

Dear Friends,

Siempre Unidos is growing in Honduras and the U.S.!

In Honduras, we saw a significant growth in the number of patients served. All of our newly diagnosed HIV+ clients were between the ages of 15 and 25, which is a shift we have seen in recent years. Almost all were gay men or transgender women.

In the U.S., we welcomed two new board members who arrived just in time to help plan programs uniquely tailored to our prioritized groups, i.e. youth, gay men, transgender women, members of the Garifuna (Afro-Caribbean) community, commercial sex workers, and people living in extreme poverty. We also focused on succession planning and have approved an ambitious budget for 2024 that includes a position for someone to work with, learn from, and eventually succeed Pascual.

You have been unwavering in your generous giving. Thank you for ensuring our growth and success in treating and advocating for people living with HIV. We look forward to expanding with a focus on young people in the year to come and - with your help- establishing targeted prevention and outreach programs focused on this vulnerable population.



Denise M. Main, MD
*Co-founder & President,
Board of Directors*



Siempre Unidos staff march in Pride parade.



Galaxy S21 Ultra 5G

And the Siempre Unidos community loves Pascual as seen by the surprise birthday cake.

A MESSAGE FROM EL REVERENDO

This past year taught us something very important. HIV is not finished with Honduras. Not yet. We have more young, gay men coming to our clinic now than in the recent past. Our work in the very poor areas has identified new cases among women, too. We treat them all the same. We welcome them, we provide counseling and treatment. We visit them at their homes. If they are very poor, we give them extra food. We love them all. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.



The Rev. Pascual Torres
Co-founder & Honduras Executive Director

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- Galen Main**, *Director*
- Colin McNamara**, *Director*
- Evelyn Wells**, *Director*
- Pascual Torres**, *Director & Co-founder*
- Amy Rankin-Williams, DrPH**
U.S. Executive Director
- The Rev. Pascual Torres**
Honduras Executive Director

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CLINIC-BASED SERVICES

CDC Representatives Visit to Learn about Siempre Unidos' Success

In July 2023, Siempre Unidos hosted an official visit from representatives of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), its Central American partners, and the HIV branch of the Honduras Ministry of Health. In addition to

offering technical support to Honduran clinics, the visitors wanted to understand how Siempre Unidos patients have exceeded global standards by 93% of them maintaining non-detectable viral loads, meaning zero chance of infecting others.



"Closing the gap" reads the poster behind visitors from the CDC, Honduran health department, Siempre Unidos staff, and partners.

The method for success is not so mysterious. As Pascual wrote, "They were pleasantly impressed by the holistic care provided to patients of Siempre Unidos, which includes not only the clinical aspect but also mental health, and the nutritional support...The visit also highlighted that we are the only clinics that have a home visit component in Honduras."



ADVOCACY

Respect and Dignity Lead to Empowerment

In a society where people living with HIV suffer isolation and stigma, Siempre Unidos treats everyone with respect, dignity, and warmth. This is an act of advocacy and empowerment for people who do not feel loved or valued in other contexts.

Miguel and Carlos (pseudonyms) are a young couple who grew up in a small, conservative Honduran city. When one of them received a positive HIV result at our clinic, we encouraged him to bring his boyfriend in for testing. They were both enrolled in anti-retroviral treatment and couple's

counseling. As Pascual wrote, "This is a success story! Their viral loads are non-detectable and they are a committed couple."



The Siempre Unidos community gathers to celebrate World AIDS Day.

In addition to advocating for the rights and dignity of our patients through therapy, self-support groups, and education, Siempre Unidos sponsored parades and celebrations of Garifuna Heritage, LGBTQ+ pride, commercial sex workers, and World AIDS Day.

OUTREACH

Let Communities Lead



Siempre Unidos doctor gives a medical consultation to a Garifuna woman living on Roatán island.

The United Nations program on AIDS 2023 theme was “Let communities lead,” a recognition that communities’ leadership roles are vital to ending AIDS.

Since its founding as one of Honduras’ first HIV/AIDS treatment clinics, Siempre Unidos community partners have inspired and driven our programs. Early in our two decades of service, we aligned ourselves with leaders in the LGBTQ+ and commercial sex worker communities. For example, with their direction, Siempre Unidos shaped its HIV prevention education messages to meet their unique needs in locations that suited them.

By building on community leadership and inspiring trust, Siempre Unidos held 28 day-long and 73 half-day health fairs that included free medical consultations and HIV education, testing, and counseling as well as sessions on topics like mental health, breast cancer, and reproductive health. Over 7,000 visits were made and over 1,600 people received HIV testing at the events for people who are Garifuna (Afro-Caribbean) and/or living in the unincorporated riverbank settlements or municipal dump.



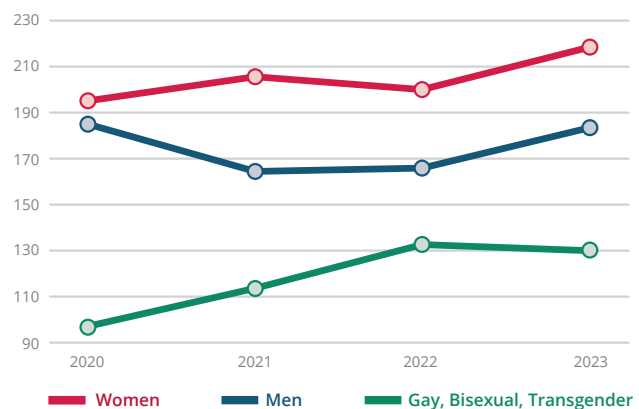
SPECIAL FEATURE

Siempre Unidos Patients by the Numbers and Year

Siempre Unidos’ net year-end patient census grew by 11% between 2020 and 2023 from 479 to 531, respectively. Each year, we actually served more HIV+ clients (556 total in 2023) but lost others to migration out of Honduras, violence, and illness, so these figures represent only net gain. We estimate that each HIV+ patient brings an additional 3 family members into general medical and social care at Siempre Unidos, so 531 active clients brought an additional 1,668 people into care in 2023.

The number of people identifying as gay, bisexual, and/or transgender grew by 35%; the number of patients identifying as heterosexual women grew by 12%; the number of male heterosexuals declined by 3%. Gay and transgender rights groups and gay men referred their friends to Siempre Unidos because of our commitment to confidentiality, stigma abatement, and advocacy. The number of women increased because of our focus on educating and testing women and girls living in severe poverty and harsh conditions like the dump.

Number of Siempre Unidos Patients by Year & Gender



	2020	2021	2022	2023
Women	194	206	200	218
Men	189	168	169	183
Gay, Bisexual, Transgender	96	112	133	130
Total	479	486	502	531

Siempre Unidos Welcomes New Board Members and Plans for an Ambitious Future

Galen Main and Colin McNamara began their tenure with the Siempre Unidos Board at a two-day strategy session to identify future programmatic and fundraising priorities to plan for our growth. Galen Main serves as the Acting Assistant

Chief Financial Officer overseeing Behavioral Health and Recovery Services for the County of Marin. She first visited Honduras as a teenager and has visited a dozen times. Colin McNamara most recently taught

humanities at a Sonoma County high school after appointments at schools in Massachusetts, Honduras, and Costa Rica.

Our two-day meeting focused on several important topics including succession planning for Pascual. Pascual has been the co-founder and exemplary leader of Siempre Unidos for 24 years and wishes to slowly step back over the next several years. The board wants to find and hire a new potential successor in 2024 who can work with and learn from Pascual to be well prepared to follow him, a difficult task given Pascual's knowledge, commitment, and compassion. We also discussed future goals from a Honduran perspective. These included an emphasis on working and educating young people about HIV prevention.



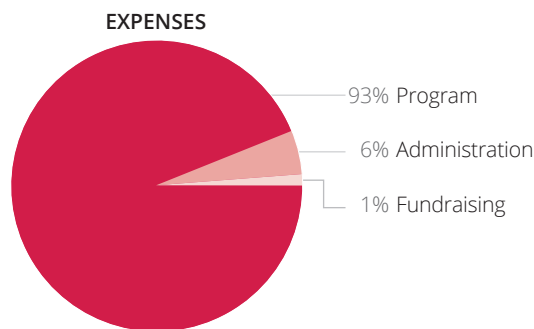
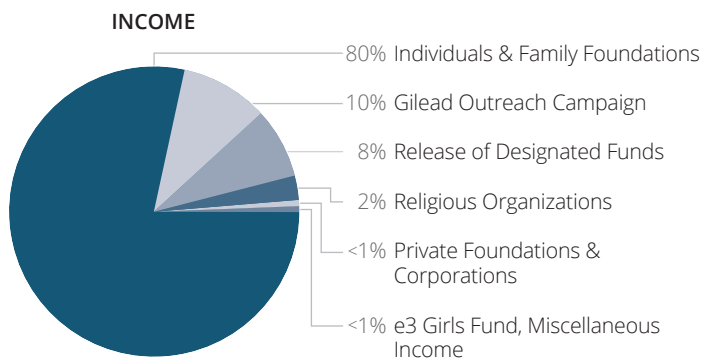
Galen Main



Colin McNamara



FINANCIALS



In 2023, Siempre Unidos's cash-basis income totaled \$443,426 and \$36,245 was released for designated spending. Expenses totaled \$479,671.

