



## Solar Power is Saving Lives



Can you imagine your wife, daughter, sister, or loved one giving birth in a pitch-black room?

Unfortunately, births occur at night, and without power, all over the world. Health workers have to use flashlights—if they are available—to deliver babies. Thanks to the creativity, expertise and collaboration between Curamericas Global and United Solar Initiative, women are now able to give birth in a clean environment with electricity and trained health workers.

This partnership began in 2018, and has since transformed communities by saving mothers and children, and strengthening local healthcare systems. In May, 2020, the first solar system's inauguration in Kisii County, Kenya, was welcomed with excitement and relief. A local Kenyan solar company installed 27 solar panels at the local clinics, and the power switch was turned on. More than 40,000 people—all served through three local clinics—are benefitting from these solar projects.

### Shine Your Light, Save a Life!

Curamericas Global and United Solar are working to raise \$150,000 for two more sustainable solar projects in Kenya. You can shine your light and save a life by donating today at [UnitedSolarInitiative.org](http://UnitedSolarInitiative.org).

- \$500 helps to power lights for a safe delivery
- \$100 helps to power the refrigerator for vaccinations
- \$50 helps to charge cell phones for community health workers

## Why Give When You Don't Have Enough?

By Donna Akuamoah  
Relationship Manager  
Curamericas Global

Churches are closed down.

The stock market is unpredictable. Employers may have layoffs. Yet

you just received more mail from Curamericas Global. You open the letter cautiously—you really cannot read more about global suffering during COVID-19, and you really cannot give when your own future is uncertain.

The news is grim—as you expected. The Birthing Centers in Calhuitz, Guatemala, may close down soon because they lost funding. This means nearly 1,000 babies each year will not have a safe birth. Nearly 1,000 babies may not live. What are your options now?

You could put the letter away and continue your day, mulling over your own justified fears. You could focus on trying to help yourself and your immediate community, which is equally justified and needed. So why care about someone far away?

Because our lives will not be ruled by fear. We will take precautions to provide for ourselves and our immediate community, but we will not stop there. Humanity has never stopped there, even in times of war and despair. During the Holocaust, the Allied soldiers showed up. During slavery, our elders linked



arms—across race, gender and economic class—to end suffering. It is now our turn. What will your legacy be during COVID-19? Here are three things you can do now:

1. **Give What You Can:** Give as little as \$3 to provide lifesaving health care for a mother and baby. To donate, visit [curamericas.org/donate](http://curamericas.org/donate).
2. **Volunteer Virtually With Our US-based COVID-19 Response Team:** Make phone calls to immigrant families in North Carolina to share health information and resources. Follow up with healthcare providers to ensure immigrants receive health care.
3. **Stay Connected:** Host a Zoom call with a family in Guatemala or Kenya. Pledge to stay connected and offer encouragement during COVID-19.

Fear distorts our cognition. It leads to distrust of our neighbors; it binds us in a state of depression and paralysis. Science shows that when we give back in many ways—big or small—we have a greater sense of purpose, connection, and well-being. Even in difficult times, helping others can give us some sense of control and make it easier for us to cope.<sup>1</sup> Everyone wins. We are in this together, and we will get through this together.

*Please sign up for any of the above activities by emailing [Andrew@curamericas.org](mailto:Andrew@curamericas.org).*

1CNBC. "Helping Others During the Covid-19 Crisis Can Help Your Own Emotional, Financial well-being." July 16, 2020. <<https://www.cnbc.com/2020/07/16/helping-others-during-covid-19-can-help-your-own-financial-emotional-well-being.html>> Last visited October 15, 2020.

## Donor Spotlight

# Curamericas and the Consulate of Guatemala in Raleigh: Joining Forces for Social Good

By Cristina España, Vice-Consul of Guatemala in Raleigh, North Carolina

“Incredible things can be done simply if we are committed to making them happen.” This is a remarkable quote by Sadhguru, an Indian author known worldwide for his philanthropy and spiritual guidance. For me, his words describe what Curamericas Global has done in my home country of Guatemala, and where I live and serve now: the Guatemalan Consulate in Raleigh, N.C. The Consulate is in charge of around 80,000 Guatemalans living in North Carolina and 45,000 in South Carolina. Curamericas is filled with amazing and kind people who make you feel everything will get better, because they have made a commitment with you.

My name is Cristina España. I currently work as the vice-consul, and I have had the honor of being a witness to how Curamericas works with the people.

It all started in 2017, the same year we opened the Consulate. Andrew sent us an invitation through Facebook to attend a Curamericas event. We saw an impressive presentation of their long-term commitment in Guatemala, and how they were able to earn trust and save lives.

That event led to a formal meeting, which then led to having nurses and doctors from Curamericas at the Consulate. By 2019, we officially opened a formal program called “A Health Window” that was held during our Consular Saturdays. We would have around 200 visitors attend to get Consular Services. This was the first official, and recurrent, Health Window in a Guatemalan Consulate in the U.S., going beyond what anyone could see was possible back then.

Now with a pandemic, our community has suffered tremendously. The lack of health care, resources and information for our Latino community is truly visible. Resources are there, people that want to help are there, and Curamericas was ahead of its time and prepared to give access to health screenings and guide our Guatemalan nationals through much-needed education, services, resources and hope.

I believe there is no need to explain at this moment in history why having access to health care is so important. Curamericas opened a window of possibilities, and our

Guatemalan citizens felt cared for by them. Curamericas did not just provide health screenings; they made a social statement that let our citizens know they are human beings who deserve to be respected.

**A woman dies every other minute due to a lack of access to adequate health care. That is why, now more than ever, many lives depend on us. Curamericas Global is the safety net for entire communities. Even in a time of financial crisis, we must continue to serve those who are forgotten and whose lives are at risk.**

When the pandemic hit back in March, Curamericas, as always, was one of the first organizations to react. Curamericas helped the Guatemalan Consulate by coordinating volunteers who called more than 10,000 Guatemalan families. The information the volunteers needed to share was complicated and confusing; however, call by call, Curamericas patiently guided and supported one of the communities most in need. They provided information about symptoms, places to get tested and connections with food pantries. They helped us and our community ahead of time; they gave us hope through healing.

So, what makes our collaboration different and unique? We listen, we adapt. Curamericas has done, as Sadhguru describes better than I, incredible things, because they are simply committed to making them happen.

## Your Dollars at Work

Your support of Curamericas Global can end the deaths of mothers and children:



\$28 provides access to life-saving resources for one mom and her family for a year



\$84 supports a block (three families)



\$140 helps a neighborhood (five families)

## Mom-A-Thon: A Race to Save Lives!

Thanks to your unwavering support, we reached our Mom-A-Thon goal of \$500,000 in 2020!

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 25 teams were formed and shared Curamericas' mission to save lives through community and evidence-based education and resources. The participating teams were diverse—from high school students and young professionals to long-time supporters of Curamericas. Unable to meet in person, teams got creative with their fundraising efforts, hosting Zoom trivia nights, Facebook fundraisers and even virtual yoga! The donations and awareness you helped raise will allow Curamericas to serve 120,000 mothers and their families. Thank you and we're looking forward to another impactful Mom-A-Thon in 2021!

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Curamericas Global and the Guatemalan Consulate in Raleigh have partnered on a community phone campaign. To date, more than 400 volunteers have donated their time, helping us reach more than 10,000 Hispanic families with education and vital resources to deal with the COVID pandemic.
- Since 2008, Curamericas Global has been partners with Ganta United Methodist Hospital, a Liberian nonprofit that provides health care to more than 125,000 Liberians.
- Creating a world free of suffering from preventable causes is possible thanks to Curamericas Global's local partnerships that help transform communities, one person at a time.

## Maria

Curamericas is dedicated to serving women and children who are often abandoned by their community. Maria's story, captured at one of our Guatemalan project sites, is an example of how our local partners serve as allies during moments of despair. When she was a teenager, Maria's brother-in-law got her pregnant. Rejected by her family and forced to leave her home, Maria was left isolated and without support. Fortunately, she joined one of our Care Groups and worked with our Casa Materna staff throughout her pregnancy. Maria had a safe and successful birth at our clinic. Although her life has difficult moments, Maria is no longer alone.

## A message from Andrew Herrera:



830 mothers die every day from preventable causes. It's a haunting number that drives our mission every day to continue on. In fact, it's needed now more than ever as this global health crisis shines a stark spotlight on the challenges and dire circumstances forgotten families face every day. Since the pandemic began, no family, business or organization has been spared by these difficult times. But we have also seen individuals, groups of people, and communities at large step up and come together to support us with their time, talent and money.

As the leader of Curamericas Global, I am inspired every day by the resilience and unwavering commitment of our staff, our board, our volunteers and donors. Thanks to their dedication, we can continue to reduce maternal and child mortality rates, a significant global challenge that has only been exacerbated by the current pandemic.

Since 1983, we have worked with mission-driven individuals and local organizations to initiate sustainable changes to local healthcare systems. Together, we are committed to creating lasting benefits through education and long-term partnerships with local communities, local organizations and local leaders.

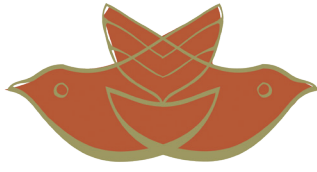
Most recently, I am energized by our renewed partnership with Green Rural Redevelopment Organization (GRRO) and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), which has been extended through June of this year. Through this collaboration, we are carrying out our mission to bring hope through health across the Carolinas during the pandemic.

Curamericas will lead, guide and train 180 Community Health Workers across more than 25 targeted counties in the state. We are working directly with community programs that are focused on health disparities magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic within local Latinx and Black communities.

In the end, we hope to reach more than 30,000 families within the next five months, connecting them to vital resources while also documenting and addressing their more significant needs.

Although the future is uncertain and the pandemic continues to affect our daily lives, I am confident that we will find ways to protect, support, and encourage each other little by little. Together, let's find joy and fulfillment in knowing this work and our commitments are not only saving lives, they're transforming futures for the most vulnerable communities.

*Andrew Herrera*



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HOPE THROUGH HEALTH

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Curamericas Global partners with underserved communities to make measurable and sustainable improvements in their health and well-being.

Your gifts make a lasting impact on the health of communities around the world.  
Thank you for your support!

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## Ways You Can Help

You can make a difference through Curamericas Global. You can make an impact on the lives of children and women around the world.

Become an active supporter and save lives by:

- Giving to Curamericas Global at [www.curamericas.org](http://www.curamericas.org)
- Joining the Mom-a-Thon at [www.run.curamericas.org](http://www.run.curamericas.org)
- Liking and sharing the impact of Curamericas Global through social media channels at [www.facebook.com/curamericasglobal](https://www.facebook.com/curamericasglobal); [@Curamericas](https://www.instagram.com/Curamericas); or [www.linkedin.com/company/curamericas-global](https://www.linkedin.com/company/curamericas-global)