

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Padrino
Children's Foundation



AN UNCOMMON YEAR MET BY UNCOMMON GENEROSITY

Despite a pandemic that threatened our lives, jobs, and financial security, our supporters stepped up to sustain Padrino Children's Foundation (PCF) so that we could carry on providing health care services to more than 600 impoverished children in Southern Baja California. As a result, our patients are emerging from difficult times with improved health and wellness. And, through shared adversity, our service to our community has grown stronger than ever.

OUR IMPACT

Maintained continuity of medical care

- Provided 5,919 medical interventions in 2020
- Averaged 186 active patients per month
- Expanded our team to meet a high demand for psychological therapy
- Recruited the first ever resident pediatrician in Todos Santos!
- Created a revised model for expanded care, patient progress and family compliance tracking
- Provided 174 needed medications
- Designed a program to encourage screening and early stimulation for infants and toddlers
- Developed capability to provide telemedicine consultations with pediatric specialists
- Enriched the capacity and confidence of our older children with special needs through new vocational therapies



PANDEMIC RESPONSE

The generosity of our supporters provided crucial pandemic relief in addition to the essential medical care, which our community desperately needed.

MARCH - APRIL

- Fundraised for personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical supplies for health centers and first responders.
- Closed the office to normal traffic per safety protocols.
- Continued paying staff and modified work processes.
- Began use of telemedicine consultations.
- Created new process for dispensing medications and referring urgent cases.
- Conducted outreach to patient families to detect food needs, medical and psychological issues, and offer safety precaution education.
- Supported public service announcements.

MAY - JULY

- Began dispensing diapers and formula to over 330 financially impacted families in Todos Santos, Pescadero, nearby ranches and migrant camps.
- Increased resources dedicated to psychological services.
- Collaborated with community partners to raise funds for pandemic relief.
- Trained firefighters, sanitation workers, and healthcare workers to use PPE.

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER

- The number of children requiring diapers and formula exceeded 450!
- Initiated campaign to educate mothers on breastfeeding and potty training.
- Ongoing support for public service announcements regarding safe practices.
- Organized the Anti-COVID Committee to address rising cases.
- Hired a pediatrician to serve more patients due to the saturation of public services.
- Helped distribute aid-kits to families with COVID.
- Added 2nd psychologist to handle increased cases resulting from the pandemic.

OCTOBER - DECEMBER

- Continued diligent bio security measures to provide medical services to our patients.
- Engaged our State health officials, local officials, and first responders to secure access to testing and medical attention.
- Donated oxygen tanks to an essential ambulance team.



OUR TEAM



Dr. Alejandra
Peña Salguero
Medical & Executive Director



Dr. Mitzy
Cervantes
Pediatrician



Lic. Jessica
Ávila
Psychologist



Lic. Israel
Navarro Maldonado
Psychologist



Lic. Antonia
González Ruíz
Social Worker



Lic. Leslie
Castro Ramos
Teacher



Lic. Antonieta
Peralta
Special Education Teacher



Claudia
Millán Choza
Administrator



Claudia
Falcón
Nurse & Assistant

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jim Cardillo
Chairman

Jamie Kelly
President

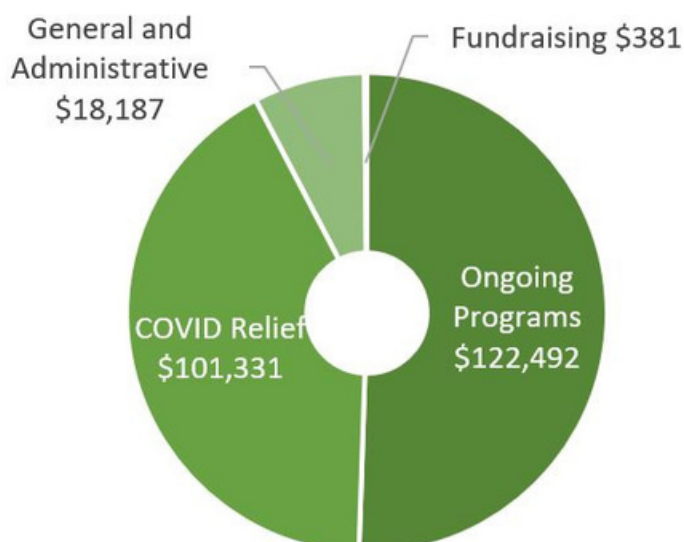
Nancy Naigle
Secretary

Nancy Serfass
CFO

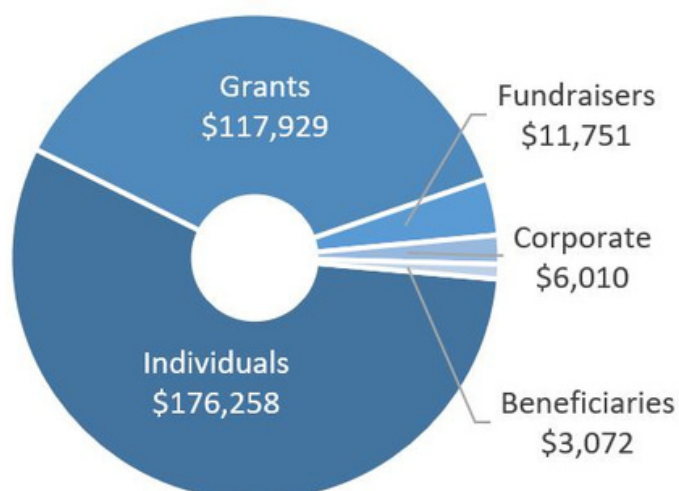
Adali Parks
Board Member

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Total Expense (USD)



Total Revenue (USD)



FROM THE BOARD

To our many donors and supporters,

During the past 4 years, our organization has expanded to meet the needs of children from economically challenged families in our community. We have learned much about the true nature of health in our region and about the obstacles that limit access to care. In some cases, services may exist but families are unaware or unable to navigate the system to receive help. As a result, PCF has continually refocused our efforts to become a pediatric advocate – matching families with proper care, whether we provide it ourselves or coordinate with local public and private resources.

If there is one constant in our operations, it is our responsiveness to ever-changing needs, and that drives GROWTH! Even before the pandemic, we recognized the need to grow our psychology services, which left us well positioned to address the explosion of demand during a year of social isolation, family trauma, and increasing poverty. With the addition of a staff pediatrician, we were able to serve all the children waiting for general consultation services. Specialists from La Paz and Cabo hold routine “clinic days” to see our patients in Todos Santos, eliminating the need for transporting families. And, we built telemedicine capabilities to bring the expertise of pediatric subspecialists throughout Mexico to our patients.

With your support, PCF has become the regional leader in social and mental health programs, treatment and therapy for children with complex neurodevelopmental disorders, rare disease diagnosis, and therapy for children with special needs. On average, approximately 80 children receive more than 350 medical services per month funded by individual donations and grants. Please enjoy reading about some of our major accomplishments in 2020.

Thank you for standing with us.
Jim Cardillo, Board Chair



BEYOND VITAL SIGNS: PROVIDING PEDIATRIC ADVOCACY

Families first come to us with the idea that we will provide medical appointments. However, at Padrino Children's Foundation our work goes well beyond office visits. We are staunch defenders of children's rights to pediatric health and well being. The first to explain this to families, is our 30-year veteran social worker, Antonia (Tony) González Ruíz.

Social Work is our first connection with families in need. Tony greets each family with a smile and a kindness that makes them feel welcomed. Through pleasant conversation, she guides the family through a qualification process during which we learn the family's concerns and become familiar with their circumstances.

We make it clear that we are not merely a health clinic, rather, our staff is able to guide, refer, and manage whatever is needed to ensure that their child's right to health is fulfilled. For example, Tony may facilitate the collection and completion of necessary documents required to receive treatment within and outside of the foundation. In cases of violence or at-risk behaviors, we are able to guide the parent or older child to the proper agencies, and when families receive a difficult diagnosis or experience a loss, we accompany them in the mourning process.

We are dedicated to treating our patients by carefully following treatment plans while also helping children grow and develop their fullest potential for wellbeing. In this pursuit, social work is the vital support that makes the Padrino Children's Foundation unique. We offer a trusted space for families to express fears and doubts, to connect with all possible resources in their community, and to learn ways to improve their own quality of life at home.



PREPARING TEENS FOR LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY

PCF cares for qualified children through the age of 18. This gives us a finite amount of time to contribute to their wellness so we make the most of the time we have!

Artisanal Workshop

Under the leadership of educator, Leslie Castro Ramos, PCF has developed vocational therapies designed to encourage aspirations for the future. Leslie recognized that people with disabilities are often treated as outsiders and deprived of life experiences such as attending school, obtaining employment, living independently, and enjoying a social life. Therefore, our vocational program fosters the exploration of interests, abilities, and aptitudes of our older children with disabilities or who are at social risk. In time, the skills gained in textile painting and embroidery may enable them to be gainfully employed, join artisanal groups, or achieve personal growth. Also, the program connects with highly gifted community members who may lack the resources to develop their craft. In mutual benefit, volunteer teachers receive resources to share their talents with young people.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Led by Claudia Millán, PCF office administrator, the Big Brother/Big Sister pilot program matched children from our Special Needs program with volunteer students from the Palapa Society School. Not only do our patients benefit from being out in their community, but the community is enriched by knowing the special children who live here. The program's outings included:

- A pizza workshop at Gallo Azul Pizza Bar
- A photography workshop taught by Jessyka Real
- Horseback riding at Todos Caballos
- Printmaking class at La Sonrisa de la Muerte
- Surfing with Mario Surf School at Los Cerritos beach

In its final week, the program ended with a dinner and a movie. It was amazing to see how 10 children of different ages and circumstances became a family under the care and support of community members who lent their knowledge, efforts, and resources to the future generation.



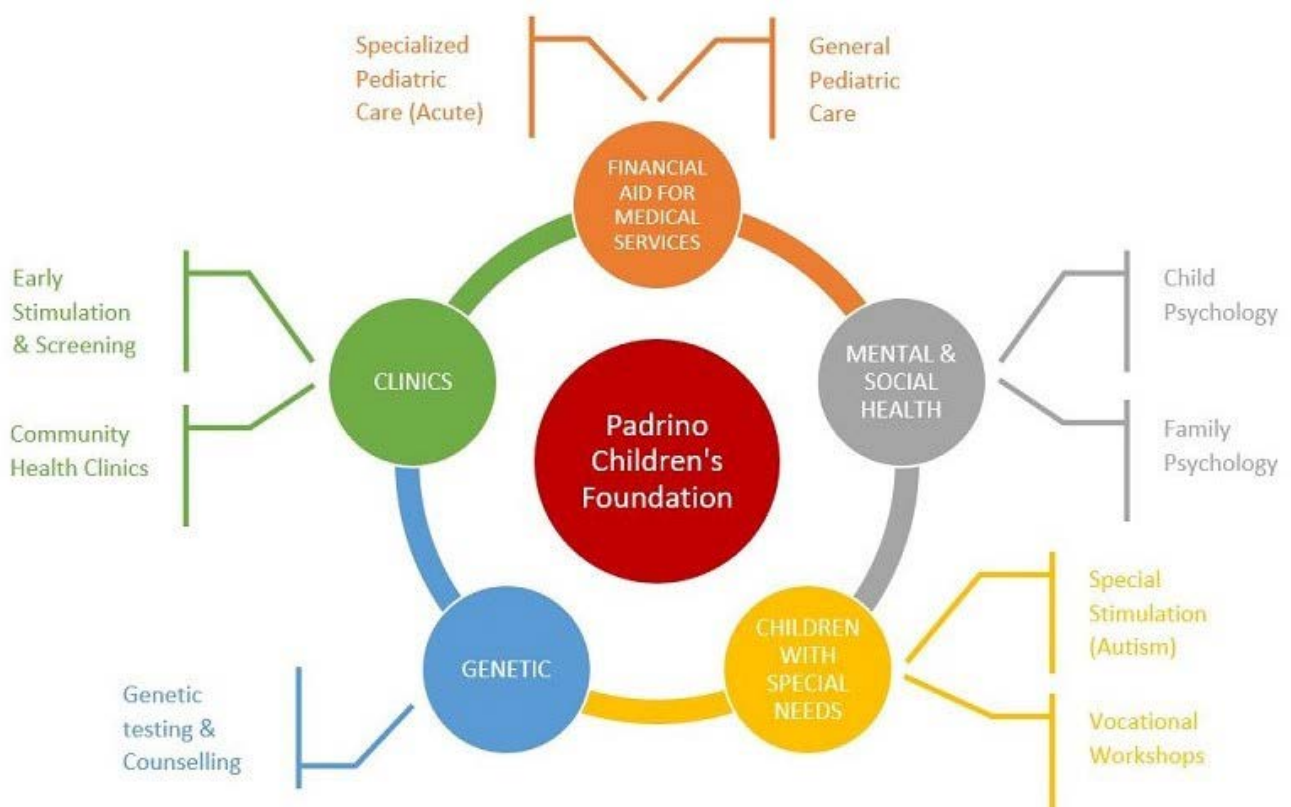
STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR OPTIMAL CARE

PCF built a custom data platform to support the documentation of medical interventions and to facilitate case management. Today, the entire clinical team is entering their own patient encounter data, and our ability to report on PCF efforts is stronger than ever. Most importantly, the system provided insight for our Medical and Executive Director, Dr. Alejandra Peña Salguero, to refine the Foundation's operating model. The revised model maintains our five core programs but, within these programs we have added a pediatric specialist, expanded psychology services to include psychometric evaluation, created an initiative for early stimulation and screening of small children, and designed a communication therapy plan for families with children on the autism spectrum.

Also, as part of the modeling process, we have:

- established team goals to meet the high demand for our services,
- defined a method for systematic evaluation of patient progress so that issue resolution and discharge is achieved and celebrated, and
- created a system for monitoring patient/family cooperation with medical treatment plans to fairly address non-compliance so that precious funding is reserved for those who are dedicated to wellness.

Goals for 2021 include expanding the system for medical histories, diagnosis, and clinical quality measurement.



COVID-19

Children served: 453 Medical interventions: 2607 Total Expenditure: \$101,331 USD

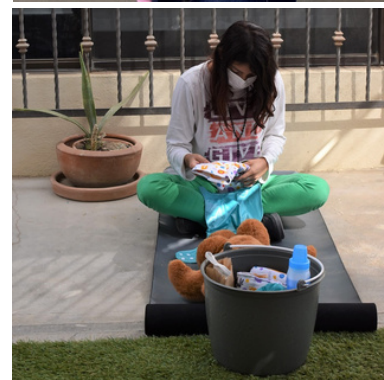
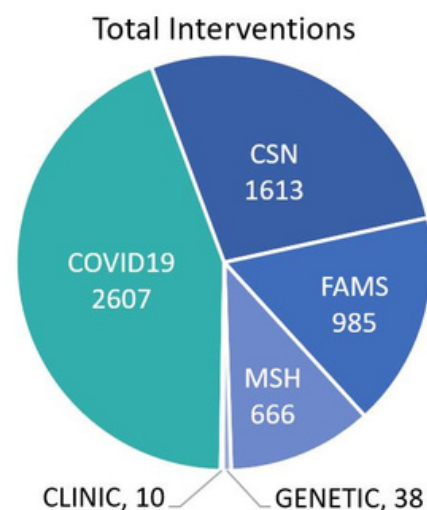
From May to December, PCF supported efforts to provide relief to families lacking income as a result of the pandemic. We focused on the essential needs of infants and babies by procuring and distributing diapers and formula as well as counseling on potty training and breastfeeding to more than 400 local families.

A silver lining

In several cases, families who came for diapers and formula returned to the Foundation for critically needed medical care. In one case, a father had tested positive for tuberculosis, and we helped the family get their baby, Tadeo, also tested in La Paz. Likewise, we met Alexa, who has a complex case including a genetic disorder, heart condition, and developmental delays. She needs specialist care, evaluations, and likely surgeries, all of which are now possible as the family is working with PCF.

In the process of offering relief, we recognized the heavy reliance our community has on disposable diapers. Fortunately, a local cloth diaper project, Pañales Amigables, had formed to address the ecological impact and need for local job creation. The group purchased materials and hired women to sew diapers in Todos Santos. PCF identified interested mothers and hosted an educational session at which the attendees received a kit of materials to get started on their cloth diaper journey.

Yet another positive outcome of the program is that we met many new families with very young children. Historically, PCF has received few patients younger than five, so this marked a major shift for the better! The earlier we see children, the better able we are to identify issues and make lasting health improvements. To this end, PCF is launching a new program led by our pediatrician, Dr. Mitzy Cervantes, for the early engagement of new parents which will seek to identify medical issues during infancy, encourage early stimulation activities, and educate parents on developmental milestones. A silver lining of our pandemic efforts is that we now have a database of almost 500 local children under age 4 in our community!



CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Children served: 40 Medical interventions: 1,613 Total Expenditure: \$39,661 USD

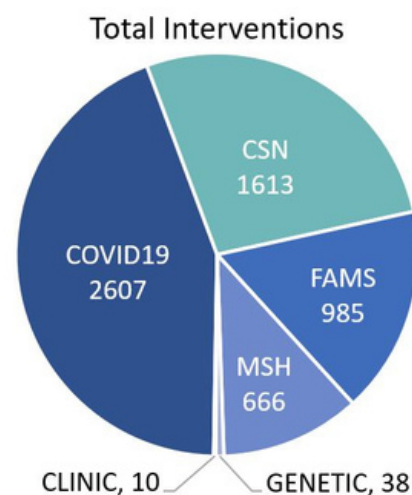
In our region children born with special needs, both physical and neurodevelopmental, will spend the majority of their lives at home, with little opportunity to contribute to their family's standard of living. To facilitate community integration, PCF funds and provides autism therapy, special stimulation, physical rehabilitation, and vocational skills therapies.

Visual learning is giving André new skills to communicate despite his autism

Children with communication disabilities are often "visual learners" meaning that it is easier for them to learn from pictures than it is from verbal instruction. PCF uses therapies based on the picture exchange communication system (PECS) to establish a communication mechanism and improve behaviors. PECS is especially useful for patients with social difficulties for kids on the autism spectrum, or for those with moderate to severe intellectual disabilities.

It might seem a minor adjustment to exchange drawings for words, however when we applied visual learning with pictograms for André, we saw the impact firsthand. 7-year-old André was diagnosed a few years earlier with Autism Spectrum Disorder, but he had never received any counselling or therapy. He did not respond when his mom or dad called for him, he would not speak with family members, and he seemed to not understand when they tried to communicate with him. So, his parents came to the Foundation for help.

André surprised us with his quick development. After just 3 months working with pictorial daily schedules, his mom reported that André had learned to dress and bathe himself on his own. He had learned the days of the week and to greet his family saying "¡Buenos días!" and "¿Cómo estás?" Today, he is re-learning his world along with his family using this new communication method and revealing an incredible and unique personality.



FINANCIAL AID FOR MEDICAL SERVICES

Children served: 137 Medical interventions: 985 Total Expenditure: \$50,475 USD

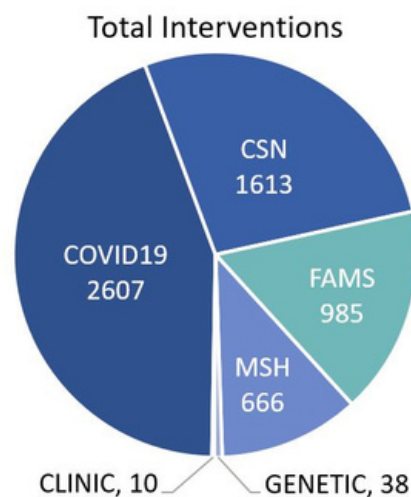
When a child suffers a serious health setback, healthcare costs can quickly outstrip earnings and savings. For qualified families faced with unaffordable care, PCF funds medical services including physician consultations, diagnostic testing, transportation to appointments, medications, counselling, medical aids, and more.

Special care for a special little girl

The mother of 8-month-old Joselyn came to us to seek support in caring for her daughter born with Down Syndrome. Joselyn needed rehabilitation therapies and a long list of specialist consultations. Our rehabilitation specialist, Dr. Elsa Pérez, jumped in working with the family via telehealth sessions, and the response was immediate! Joselyn began holding up her head, improving her muscle tone, and communicating with her mom. PCF will provide aid for ongoing neuro-developmental therapies as well as specialists to help Joselyn achieve her highest potential for health and wellbeing.

Mayte's mystery condition diagnosed and treated!

Mayte is a teenage girl who came to PCF referred from the public health center when the doctors could not account for her chronic weight loss and recurrent fever. She had dropped out of high school due to extreme fatigue and malaise. Welcomed to PCF, Dr. Alejandra suspected a case of pulmonary tuberculosis and Mayte was referred for testing. The suspicion was confirmed and conclusively diagnosed. With the help and collaboration of the public health services, Mayte received over eight months of TB treatment. Her latest test confirmed that Mayte is tuberculosis-free and is ready to get back to school and continue her studies in order to follow her dream of becoming a chef.



MENTAL AND SOCIAL HEALTH

Children served: 106 Medical interventions: 666 Total Expenditure: \$28,147 USD

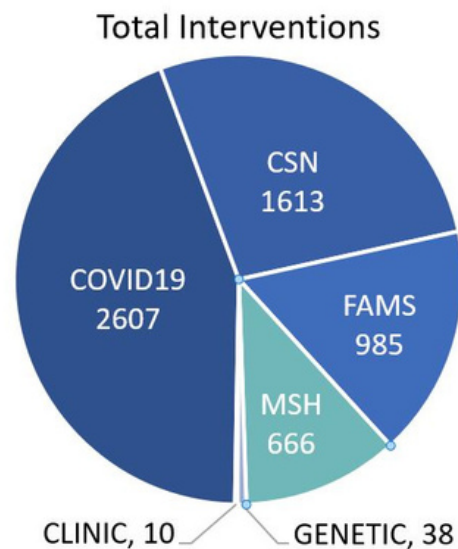
It was a year of extremes. Our patients experienced the loss of family and friends and the fear of becoming sick with COVID-19. Children were forced to adapt to a new and counterintuitive way of life, avoiding the social interactions that are crucial to healthy development. Israel Navarro Maldonado, a licensed psychologist and native of La Paz, joined us in April. Then, with surging demand for psychology services, we welcomed psychologist Jessica Ávila to the clinical staff of our Mental and Social Health program. Jessica is a pediatric psychologist who uses Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Play Therapy to intervene in family dynamics and evaluate a child's development and emotional well being.

Connecting with kids to support healing

Due to the contingency required by the pandemic, our team provided telephone counseling and emotional support calls to the families of our beneficiaries. Israel Navarro made calls to local families, offering support, preventive information, and psycho-emotional support.

In one of the calls, he met Juan, a boy deeply affected by several months of in-home quarantine. Unfortunately, his family contracted COVID, and he had experienced the death of a family member. Psychological therapy helps to navigate grief by teaching patients to accept their unique emotions and find the words to describe those feelings. Therapist and child together analyze and discuss in order to heal.

During therapy, Juan told Israel that he liked music and that he was thinking of learning some songs, then meeting up with some friends, and forming a band. Israel encouraged him to learn to play music, nurturing Juan's interest and exploring the way in which it elevated Juan's mood. With the support of Israel and his family, Juan found a way to manage his grief. We look forward to a future musical performance!



GENETICS

Children served: 22 Medical interventions: 38 Total Expenditure: \$2,659 USD

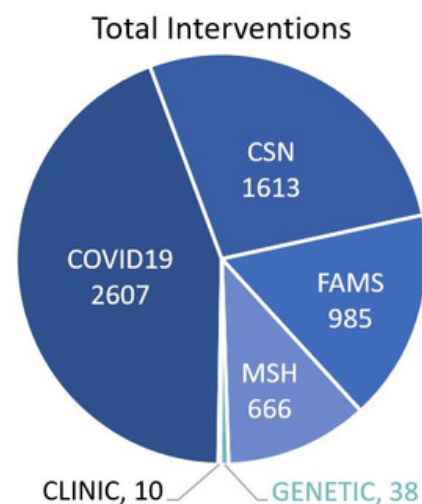
PCF assists families along the diagnostic odyssey of rare disease.

Families everywhere struggle with the emotional rollercoaster and high costs of identifying rare diseases affecting their children. Whole genome sequencing (WGS), the analysis of an individual's entire DNA, has the potential to end the diagnostic odyssey by making a definitive diagnosis within a matter of weeks. However, at a cost of approximately \$10,000 USD per patient, very few countries use the test widely.

However, with the support of San Diego-based biotech, Illumina Corporation, PCF has had the honor to participate in an initiative called iHope. For the past 3 years, Dr. Peña Salguero and neurogeneticist Dr. Paola Medina from Hermosillo have worked with 88 families from around Baja California Sur to find a definitive diagnoses.

In February 2020, PCF held our third genetic clinic for children with suspected genetic disorders. Patients were referred to us from the public health services around the State and each received a genetic evaluation, including PCF-sponsored microarray testing and highly specialized whole-genome sequencing. From the test results, 61% of the children received a specific genetic disorder diagnosis. More personalized therapeutic protocols are now possible for on-going treatment.

Through 2020, the iHope Project had processed 56 WGS tests from PCF, making us the largest provider of advanced genetic testing in Mexico. In 2021, we anticipate the publication of a landmark study of the aggregated iHope data. To think that a non-profit primary care clinic in Todos Santos, BCS, could play such a major role in genetic research—to the benefit of the most economically vulnerable children—is beyond gratifying.



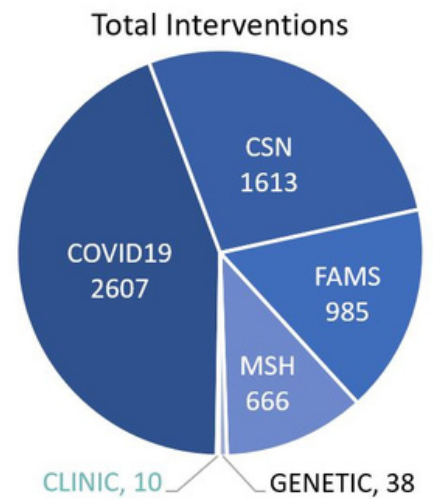
CLINICS

Children served: 10 Medical interventions: 10 Total Expenditure: \$1,550 USD

Even with the challenges that 2020 presented, we quickly adapted to the health and safety protocols established by the State government, reactivating our services little by little, to comply with all established recommendations.

Unfortunately, restrictions on large gatherings limited the possibility of holding a large wellness clinic as we have in past years. However, we were able to send 10 of our patients to three clinical sessions that were hosted by regional providers of dental and cardiac care.

Thanks to these interventions the children were evaluated, diagnosed with specific conditions, and referred promptly to the required care.



PEDIATRIC CARE IS ESSENTIAL TO FAMILY WELLNESS

We love to hear from the families whom we serve and happily share these experiences with our supporters.

Ricardo Julián, age 4, Autism

"Since the time I started using the blackboard with images to organize his day-to-day, it has helped me a lot and especially my son because it makes it much easier for him to understand the things he has to do. From the first day, he saw the pictograms with instructions to go to the bathroom, or the sequence to learn to bathe, and he has learned to do them himself, obviously still with a little help from mom or dad, but he is very motivated to do them following the pictures. When changing clothes, he now does so practically alone. As parents of Ricardo Julián, we are very grateful for this wonderful method and for the attention we received from you. Thank you."

Alejandra Paola- 13 years old - Intellectual disability and insulin resistance

"Alejandra's attendance at the foundation has been very good for me as a mother. When she began to attend the foundation, I did not know how I would cope with her intellectual disability, but I did know that I really wanted her to move forward. We also learned that she had diabetes. At the foundation they have given us all the medical support that she needs to continue improving. They have taught us about the foods that are best for Alejandra, which ones she shouldn't eat as well, and the doctor told her about how important it is to exercise. Some afternoons the whole family goes out for a walk! With support from the foundation, Ale is improving and now she is a girl with a lot of interest in being healthy. I am very grateful for the support they give us."

Alexa - 1 year, 7 months - Craniosynostosis, dysmorphic syndrome, congenital heart disease

"Thanks to the foundation, I have received gas vouchers for constant visits to the pediatrician. My baby has been to all of her medical appointments, to all of her physical therapies and we have seen fantastic achievements. Although we don't know for sure what is going on, I feel very hopeful because she participated in the genetic clinic and soon perhaps, we can learn about her condition and support her with more confidence. Thank you for all the opportunities you have given my girl."

Laura- 17 years old - Asperger syndrome and depression

"I am very grateful to you because you always looked for options to improve my daughter's mental and physical health, improving, of course, her quality of life. There were changes that I did not expect. Psychology helped me and my family accept her health situation. You guided me by hand until we got psychiatric care, a diagnosis, a treatment and finally Laura joined the painting workshop, which gave the opportunity to improve her self-esteem, tolerance and acceptance towards strangers. She learned to use her voice, expressing and improving her drawing skills. Today, Laura has reasons to get up and do something with her days. Thank you all really, I am eternally grateful. God bless you."

Contact Us

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