



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR VICE CHAIR, TINA JONES



Tina Jones (center) and her daughters, Ashton (left) and Lori, volunteering in Guatemala in April, 2017.

### What is your legacy, and is Curamericas Global part of it?

Thankfully, for my family, the answer is YES!

Not long ago, I was a busy, working mom trying to keep up with what felt like too many demands. Focusing on my legacy seemed out of reach. Then, a friend introduced me to the life-saving work of Curamericas Global, and I knew that I wanted to do more.

**Curamericas Global exemplifies legacy by educating and empowering people to care for their own communities.**

Areas with devastating infant and maternal mortality are turned into model health education centers. Educated, empowered women pass those lessons to their children. Volunteers and donors return year after year to serve in partner communities and provide funding for vital programs.

These days, life is no less demanding, but my daughters and I make time for each other AND for Curamericas Global. Consider making Curamericas Global a part of your legacy today.

## Communities are vital to improving and extending the reach of local healthcare systems



Program manager Florence Amadi trains local staff in Kibera, Kenya.

### BY FLORENCE AMADI

Curamericas Global, Program Manager – Africa

There is no doubt — communities are the center, the driver of change for local healthcare systems. Without engaged individuals and communities, transformative interventions can't take place — more so where resources are few and far apart, which is the reality of the regions that Curamericas Global works with.

Partnering with communities is the unquestionable way to address some of the most pressing, preventable causes of maternal and child deaths. That's why at Curamericas Global, we put the people we serve at the center of our work. Our programs seek to empower the communities and our local partners to recognize, prioritize, and address their own needs. Together, under their vision and leadership, we align efforts for change.

We identify and train community-level champions who then bring critical lifesaving health education and services to households in some of the most remote communities. We do it by equipping them with practical knowledge and tactics that align with local infrastructure, and take into consideration the local cultural and socio-economic barriers they face.

A tangible example of this approach is our *Casas Maternas* (birthing homes) in Guatemala. This program proves that our census-based approach cost-efficiently and dramatically increases the demand for health facility births, improves coverage of maternal/newborn care, reduces childbirth mortality, and empowers communities to improve their own health — a model we will soon be replicating in our project sites in

*Continued on page 3*

## Donor Spotlight: Long-term partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®) continues a legacy of transformation and health into 2020

BY DR. MARIO VALDÉZ

National Director of Curamericas Guatemala,  
an independent Guatemalan nonprofit

There are few organizations in the world that give careful attention to the impact of their interventions; one of them is Curamericas Global.

Their community-based methodologies and timely care through their clinics, *Casas Maternas*, offer comprehensive health care to everyone. The organization focuses on never refusing care. They prioritize the most vulnerable, which has led them to work in remote, often forgotten places.

Curamericas Global has decreased deaths in mothers and babies, reduced malnutrition, and supported the best alternatives to bring hope through health in the communities they serve.

Since 2002, Curamericas Global has supported isolated, poor, and needy communities in Guatemala. In these 15 years, we can proudly tell stories of many people whose lives have been saved. From pregnancy and childbirth, to infants, children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly, because of Curamericas Global, all have received support through the *Casas Maternas*, a program that is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, year-round.

Recently, Curamericas Global has been able to scale up the *Casa Materna* model across the world, thanks to a grant by Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC).

Since 2009, we have partnered with RMHC to train health care workers and save lives. Investing in our mission over time, RMHC has enabled us to reach hundreds of thousands of families in the most remote communities, where no health care is available.

Thanks to RMHC, the success of *Casas Maternas* is now being replicated in Kenya and Sierra Leone, as well as in new communities in Guatemala. With their support, Curamericas Global is continuing its legacy of transformation and health into 2020.



Above: Traditional birth attendants that are now local Community Health Workers. They help Curamericas Global reach a population of over 180,000 Mayans with vital health services and education.



Traditional birth attendants, patients, and families participating in educational programming at the Casas Maternas. These maternal health facilities provide a safe environment where cultural norms and traditions are respected.

## Your Investment at Work

The cost of your morning coffee for a week could provide year-round health care for a family.

BY ANDREW HERRERA

Curamericas Global Executive Director

Did you know that through Curamericas Global, you could provide lifesaving health care for a mother and her family, for just \$28 a year?

Not only do we keep our costs low, but we also leverage other funds to maximize the impact of your gift. For example, we insist that families and communities participate in financing their own healthcare. While not every family can afford the full cost of delivering a baby at the hospital, nearly every family can make a small contribution.

We also work with the local governments to ensure they provide staff, services and supplies to the communities we serve. True sustainability can be achieved when families and local governments are working to provide basic healthcare to and for themselves.



Mothers being trained by Curamericas Global on hand washing, water treatment and storage, proper feces disposal, and the treatment of diarrheal disease through educational home visits and the use of Community Health Promoters.

# \$275

covers the cost of a **clean, safe delivery.**

# \$25,000

per year covers the **operation of each facility.** Around 1,150 women, including those in pregnancy care, delivery services, and programming for support groups and peer education, are served.

# \$45,000

covers the **building materials, furnishing, and supplies** for each new facility, built entirely from volunteer labor.

You can donate any amount at [www.curamericas.org/donate](http://www.curamericas.org/donate).

## Communities (cont.)

Kenya and Sierra Leone.

My personal experience growing up in a village with little to no resources and witnessing mothers suffering through pregnancy complications — and even death — has driven my desire to make a difference. And that is exactly what Curamericas Global does.

The organization helps women access qualified medical care, education, and vital resources, and gives babies, which are otherwise born on the roadside and left to take their first and last breath right there, the

opportunity to survive and thrive through their fifth birthday and beyond.

Through the mission of Curamericas Global, I have been able to make my passion for helping the most vulnerable a reality. Travelling to the communities we serve and working alongside talented and positive local people — all dedicated to improving the health of women and children — is a powerful and greatly fulfilling experience.

Seeing individuals, families and communities who never cease to smile and dance, despite living in what many would

consider dire conditions, has been such a privilege. I have danced, eaten, shared, and laughed with them. But the most memorable moments are those when I see women and men involved with and committed to improving their own health and that of their children.

Collaborating with people of like minds and dedication, and seeing the unwavering support of our donors, helps me believe that we can and will not only end maternal and child deaths, but also continue to create happy-ending stories, stories of life, not death!



Curamericas Global  
HOPE THROUGH HEALTH

318 W. Millbrook Rd. Suite 105  
Raleigh, NC 27609

(919) 510-8787

[www.curamericas.org](http://www.curamericas.org)

[info@curamericas.org](mailto:info@curamericas.org)

[f/CuramericasGlobal](https://www.facebook.com/CuramericasGlobal) [@Curamericas](https://twitter.com/Curamericas)

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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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# Mom-a-thon: A Race to Save Lives

Your support matters; join us and spread the word!



*Guadalupe and her two children. Guadalupe says that the Casa Materna staff was able to detect the complication of her pregnancy early and prepare for a high-risk delivery. If she were to have given birth at home, like most women in her community, her daughter may not have survived.*

The Mom-a-thon is Curamericas Global's annual virtual race to save the lives of moms and children in forgotten communities around the world.

For 26 days, Curamericas Global will ask individuals to consider contributing \$3 - \$10 per day to a remarkable cause — saving lives.

The Mom-a-thon has been created based on a 26-mile marathon... but without the running!

Once participants have registered for the race, we're asking that instead of running 26 miles, they devote a minute a day to our daily stories, which will inform them about the reality that many mothers and children face across the world. In the end, they will hopefully feel compelled to give and encourage others to do the same.

During this time, participants can also learn about what Curamericas Global is doing to reduce maternal and child mortality by fighting and preventing diseases like malnutrition, pneumonia, and complications from childbirth.

**Our goal is to reach 12,000 families by raising \$350,000 this year. Join the Curamericas Global Mom-a-thon now at: [www.run.curamericas.org](http://www.run.curamericas.org).**