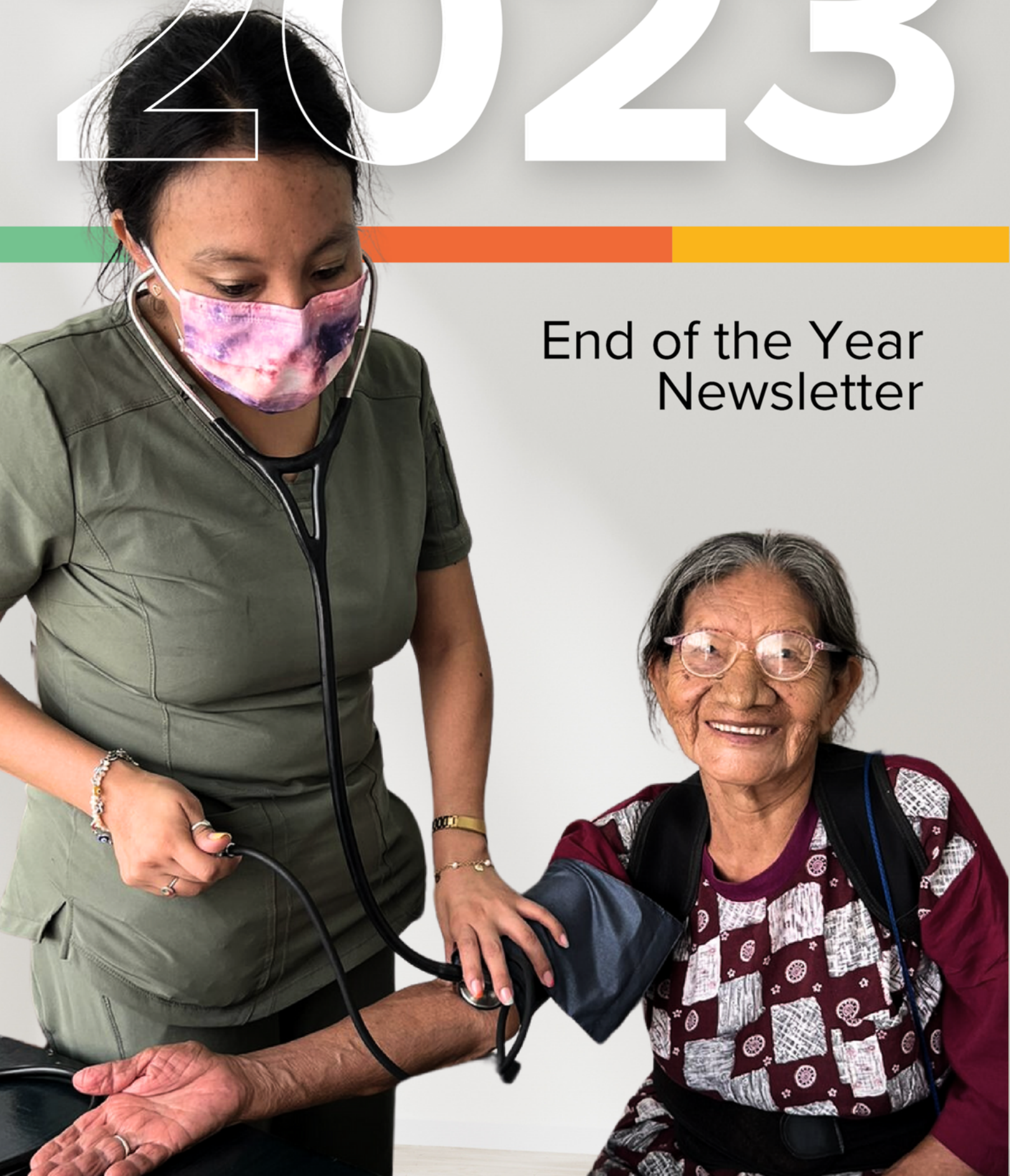


# 2023

End of the Year  
Newsletter



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# INTRODUCTION: Change

If 2023 had to be summed up in one word, it would be "**change.**" Last year brought numerous changes, all with the hope of fostering growth in the coming year, 2024.

In June 2023, we embarked on an extensive evaluation process with the assistance of Red Roots, a ministry based here in Trinidad. The goal was to assess our expenditures, activities and ministries to ensure we were maximizing effectiveness and utilizing our resources for God's glory. The results of the evaluation led us to recognize the need for change to continue growing and reaching people.

As a result, the foundation's board made the decision to invite the Red Roots team to assume administrative responsibilities. Romon Gore, Melinda Gore, Ruddy Arauz, and Georgette Vaca from Red Roots graciously accepted this role as volunteers! Among the changes implemented was the creation of Total Academy. Total Academy now encompasses all outreach-focused programs, including the futsal program, arts and crafts class, and our educational support program, formerly known as "community." Additionally, Clinic Total oversees all aspects related to the clinic's operations.





# TOTAÍ ACADEMY

## Let's Learn Together

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We are refining our "Aprendamos Juntos" (Let's learn together) program from a broad school support and reinforcement initiative primarily focused on homework assistance to a more targeted educational support program concentrating on literacy and mathematics.

Recognizing the significant number of children in our community who are not attending school or are severely falling behind academically, our aim is to assist these children in reaching and surpassing the expected literacy and mathematics standards. ***Our goal is to not only facilitate their enrollment in school but also to ensure their success once they are enrolled.***

**YESENIA**

An exemplary testament to the effectiveness of this program is Yesenia (Pictured below), who arrived in Trinidad at the age of 10 due to challenging family circumstances. Following the death of her mother and her father's incapacitating illness, Yesenia and her two sisters were left in the care of their aunt and grandparents. Despite being in the fifth grade, Yesenia arrived with no ability to read, write, or perform basic math. Through our program, she has made significant strides and is ***now reading, writing, and performing math at her grade level.*** As a result of this connection, she now actively ***participates in our church, where she attends with her entire family.***

Similarly, the story of siblings Jaime (6), Fernando (8), and Santiago (10) underscores the program's effectiveness. After a tragic family event, the siblings found themselves under the care of their grandmother, who struggled to provide for them due to unemployment. As a result, their education suffered, and they fell significantly behind. With the support of their grandmother, they began attending our program, receiving tutoring three mornings a week from Simon. Their dedication and the focused assistance they received enabled them to catch up rapidly. Thanks to the efforts of Simon and Carla, ***they are now enrolled in school.*** Additionally, we were able to provide ***employment for their grandmother*** as the custodian of the clinic.

**JAIME  
FERNANDO  
SANTIAGO**





# TOTAÍ ACADEMY

## Arts & Crafts

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Over the years, our Arts and Crafts class has become a significant outreach, and this year was no exception.

**MARCIA**

Marcia's (pictured on the bottom right) story is a great example of this. After regularly attending the craft class and building relationships there, Marcia decided to visit El Jireh Church. There, she had the opportunity to hear the gospel and found a genuine sense of community, leading her to commit her life to Christ and undergo baptism. She is now an active member of the congregation.

**AMALIA**

Marcia still participates in the arts and crafts program and consistently invites friends. This is how her neighbor, Amalia, began attending the class. In a similar story, Amalia (pictured on the bottom left) formed connections in the class and decided to visit the church. She now attends regularly and is experiencing spiritual growth within the community.

**RUTH**

Please keep Marcia and Amalia in your prayers as they continue to mature in their faith and navigate life's challenges through the gospel's perspective. Also, pray for Ruth, who leads the class, as she remains dedicated to reaching women through the platform of arts and crafts for the glory of God!





# TOTAÍ Futsal School

Since its inception, our futsal program has relied on various pitches around the community for training. However, this past year marked a significant milestone as we began developing our own pitch on the Foundation Totalai grounds. This will afford us the freedom to schedule training sessions at our convenience, unaffected by other events or activities. Moreover, it provides a safe space for children in our community to engage in sports whenever they desire.





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Last year, we had approximately 75 children attending our training sessions regularly, with teams participating in leagues across three categories: under-7s, under-9s, and under-11s. One of the program's practical objectives is to **offer children a constructive activity and make sports accessible to all**. Many participants come from families living below the poverty line, limiting their access to essentials such as footballs, trainers, socks, and uniforms. A significant number of players even attend training sessions wearing flip flops or crocs. We are confident that if the city ever hosts a tournament allowing players to compete in such footwear, we would emerge victorious every time.

To participate in the league, players require basic items like trainers, socks, and uniforms. To address this need, we operate a "borrow to play" system where players can use the provided items during games, return them afterward for cleaning, and have them ready for the next match. This approach ensures that every child, regardless of their family situation, can play in tournaments representing our team.

SAN  
SIMON

Please keep San and Simon in your prayers as they continue to lead and expand the program. Pray also for their ability to foster strong bonds and relationships with both the children and parents, enabling them to share the gospel and disciple them for the kingdom of God.







# TOTAÍ Clinic

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Earlier, we mentioned the trio of boys who receive tutoring from Simon, their presence in our program is a result of a tragic family situation. Their single mother had been ill and couldn't afford the specialized treatment she needed, tragically succumbing to her illness and leaving her children orphaned.



A similar scenario unfolded a few years ago with a young father in our neighborhood, leaving his wife to care for their four children alone without employment. These stories are unfortunately not isolated incidents, but rather emblematic of a recurring cycle of poverty, substance abuse, crime, and, in extreme cases, even human trafficking.

Our clinic's work is indispensable to our community. We are constantly striving to expand our services to reach more people in need. In instances such as those mentioned above, access to our services can be life-saving and transformative, altering the trajectory of families and communities by keeping parents present to raise their children and shielding them from the harsh realities of societal struggles.





This is why we are thrilled about the expansion of services we were able to achieve over the past year. In 2023, we broadened our offerings to include the following specialties:

- **Cardiology**
- **Rheumatology**
- **Endocrinology**
- **Dermatology**
- **Urology**
- **Panoramic X-rays (Dental)**

Thanks to your invaluable support, ***we're able to offer most of these specialties at roughly one-third of the cost compared to other healthcare facilities in our city.*** As mentioned earlier, this access can, in some cases, be life-saving, potentially altering the course of generations.

We're thankful that amidst significant change and transition, we managed to assist ***over 5,000 patients in 2023!*** Our aim is to build upon that figure this year, as we endeavor to broaden our services and extend our reach to help more individuals for the glory of God.





# Patients **Seen**

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**1167**

Nursing

**543**

General Medicine

**693**

Dentistry

**1325**

Otolaryngology

**27**

Pediatrics

**47**

Cardiology

**41**

Rheumatology

**464**

Ear Care

**1090**

Speech Therapy

**35**

Endocrinology

**140**

Dermatology

**57**

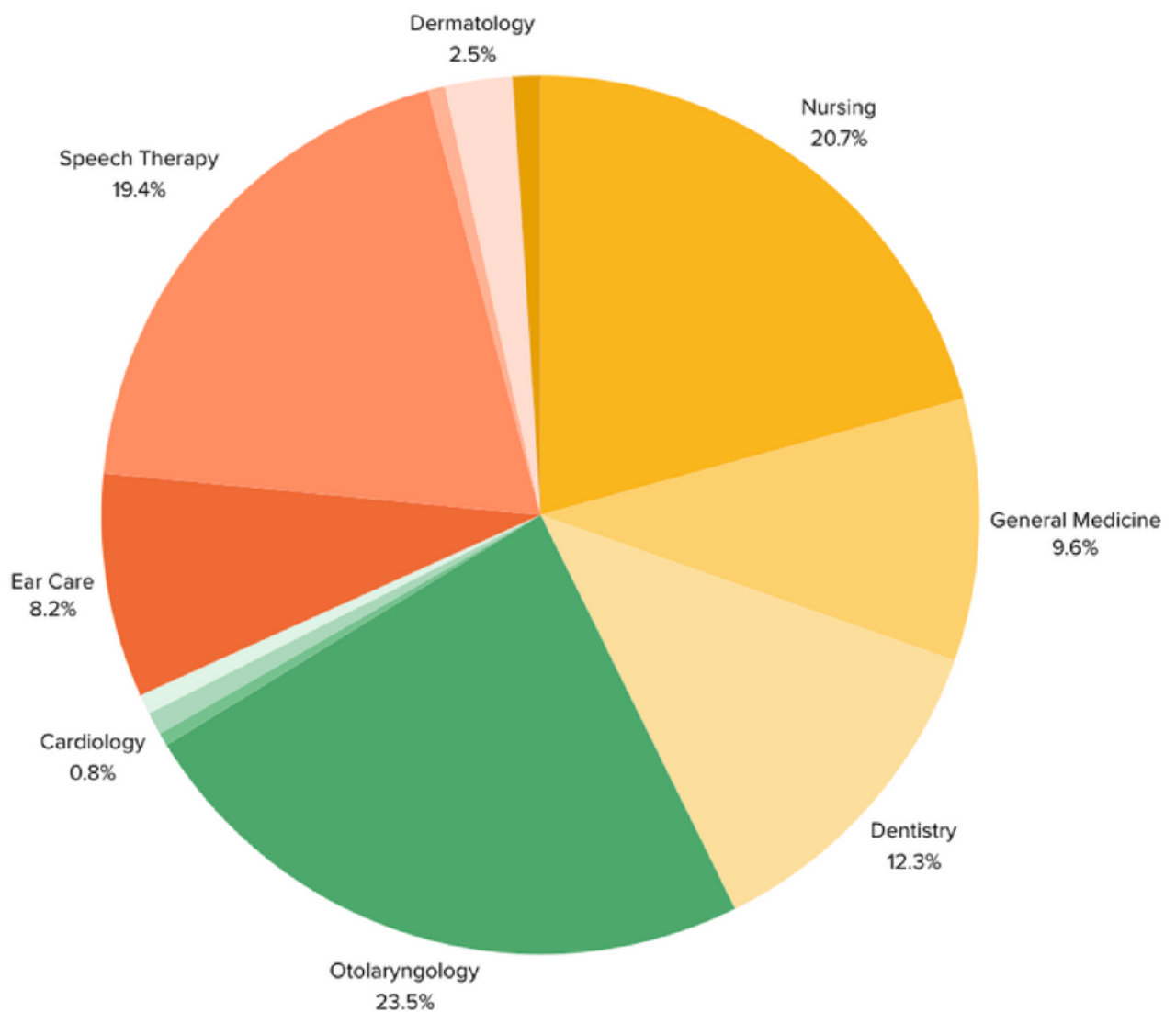
Urology

**= 5629**

Total Attendance



# Total Patients (%) in 2023





# OTHER IMPACTFUL Stories

## OVIDIA

*Despite having parents, Ovidia grew up as an orphan, moving from place to place until she eventually ended up at a boarding school in a small town in the department of Santa Cruz.*

*After graduating, Ovidia came to Trinidad for vacation. During this time, she managed to connect with El Jireh Church and began attending regularly, seeking answers to her many questions about Christ, the Bible, and the church. As her vacation drew to a close, she made the decision to stay and live in Trinidad, residing with some family friends. However, this arrangement proved to be less than ideal, leaving her with nowhere else to turn. FT stepped in and provided her with a room to stay. She now assists with cleaning tasks in the guest and church spaces, as well as organizing logistics for boarding volunteers. Living on-site, she grew closer to our church family, ultimately deciding to follow Christ and be baptized. She is now an active member of the church.*







# A letter from the President

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Dear Supporters,

Reflecting on the past year, we encountered a series of significant challenges that prompted urgent changes within our Foundation. We faced increasingly pressing difficulties, hampering our ability to adequately address the needs of our community. Regrettably, our administrative efforts fell short in implementing effective measures to overcome these hurdles or alleviate their impact during this critical period.

The absence of a clear vision for the future compromised our entire operation, affecting every facet of our institution. In light of this, it became imperative to reassess our strategies and activities to ensure our long-term sustainability and effectiveness.

Thanks to the diligent work of Red Roots, spearheaded by Romon Gore and Ruddy Arauz, we conducted a thorough internal analysis through staff interviews and detailed assessments of our operations. This process enabled us to pinpoint areas for improvement and identify management deficiencies.

Despite the challenges we faced, this period also served as an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to our mission. Embracing change and renewal, we approach the future armed with stronger and more effective strategies. We extend special gratitude to our partner, Red Roots, for their invaluable support throughout this transformative journey.

Looking ahead, we are filled with optimism and hope, trusting in divine guidance as we strive to be steadfast stewards of our mission.

We express our sincere appreciation for your unwavering support and prayers. With collective dedication and effort, we stand ready to tackle the challenges ahead and continue serving our community with unwavering dedication and excellence.

Warm regards,

**Miguel Arauz**  
President of Fundación Total






# 2024 goals are to broaden our services

*and extend our reach to  
help more individuals for  
the glory of God.*



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**TOTAÍ**

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