Quina Care NEWSLETTER

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In this newsletter we look back on the broadcast featuring Floortje. Maarten Meijer and Anje Post share their experiences as volunteer physicians at Hospital San Miguel. We also introduce a staff member, highlight several fundraising initiatives and our renewed Quina Yura tree. In addition, you can read about changes within the board and a report from a board member's visit to Puerto el Carmen. We conclude with the quarterly figures.

Floortje `to the end of the world`

Floortje Dessing visits Puerto el Carmen.

And finally, the moment arrived: the broadcast of Floortje to the End of the World on January 26! We had been looking forward to it for a long time, especially after seeing the trailers shown immediately after the national evening news — it was very special to see our work featured on television. The episode was beautiful. All aspects were portrayed clearly: the people behind Quina Care and the hospital, and the sometimes challenging and dangerous environment in which the staff carry out their work. Volunteers in both the Netherlands and Ecuador were also highlighted, showing the time, dedication, and commitment they give — and have given — to the project. The camerawork and



direction captured everything wonderfully. Now that the excitement surrounding the broadcast has settled, we can take a first look at the impact. More than 1.5 million viewers watched the episode. This resulted in an overwhelming number of positive responses: compliments, encouragement, donations — both financial and material — and expressions of interest from people wanting to volunteer. Many long-standing donors and sponsors also watched the broadcast and shared how proud they felt to contribute to the project, both in the past and today.
All in all, it was a special experience and outstanding publicity for Quina Care and the hospital. Missed the broadcast and want to watch it back? Click here.



Receptionist Dayana introduces herself

"Throughout my life I have learned that dreams are achieved through dedication, patience, and perseverance."



"My name is Dayana Botina. I am 32 years old and originally from Puerto El Carmen, in the Putumayo canton. I am the mother of two wonderful children, aged 15 and 8, who are my greatest motivation to keep moving forward every day and build a better future.
I spent my childhood and teenage years in Puerto El Carmen, where I attended primary and secondary school at Unidad Educativa San Miguel de Putumayo. Despite difficulties, my parents ensured that we never gave up on our education. I became a mother at the age of seventeen. After graduating from high school, I moved to Quito, where at eighteen I began working in customer service for a year and a half."

Click here for Dayana's story.

Visit of Cootje Bouwman-Zaaijer (Chair of the Board of Quina Care) to Puerto el Carmen

"A valuable learning experience about what working under these circumstances means for hospital management."

"At the beginning of December, I once again visited Puerto el Carmen and, as always, it felt a bit like coming home. The warm welcome from the hospital staff and, of course, seeing the children and grandchildren again.
On the way from Coca Airport, where Jacob picked me up by car, to Puerto el Carmen, we made our usual stop in Lago Agrio. Not only to do some shopping at the supermarket, but also for a few business appointments, such as visiting the pharmacy for several specific medicines and stopping by the electricity company to discuss the problems with connecting the solar panels.
At the electricity company, Jacob introduced me as the "President" of the Foundation — an introduction not to be underestimated in a country where hierarchy still plays a significant role. For me, it was also a valuable learning experience, showing what working under these circumstances means for the hospital's leadership.
Not long afterward, Jacob informed us that the problems with connecting the solar panels had been resolved. Perhaps accompanying him to that appointment really did help It was also wonderful to see how the hospital has grown into a fully fledged hospital, now that the operating theatre and maternity ward are fully in use.
As always, time flew by, and once again there was the sadness of saying goodbye. Fortunately, we can keep in touch through video calls, and I know that I will be welcome again next time!"





Experiences of volunteer doctor Anje Post at Hospital San Miguel

"No matter how poor patients sometimes are, almost everyone wants to contribute in their own way."



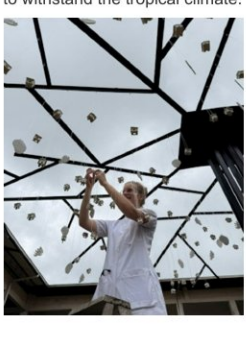
"Hi everyone! Over the past six months, from September through February, I (Anje) worked as a volunteer doctor at Hospital San Miguel. When I was asked whether I would like to share something about this, I was of course very happy to do so — but where should I begin? So much has happened…
At the end of August, the time had finally come. After a year full of preparations, fundraising activities, and countless arrangements… I boarded the plane to Ecuador! Of course, beforehand you try to imagine what it will be like and what you will experience. Truly everything is different: the weather, the heat, the people, the language, your living space, the kitchen you share with the rest of the staff, your work — really everything. I would therefore like to take you along to a few situations I experienced here, both work-related and personal, which I feel truly represent my time here."

Interested in more? Click here.

A new Quina Yura

Donation tree in the hospital courtyard replaced.

Even before the hospital officially opened, there was a desire to symbolize the hospital's growth. In 2021, a bamboo tree named Quina Yura, created by local artist Ricardo Salazar, was installed for this purpose. For every regular donor, a paper leaf was hung in the tree as a sign of gratitude and growth. Unfortunately, both the tree and the paper leaves proved unable to withstand the tropical climate.



At the end of 2025, volunteer doctor Anje Post therefore created a new tree made of recycled iron — a wonderful project alongside her medical work. Grinding, welding, working with a paint sprayer… all new skills for her, which made the learning experience even more special. All paper leaves were replaced with porcelain items. Why porcelain? Because Anje's mother works with this material, it is durable, and it easily withstands extreme weather conditions. Before Anje traveled to Ecuador, she and her mother organized several workshops to raise funds for Quina Care, during which many porcelain houses were already made. Porcelain mangoes and leaves were later added as well.Depending on the level of donation, a different item is placed in the tree.



On Christmas Day 2025, in between emergency patients, the new tree received its final sanding and coat of paint. Many porcelain leaves, mangoes, and houses now hang in the tree. And due to the tremendous interest — partly thanks to Floortje's television broadcast — new items are currently being produced free of charge.

Would you also like to support Hospital San Miguel structurally? You can! Visit Quina Care.
Are you already supporting our hospital? Thank you very much!

Volunteer doctor Maarten Meijer about his time at Hospital San Miguel

"The days unfold as they come. At the start of the day, you never know what lies ahead."



"On the night bus from Quito to Puerto el Carmen, you see little of the surroundings. It is dark, and the bus gradually empties. At one point, the bus passes through a military checkpoint, and at the end of the journey you step off in Puerto el Carmen early in the morning. From here, you can only continue by boat. The heat hits you immediately after the long journey as you get off the bus. Jacob is there to welcome me; Carolien had left for the Netherlands a few days earlier for the arrival of their baby.
Still sleepy from the long trip, I look around and wonder where I have arrived."

Maarten's story continues here.

Maarten Meijer's GoFundMe campaign

Alongside his medical work, he also successfully raised funds.



During his time at Hospital San Miguel, Maarten was not only active as a physician.

Throughout his six-month stay in Puerto el Carmen, he also launched a GoFundMe campaign to raise money for the hospital. And successfully so — he managed to raise an impressive €1,500.

Maarten, thank you very much for this wonderful additional contribution!



Diana and Esmee run for operational costs

And not in just one, but two running events.

Diana van der Ende and Esmee Engels — mother and daughter, as well as family of Jacob and Carolien — participated in two running events in March to raise funds for the hospital's operational costs. On Sunday, March 15, they ran the 10-kilometer race during the CPC Run in The Hague, and on Saturday, March 28, they



completed the half marathon in Kampen.
Both races were finished with great sporting achievements. In addition, together they raised an impressive €1,645 in donations.

Esmee and Diana, thank you so much for your fantastic dedication!

Announcement: Putumayoloop 2026

Will you join us on October 18, 2026?



The fifth edition of the Putumayoloop, held last October, was a great success. In celebration of this anniversary edition, participants were able to join the run from outside Putumayo as well — an opportunity that was enthusiastically embraced. In addition to Ecuador, runners participated from countries including the Netherlands, France, Singapore, and Thailand. Because of this success, we have decided to make the international edition an annual event. This year, the Putumayoloop will take place on Sunday, October 18. Participants can choose between a full marathon, a half marathon, or a 10-kilometer distance.

Would you like to participate this year while also helping to increase awareness for Quina Care and Hospital San Miguel? Mark the date in your calendar and start training!
You can already join via Strava via following link.

More information will follow later this year.

A quarter in numbers

Age distribution of patients at the hospital.

The Electronic Patient Record (EPR) system used at the hospital provides a great deal of valuable data. This time, we highlight the distribution of patients by age. The hospital treats relatively many young patients: nearly one-third are under 20 years old, and almost two-thirds are under 40. The table below shows the overall distribution. In the Netherlands, the age distribution of patients looks very different. The percentage of people aged 65 and older is considerably higher, while the proportion of people under 40 is significantly lower. This difference is partly due to population ageing, which is much more pronounced in the Netherlands than in Ecuador, resulting in a relatively larger elderly population. Additionally, the types of healthcare needs differ. In Ecuador, hospitals more often treat conditions that primarily affect younger people. Many children present with infectious diseases or anemia, complicated (teenage) pregnancies occur regularly, and injuries related to agricultural work are more common.

Aantal patiënten	Leeftijd	%
2285	0-20	32%
2386	21-40	33%
1591	41-60	22%
774	61-80	11%
178	81+	2%
7214		**100%**

Board announcement

Robin Maas joins the Quina Care Board as Secretary.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, Mariska van de Sande stepped down as a board member of Quina Care on January 1, 2026, for health reasons. The board is pleased to announce that a new secretary has been appointed to take over her responsibilities: Robin Maas. She will introduce herself more extensively in the next newsletter.

Donate

Quina Care needs the support of donors. Only with your help we can realize the health care the people of Putumayo so desperately need. To donate press the button on the left.

Contributing is also possible via SponsorKliks and 123inkt.nl. Click on the link or on the logo to visit the website.

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