

Services Success: Reports from the Front Lines of WISHH
WISHH GDA Efforts Partner HIV/AIDS Hospice with Local Business

Submitted by Cade Fields-Gardner, Nutrition Consultant



Left to right: Isabel Bosch (Juan Bautista Gutierrez Foundation), Nayeli Vilanova (ASA Mexico), Eduardo Townson (WISHH Representative-Guatemala), Patricia Santis (La Casa), Anita Parker (WISHH-US), José Rozas Botrán (La Casa), Elena Clavijo (La Casa), Cade Fields-Gardner (WISHH Nutrition Consultant)

Guatemala has a population of over 12 million people with under 100,000 people living with HIV and AIDS and 75% of people living below the poverty line. The Central American WISHH team, comprised of Anita Parker (United States), Nayeli Vilanova (Mexico), Eduardo Townson (Guatemala), and Cade Fields-Gardner (United States) worked with Isabel Bosch from the Fundación Juan Bautista Gutiérrez in Guatemala to develop several collaborative projects that exemplify the public-private partnership concept. One such project includes the partnering of Hospice Internacional/La Casa de San José that provides hospice and care program services with local medium-sized bakery businesses, such as Nutrica, which has

a manufacturing plant near to the hospice. Products will likely include either soy flour, textured soy protein, or both and will be further developed during a February 2007 visit by the food technologist visit.

The hospice is located nearby Guatemala City in San Lucas Sacatepequez and provides both ambulatory medical services and resident housing and care for patients. Currently, 26 orphaned children who are living with HIV infection are among those housed on site. Nurses and international volunteers provide both services and medications that are badly needed to support individuals living with HIV and AIDS. In addition, home visits and partnerships with community clinics expand their service to this community.



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Anita Parker visiting with AIDS Orphan at La Casa de San Jose

Hospice President José Rozas Botrán and Director Elena Clavijo have expressed interest in developing a program that includes nutrition education for staff and targeted beneficiaries of the hospice and their community clinic partners, which could help the program to have widespread impact. The hospice recently moved into its new facilities, which Mr. Botrán expects to become an important model of care for people living with HIV and AIDS in all of Central America. Administrator Patricia Santis is enthusiastic about the potential benefits for all aspects of their program through interaction with WISHH personnel and consultants. The partnership will help to establish soy-based nutrition in HIV/AIDS programs as a standard of care in the region.