (right) welcomed Executive Director Janeen Simon to Massachusetts and held events in their communities to benefit WINGS.

Get Involved

DONATE NOW

Help WINGS continue our important work by making a secure online donation at www.wingsguate.org or send a check to our U.S. office at WINGS, 793 Ashbury Street, San Francisco, California, 94117.

HOST AN EVENT

Hosting an event is a great way to support WINGS and tell your community about our organization. If you would like assistance in planning your event, have questions, or need materials, please contact info@wingsguate.org.

DONATE STOCK

Donating stock is a simple and effective way to make a difference by supporting reproductive health and family planning services in Guatemala. For more information on how to donate stock to WINGS, please contact info@wingsguate.org.

BECOME A WINGS SUSTAINER

By committing to monthly donations, you help to build a stronger financial foundation for our work. To become a WINGS Sustainer donate online at www.wingsguate.org and in the "Donation Frequency" option, select "Monthly," or e-mail info@wingsguate.org for more information.

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