

# The Tarahumara Times

March 2020 - Issue 5

## Strategic Planning through 2024 / Santa Teresita Medical Unit Update

In September of 2019 we re-launched our strategic planning through 2024 with the advice and guidance of Pedro Guzmán at the Universidad Iberoamericana in León, Mexico. Each of our projects is currently under review according to our Mission Statement by conducting a FODA exercise (Forces, Opportunities, Debilidades (Weaknesses) and Amenazas (Threats). We view “planning” as an administrative function that defines objectives and establishes strategies for the achievement and development of programs. This work allows us to set a course, reduce uncertainty, improve efficiency and establish standards that can be measured.

We can define our Mission in the following way: “CARING FOR, SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE SIERRA TARAHUMARA, ESPECIALLY THE MOST VULNERABLE AND NEEDY RARAMURI PEOPLE. WITHOUT EXCLUSION OF PEOPLE BY RACE, CREED OR ECONOMIC SITUATION WE STRIVE TO SUPPORT THEIR CULTURE AND LIFE BY CREATING IMPROVEMENTS IN HEALTH, EDUCATION, SUBSISTENCE, SECURITY AND USE OF THE ENVIRONMENT. WE AIM TO INTEGRATE ALL THESE SERVICES BY APPLYING TECHNOLOGY THAT IS WITHIN OUR REACH AND BY RESPECTING THEIR DIGNITY AND FREEDOM”.

**Santa Teresita Medical Unit Update:** We hired a full-time human resources manager who is in charge of interviewing/hiring, training, conflict management, problem solving and performance evaluations. The biggest challenge we have is to educate our employees about the overriding purpose of our institution by conveying to them the deep sense of our reason for being: to serve the Tarahumara community. We are focusing on the implementation of an appropriate curriculum to motivate our staff. We continue to experience the challenge of managing our certified medical staff, most of whom come for a short period of time prior to entering a post-graduate specialty. Improving our means to impart, in this short time, a methodology to link our medical staff to the needs of our patients is an ongoing and difficult process. Nonetheless, we are very proud of our achievements in 2019 as follows:

- In our outpatient clinic, 4,799 patients were treated of which 1,147 were pediatric patients and 3,576 were adult patients. There were also 76 emergency cases across all ages.
- We had 328 hospitalized patients, 159 adults and 169 pediatric patients. We were able to accommodate these patients with a total of 6,617 days of hospital care.
- We performed 2,452 laboratory studies for outpatients and hospitalized patients. The X-ray studies amounted to 792 of which 496 were performed on hospitalized patients and 296 were administered to outpatients.
- We had 243 routine transfers to other facilities of which 116 were adult patients and 127 were pediatric patients. We also had 95 critical transfers to other medical facilities, of which 90 were patients with tuberculosis and 5 were suffering a severe level of malnutrition.
- We had 4 deaths, of which 3 were pediatric cases.
- The dining room for relatives of patients offered 20,680 meals of which 12,906 went to relatives of our patients and 7,774 to other people in need.

Many thanks to all of you for your ongoing belief in and support of our Mission. You are all integral partners in the development and delivery of vital services to the Tarahumara community. *Fr. Miguel, General Director*

“Peter, do you love me .... feed my sheep.” *John 21:17*



[tchforegon.org](http://tchforegon.org)



**Tarahumara**  
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  
FUND  
Of Oregon

## A Brief History of the TCHF / Creel, Chihuahua, Mexico

The Tarahumara Children's Hospital Fund (TCHF) consists of three separate groups working together to support the Tarahumara Mission in the Copper Canyon of Mexico. These groups are located in Michigan, Louisiana and Oregon. The Mission headquarters is based in Creel, Chihuahua, Mexico with Fr. Miguel Quintanilla, S.J., serving as General Director since March of 2015. Long-time advisor and liaison Fr. David Ungerleider, S.J., is based in Tijuana, MX and works closely with Fr. Miguel to coordinate the activities of the U.S.-based groups with the Jesuit Provincial Authority.

Our purpose is to raise money and awareness in the United States to support vital services provided to the Tarahumara Indians in the Copper Canyon region of Mexico. A small hospital was opened in 1979 that has 75 beds, 2/3 for children. A "Water for Life" initiative began in 2015 is currently in the process of testing, remediating and installing new clean and sustainable wells. A boarding school teaches children about their own culture and language, the Spanish language and teaches them skills to make a living as farmers, craftsmen, and teachers of their people. In recent years, outdated and obsolescent oxygen generating and X-Ray equipment has been replaced as well as heavily used ambulances and rehabilitative playground equipment.

The Tarahumara people do not have the means to pay for these services themselves. The Mission must rely on the support of foundations and individuals who recognize the importance of both preserving a cultural heritage and ensuring the healthy future of a tribal community. Fr. Miguel continues the belief of "helping people help themselves" put forth by Fr. Verplancken back in the 1960's. The Mission does not just "hand out" charity today: It trains and uplifts the Indian people so that they can provide for themselves tomorrow.

**Creel, Chihuahua, Mexico:** Creel is a town in the Sierra Tarahumara (part of the Sierra Madre Occidental) of the Mexican state of Chihuahua, located 109 miles to the southwest of the state capital Chihuahua City. At the census of 2010 it had a population of 5,026 inhabitants (down from 5,334 in 2005).

Near Creel is Divisadero, perhaps the best-known overlook of the "Three Canyons" area of the Copper Canyon, as well as Basaseachic Falls, one of the highest waterfalls in Mexico. Creel was historically a logging town, although tourism has become the primary industry over the last 25 years. Today, there are many hotels, restaurants and a number of tours down into the canyons.



National Provincial View of Chihuahua



Regional City View of Creel

*From the desk of John and Peggy Brockamp, President and Secretary of the TCHF of Oregon*

We would like to take this opportunity to share some good news regarding the development of our Endowment Fund. Since our last newsletter in December of 2019 we have had a sizeable increase in this Fund. We were the very happy and excited recipient of a major gift from an estate in Sacramento, CA as well as one from long term supporters in San Francisco, CA. Donations arrive on a regular basis from all across the USA. Often times, we have no idea how these donors learned about and then decided to support the TCHF. Perhaps they visited this region in the Copper Canyon of Mexico many years ago and witnessed firsthand the dire living conditions there. All of these gifts, both large and small, make our mission worthwhile and will support the Tarahumara people in perpetuity. No gift is too small: a memorial to a deceased friend or relative, remembering Father's or Mother's Day or even a Christmas or birthday remembrance. Every one of these thoughtful acts illustrate the way the TCHF has grown and we are most grateful for that.

As Mother Theresa once said, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can all do small things with great love."

Thank you to our entire community of supporters. Please visit our website ([tchforegon.org](http://tchforegon.org)) for updates and accomplishments at the Mission in Creel. If you have any questions or comments please contact us at the information shown below. *J & P*

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*John Brockamp (Pres) / Peggy Brockamp (Sec) / Paul Kester (Treas)*

*Fr. Miguel Quintanilla, S.J. - General Director*

*Fr. David Ungerleider, S.J. - Liaison and Advisor*

*Average Temperatures / Precipitation in Creel in March*

*High Temp 64 F / Low Temp 27 F / .75 Inches*

FOR INFORMATION ON CREEL AND THE COPPER CANYON:

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[visitmexico.com/en/main-destinations/chihuahua/creel](http://visitmexico.com/en/main-destinations/chihuahua/creel)

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