



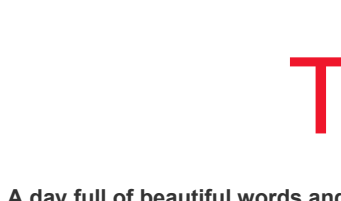
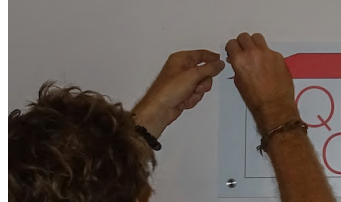
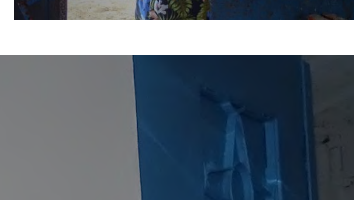
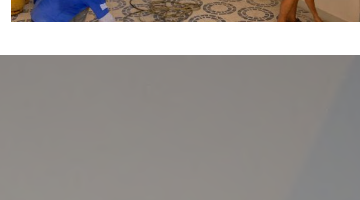
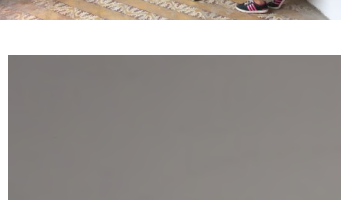
**The time had come on Sunday 7 November 2021: Hospital San Miguel – Quina Care has opened!**

Due to a misunderstanding, this email reaches you a little later, but the content is no less: What a wonderful day it has been. Because of this incredible milestone we decided to publish an extra newsletter for everyone who has been involved with the Quina Care Foundation since its foundation in 2017.

Before the hospital could open there was a lot of work to be done. To help out, Cootje Bouwman, board member of Quina Care and mother of Carolien, and Jaap van der Ende, father of Jacob, travelled to Puerto el Carmen on 13 October. Jaap has helped with various painting jobs within the building. Cootje has been busy with sorting out and cleaning the inventory. When Jaap went home to The Netherlands after two weeks, Yvonne van der Ende and Mariska van der Sande, both board members,

left for Ecuador, obviously at their own expense. A week before the opening they arrived in Puerto el Carmen. There the activities continued of cleaning the inventory, furnishing the reception and consulting rooms, sorting out medication and furnishing the pharmacy and many more. In the meantime, the team of contractor Elvis was still busy completing the last construction jobs for the ground floor and the induction of the receptionist, support nurse and cleaner was taking place.

It was very special to work together during the week before the opening, focusing on the same goal. The new staff together with Carolien and Jacob, contractors, volunteers: everyone has worked incredibly hard to make sure everything was done on time. The navy came two days before the opening with 35 people to clean up the courtyard of the hospital and the sports field behind the hospital and also guests and people from the village offered their time to help clean up.



**The opening**

A day full of beautiful words and warm gestures in a festive atmosphere.

The opening took place on 7 November 2021 on the sports field behind the hospital. There were a number of specially invited guests, among others the mayor, the Dutch honorary consul in Ecuador and the bishop. Because the building of the hospital is situated in is given on loan to Quina Care by the archdiocese, the bishop did a short service. The honorary

consul, [Egbert Spaans](#), was the first speaker, followed by the mayor, [the board of Quina Care](#) and finally, [Carolien](#) and [Jacob](#). About 200 inhabitants of Puerto el Carmen and surrounding villages attended the opening. Regional TV and radio channels were present and via the [livestream](#) of radio Sucumbíos on Facebook it was also possible for people in

The Netherlands to follow the opening. About 75 people did so. An indigenous dance group performed two traditional folk dances, which was beautiful to see!

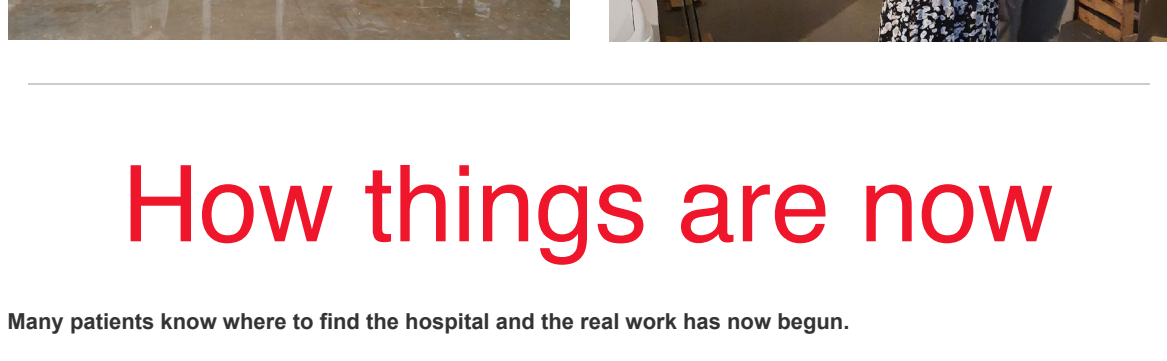
A Delfts Blauw plaque was presented to all the specially invited guests as a memento of this day. [A short compilation.](#)



Afterwards Carolien and Jacob cut the ribbon at the entrance of the hospital and by doing so, Hospital San Miguel - Quina Care was officially opened.

Those present were able to have a tour of the hospital and take lunch together. During this day it was very noticeable how the local community is with the

arrival of the hospital. To everyone who has contributed in any way to the opening of the hospital: many thanks!



**How things are now**

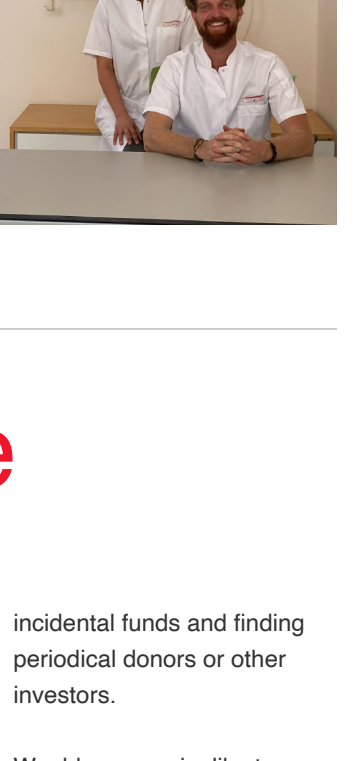
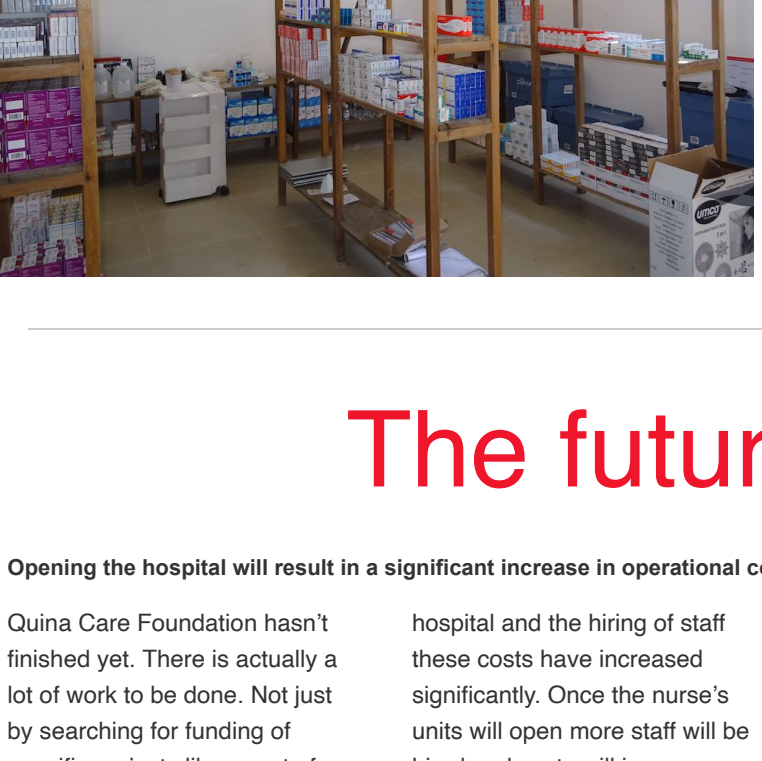
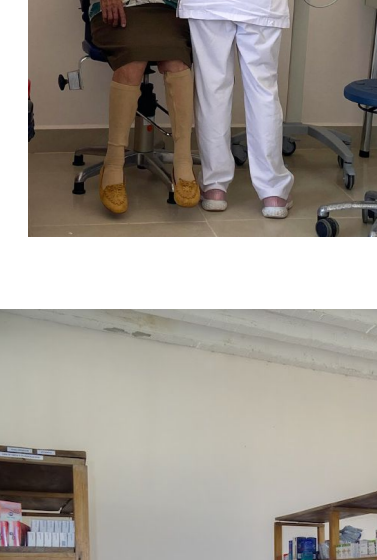
Many patients know where to find the hospital and the real work has now begun.

Since Monday morning 9 November the hospital is open for patients. And since that day more than 150 patients have found the hospital. Many of them stated that they have suffered from symptoms for some time, but never made their way to a doctor because just the journey towards the closest hospital 200 kilometers from Puerto el Carmen was too expensive.

At this moment, Carolien and Jacob are obviously employed as doctors in the hospital. Additionally, a receptionist has

been hired. She receives the patients and takes care of the payments. Once patients have been registered by her, they are seen by the nurse's aid. She completes a number of basic checks with the patients, among others measuring blood pressure and temperature. Next, a patient is seen by one of the doctors. If tests on blood or urine need to be done in this can be done in the laboratory. At the moment Hans Wilke, retired medical analyst from The Netherlands, is still present to give support, however, he will leave again in

December. The plan is to hire a lab technician from Ecuador in the short term. Lastly, a cleaner is present all day to make sure everything remains tidy and clean. For the medical staff white outfits are available. This has been donated by hospitals and organisations in The Netherlands. The board of Quina Care The Netherlands has, in a capacity with the hospital's logo. These have been fitted on the outfits in The Netherlands and presented in Ecuador to Carolien and Jacob.



**The future**

Opening the hospital will result in a significant increase in operational costs.

Quina Care Foundation hasn't finished yet. There is actually a lot of work to be done. Not just for projecting for funding of specific projects like a part of the renovation or equipment, but even more so to find funds for the operational costs. Because of the opening of the

hospital and the hiring of staff these costs have increased significantly. Once the nurse's units will open more staff will be hired and costs will increase even more. It's the foundation's task to make sure that the hospital can remain operational in the long term by raising

incidental funds and finding periodical donors or other investors.

Would you, again, like to contribute to the success of Hospital San Miguel - Quina Care? Have a look at our [website](#) for the possibilities.



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.

