



SOLIDARITY BRIDGE

Healing & Empowering in Latin America

2014

ANNUAL REPORT



15 YEARS OF
HEALING



VISION

We **transform lives** by promoting solidarity and justice through experiences of **service and healing**. We believe that saving a life and alleviating suffering can **sustain** families and **strengthen** communities.

MISSION

In a spirit of **mutuality**, we build a **healthier future** for the people of Bolivia and Paraguay through domestic and international partnerships. We **train and equip** their medical communities, **empowering them** to provide high-complexity surgery and other health care for those living in poverty.



*"These are our brothers
and sisters in the
human family."*

Fr. Bob Oldershaw

A NOTE FROM OUR FOUNDER



During our 15 years, Solidarity Bridge has grown tremendously, continually broadening our outreach. Our U.S. and Bolivian medical partners, companies and hospitals have been vital collaborators in every undertaking. During 2014, we laid the groundwork for new projects requiring even stronger commitments from partners in the Bolivian medical, civic and church communities. These developments, along with advancements in our established programs, give exceptional promise to our next 15 years. Our Bolivian partner physicians and institutions are ever more capable and well-equipped and the fruits of solidarity are seen in high-quality surgery and medical care for people in desperate need.

By building a strong bridge of shared life, love and resources, we take our place in the great web of interconnection inherent in creation. With every endeavor we undertake, we strive to faithfully reflect our participation in the life of God who is One and in whom we are all One.

So many have chosen to work with us in building and strengthening this bridge of solidarity. We can never be thankful enough!

Juan Lorenzo Hinojosa



All that we have done in these 15 years has been through grace. The Source of those many fruits—God—will be the Source through whom our next 15 years will unfold. Adelante!

**Ann Rhomberg,
Executive Director**

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY

In 1999, Solidarity Bridge began as a medical mission organization providing surgery for impoverished Bolivian patients. It soon became clear that much more was needed to make a lasting difference including training, equipment, and a year-round local presence. Puente de Solidaridad was formed in 2005 and facilitates efforts full-time from offices in Cochabamba and Santa Cruz.

Today, Solidarity Bridge provides advanced surgical training, equipment and supplies to support permanent programs in General Surgery, Gynecologic Surgery, Heart Surgery and Neurosurgery. Approximately six mission trips each year enhance programs by progressively upgrading local skills, stimulating new strategies and partnerships, and directly serving the most critical patients.

Where We Serve



15 YEARS OF HEALING



*DISCONTINUED PROGRAM



2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

	2014	1999-2014
Patients	1784	60,929
Surgeries	441	4772
Medical Supplies Donated	\$7,545,028	\$32,882,046
Medical Time Donated	\$1,276,507*	\$9,211,113
Number of Missioners	66	389**
Number of Mission Trips	6	69

*\$426,707 in time was donated by U.S. missionaries in 2014, while Bolivian partners donated another \$849,800 in time through our year-round programs.

**Many loyal missionaries return year after year; over the past 15 years, 389 individuals have filled 803 slots on 69 mission trips.

Revenue: \$8,721,731 (\$8,000,567 in-kind, \$721,164 cash)



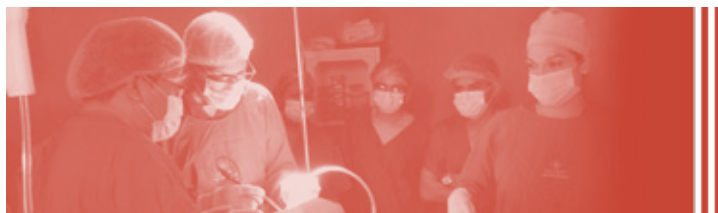
In-Kind: 92%

Individuals: 5%

Organizations/Corporations: 3%

Fair Trade: <1%

Expenses: \$8,728,495 (\$8,095,843 in-kind, \$632,652 cash)



Direct Program: 98%

Fundraising: 1%

Administrative: 1%

Net Assets: \$674,587 (\$375,000 in-kind, \$299,587 cash)

GYNECOLOGIC SURGERY PROGRAM

Hospital Location: Sacaba
2014 Procedures: 14
Mission Trip: July 26-August 3

Our mission team spent one week in Sacaba treating women who had traveled up to four hours to access procedures otherwise beyond their reach. Solidarity Bridge continues to explore ways to expand year-round gynecologic services for Bolivian women.



At Sacaba's Clínica Arévalo, Bolivian urologist Dr. Pilar Lara (left) worked alongside Dr. Janet Tomezsko, a missionary and specialist in female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery. On this mission trip, eight women benefitted from mid-urethral bladder sling surgery to treat stress incontinence.

The Gynecologic Surgery mission team helped Patty, 35, return home to her preschool-age children just three hours after endometrial ablation. This procedure is still novel in Bolivia, but often allows women to avoid a hysterectomy.



Thank you to Hologic for permanently loaning its Tower-Free Hysteroscopy System. The system vastly improves imaging capacities and the quality of our treatments.

GENERAL SURGERY PROGRAM

Hospital Locations: Cliza, Cochabamba, Punata and Tiquipaya

2014 Highlights: 142 surgeries, 21 gastroenterological procedures

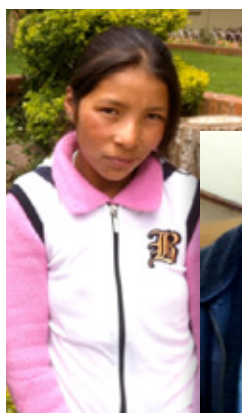
Mission Trip: Feb 14-23 to Cochabamba & Tiquipaya

Mobile Laparoscopic Surgery Campaign:

November 17-24 to Punata



The Puente de Solidaridad Cochabamba staff poses with Dr. Johnny Camacho (center back) moments before departure of the first Mobile Laparoscopic Surgery Campaign to the town of Punata, 90 minutes east of Cochabamba.



Ester's Story

At just three months old, Ester began having trouble swallowing milk. Aggressive medical treatment for congenital esophageal stricture followed by surgery at age four and years of other procedures all failed. Eating was painful and Ester, at 15, begged her parents to make her better.

Our General Surgery missionaries partnered with local doctors to remove and reconstruct Ester's esophagus. Her parents (right) were overjoyed with the news that surgery was a success!



Solidarity Bridge Medical Director and co-founder Dr. Enrique Via-Reque (left) and gastroenterologist Dr. Mike Fischer (center) present new equipment to Bolivian partner Dr. Daniel Guerra.

Mobile Unit Expands Care

Our General Surgery Program, based in Cochabamba, provides surgeries year-round performed by Bolivian partners. Until 2014, patients had to travel to one of the few suitably-equipped hospitals in the city. Many of the poorest rural patients are reluctant or unable to do so due to financial, cultural or logistical barriers. Our Mobile Unit is overcoming those obstacles.



Dr. Johnny Camacho was eager to share his laparoscopic skills with local surgeon in Punata, Dr. Norberto Manzano.

Our Mobile Laparoscopic Surgery Unit

consists of a full laparoscopic tower and anesthesia machine. All equipment can be disassembled and packed into portable carrying cases built to withstand long treks over cobblestone and dirt roads. Then, it's reassembled in rural hospitals.

The Mobile Unit was conceived, designed, and constructed over two years by Bolivian partner surgeon Dr. Jaime Vallejos and Puente de Solidaridad Medical Supplies Coordinator José Choque, with ongoing support from Solidarity Bridge leadership and missionaries. The first patients were treated in November 2014. Bolivian partner Dr. Johnny Camacho worked with local staff to perform 18 gallbladder and hernia surgeries.



Esteban

is a father of eight from the small town of Tolata Chica outside Punata. He is farming corn and potato fields again after hernia repair surgery.

HEART SURGERY PROGRAM

Pacemaker

Program Locations:

Bolivia: Cochabamba,
Santa Cruz and Tarija

Paraguay: Asunción

2014 Implants: 246

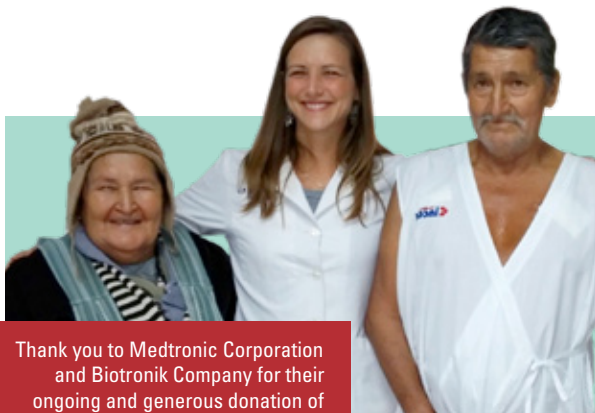
Advanced Cardiac Implant Mission Trip:

May 18-25 to Cochabamba and Santa Cruz

Most of our pacemaker implants are performed in Cochabamba and Santa Cruz by Bolivian partner cardiologists who also provide permanent follow-up for the 1,800+ patients who have been implanted since 2001.

Training expanded for complex needs

Dr. Marian Holland, electrophysiologist from the San Diego VA Healthcare System, worked with Bolivian partners at Clínica Belga in Cochabamba and Clínica Incor in Santa Cruz to hone skills in the implantation of complex defibrillator and cardiac resynchronization devices. She also headlined well-attended presentations on troubleshooting in the management of such implants.



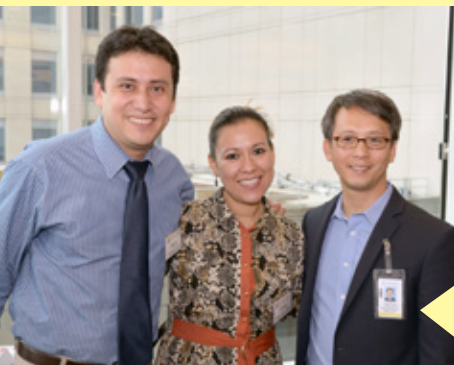
Vicente's Story

Vicente, a 73-year-old farmer, was on the verge of heart failure before receiving a cardiac resynchronizer implanted by Dr. Marian Holland (center) and local partner Dr. Roberto Mercado (not shown). Vicente's wife Ida can't hide her joy!

Thank you to Medtronic Corporation and Biotronik Company for their ongoing and generous donation of the pacemakers and other devices that make this program possible.

SOLIDARITY VISITS impart best practices

Bolivian partners studied best practices at Chicago's Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital for replication at the new pediatric CCU in Santa Cruz. In September, Dr. Alejandra Uriona, Director of the Santa Cruz Children's Hospital, toured Lurie with a focus on hospital design, administration and organization. In October, Dr. Virma Severiche, pediatric cardiologist, and Dr. Paulo Burgos, cardiologist, observed and met with peers to study post-surgical care for the most delicate infants.



New surgical facilities and Bolivia's first Cardiac Care Unit (CCU) in a public children's hospital are opening doors at the Hospital de Niños in Santa Cruz, thanks to partnerships spearheaded by Solidarity Bridge. This means many more children can soon be reached by our program.

Open Heart

Program Locations:

Cochabamba and Santa Cruz

2014 Highlights: 16 surgeries



Rosi's Story

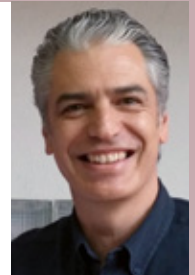
Little Rosi was missing school, plagued by coughs and colds. She was seven before being diagnosed with a constellation of cardiac defects known as Tetralogy of Fallot. Bolivian surgeon Dr. Carlos Brockman and his team used mesh donated through Solidarity Bridge to patch her heart, and Rosi is now back at school. Through the generosity of Isaac and Renee Goff, over 100 children like Rosi have received open heart surgery since 2005!

Meet one of our Heart Surgery Program Partners

Twelve years ago, Solidarity Bridge founder Juan Lorenzo Hinojosa approached one of Bolivia's premier cardiac surgeons, Dr. Carlos Brockman, to ask for his help to implant pacemakers for impoverished Bolivian patients. He has been a leader in our Heart Surgery Program ever since.

"I want to thank Solidarity Bridge for helping us to help."

Dr. Carlos Brockman



Thank you to Solidarity Bridge Board member and frequent missionary, Dr. Daniel Lum, Chief Medical Officer of the Clinically Integrated Network at Lurie, for opening doors for Solidarity Visits.



NEUROSURGERY PROGRAM

Program Locations: Cochabamba, La Paz and Santa Cruz

2014 procedures: 26 Neurosurgeries

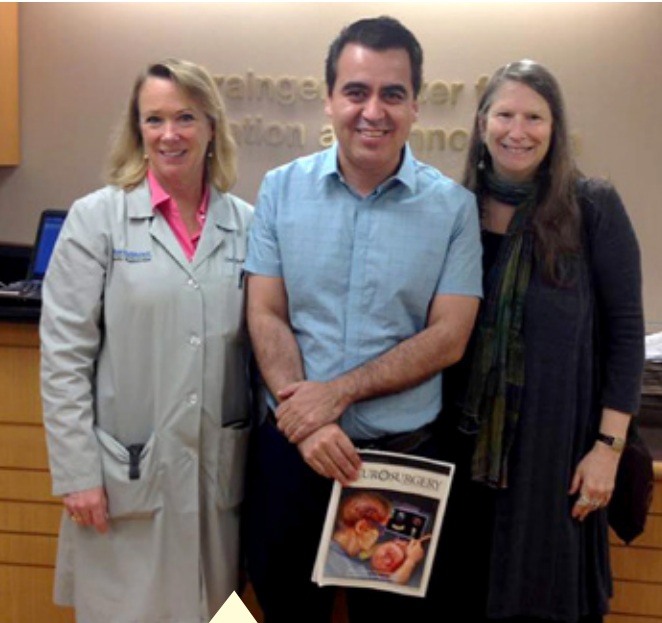
Mission Trips:

February 23-March 2 to Cochabamba and Santa Cruz

November 15-22 to Cochabamba and La Paz

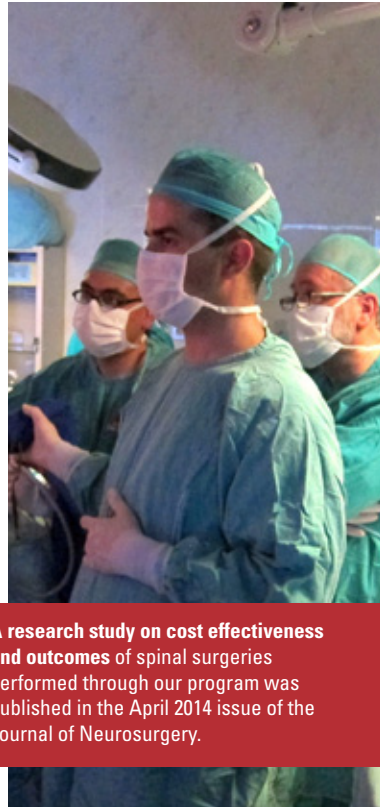


In addition to providing surgeries and training, mission trips allow Bolivian partners to consult U.S. neurosurgeons on complex cases. Pediatric neurosurgeon Dr. Art DiPatri evaluates Laura who suffers from arteriovenous malformation.



Solidarity Visit

As part of a summer 2014 fact-finding visit to Chicago to shape the Institute for the Development of Neurosurgery, Bolivian neurosurgeon Dr. Gueider Salas (center) toured facilities and met with leaders at Lurie Children's Hospital, the University of Illinois at Chicago Hospital, and Rush University Medical Center. Dr. Salas also observed neurosurgical training techniques at the Grainger Center for Simulation and Innovation at Evanston NorthShore Hospital, hosted by Dr. Gail Rosseau (left). Dr. Roberta Glick (right) champions the education and pediatric surgery areas of our Neurosurgery Program. She completed her fifth mission trip in 2014.



A research study on cost effectiveness and outcomes of spinal surgeries performed through our program was published in the April 2014 issue of the Journal of Neurosurgery.

Great strides were made in 2014 to take **neurosurgical training to new levels of recognition and institutionalization**. An Endoscopic Transnasal Surgery course, imparted by U.S. missioners in two Bolivian cities, was validated by the University of Massachusetts Medical School and certificates were issued to attendees. Progress continues toward the 2015 opening of the **Institute for the Development of Neurosurgery** in Bolivia. The Foundation for the International Education of Neurological Surgeons (FIENS) committed to offer its Neurosurgical Boot Camp through the Institute, and multiple partners formalized other diverse roles and contributions.



Tomasa's Story

Tomasa was diagnosed in 2009 with a tumor on her pituitary gland. Traditional surgery failed to remove the tumor, and by 2014 she was confined to a hospital bed and losing her eyesight. Transnasal endoscopic surgery introduced in Bolivia by Solidarity Bridge helped restore Tomasa's vision and active life.



MULTI-SPECIALTY MISSION TRIP

Location: Tiquipaya

Mission Trip: Sept 24 - Oct 5

Patients Served: 1,366



Pediatrician Dr. Chris Canzoniero was happy to give Gloria, 4, a clean bill of health!



Missioner Dr. Magued Khouzam with Bolivian partner surgeons Dr. Luis "Lucho" Herrera and Dr. Jaime Vallejos.

Mission internists visited other sites to treat patients unable to travel to the Tiquipaya hospital. Angela, 78, was evaluated for back pain by Dr. Kevin Regan at an elder home.



Tiquipaya missionaries, Puente de Solidaridad staff and board members, Bolivian medical partners; Dharma



The 2014 **Multi-Specialty Mission Trip** paired U.S. specialists with Bolivian peers at the Tiquipaya Municipal Hospital. Our specialists offer patient care and training and also help Solidarity Bridge better understand the health challenges Bolivian patients and caregivers face day to day.

We touched the lives of many patients in many specialties.

Cardiology: 150 • Dermatology: 562 • Gynecology: 171
Internal Medicine: 193 • Pediatrics: 267 • General Surgery: 23



Cardiologist Dr. Mark Ottolin brought a portable echocardiogram machine so patients could receive advanced diagnostics and local staff and students could receive specialized training.

Monsignor Tito Solari, Archbishop of Cochabamba and long-time supporter of Solidarity Bridge, graciously assisted Fr. Bob Oldershaw during the bilingual Sunday Mass for missionaries and Bolivian staff and partners.



and Greenola Style craftspersons, patients and family - just a few of many in the Solidarity Bridge family!



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A shipping container valued at \$1.6 million was sent to Bolivia in 2014. The donated equipment, instruments, and supplies will be used during mission trips and throughout the year by our partners, equipping hospitals to better serve the many people who rely on our care.

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Dharma Trading Company sells clothing made by artisans in Bolivian fair trade cooperatives and takes no profit from sales. The Goff family, Dharma Trading owners, generously supports our pediatric heart surgery efforts.

Greenola Style, founded by Jennifer Moran, a former Solidarity Bridge intern, is a fair trade fashion retailer/wholesaler working with Bolivian women artisans. **Puente de Solidaridad** manages exports from Bolivian cooperatives to both Dharma Trading Company and Greenola.



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