

# A TU LADO

2722 14th Avenue S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Collaborations in Paramedical Education

QUARTERLY REPORT | 11 APRIL 2012



**A Tu Lado with volunteer paramedics and doctors from SAR Bolivia and Mano a Mano Apoyo Aereo after a short-course in February 2012.**

## Dear Friends,

In the past twelve months, A Tu Lado has grown from an idea into a federal nonprofit. We continue to collaborate with local organizations as we advance medical education and service programs in Caracas, Venezuela and Cochabamba, Bolivia. Our philosophy and namesake – By Your Side – remains central to our mission: to collaboratively design and implement self-sustaining models of paramedicine.

**“We believe that frontline health workers are the future of sustainable medicine.”**

We are young members of a global movement. The WHO reports a shortage of 4.3 million frontline health workers – the personnel who are often the first or only link to healthcare for most of the world. As A Tu Lado responds with our partners and organizations across sectors and industries, we anticipate growth not only in the quantity of health workers, but also in their impact. Healthcare is moving out of the hospital as technology makes medical devices smaller, lighter, and more

mobile; community-based delivery systems are beginning to challenge the paradigm of mainframe care. We believe not only that frontline health workers will be central to this shift, but that paramedics – who work at the nexus of technology, the hospital, and the community – are uniquely staged for the future of sustainable medicine.

In pursuit of this vision, A Tu Lado supports projects that use paramedicine to increase access and lower the cost of healthcare for isolated communities. We welcome two visionary leaders to our Board of Directors: Mary Ann McNeil, director of Emergency Medicine at the University of Minnesota, and Choy Leow, Director of Design and Construction of Allina Healthcare.

We are excited to share news of recent developments and plans for the year ahead.

*Ethan Forsgren and Terence Steinberg*  
Directors of A Tu Lado

# OPERATIONAL REPORT

## Briefly, A Tu Lado:

- **Earned 501(c)(3), federal nonprofit status**
- **Conducted progress evaluation in Caracas and a needs assessment in Cochabamba, Bolivia**
- **Partnered with Mano a Mano to lead an BLS course this June in Cochabamba**
- **Plans to expand opportunities for frontline health workers in Venezuela and Bolivia**

### VENEZUELA

This January, we returned to Caracas, Venezuela to begin an evaluation of the programs we started there last July.

Our partners at Universidad Simón Bolívar (USB) are making final preparations to launch a complete emergency medical technician (EMT) course this August. The curriculum includes 180 hours of instruction and is based on the syllabus A Tu Lado designed and piloted with Venemergencia in June 2011. This will be Venezuela's first EMT course instructed by an accredited public university.

The Los Erasos Brigade, which we trained last July, participates in regular continuing education with Venemergencia. However, delays in launching the SMS alert system continue to postpone the Brigade's activation. A Tu Lado spent several days interviewing brigade members about their post-training experience

and discussed methods to improve coordination with Venemergencia. We also worked alongside brigade members to carry out an informal door-to-door survey on local health needs. Many residents cited inadequate emergency healthcare access and lack of public safety as primary concerns.

Meanwhile, the local clinic reports that residents do not effectively access existing health resources. This encouraged A Tu Lado and our partners to envision an improved role for the brigade, where in addition to providing rapid medical response to emergencies, brigade members can also serve as guides through the larger healthcare system. The Minnesotan equivalent would be to combine a first responder with a community health worker.

Despite the series of delays in the SMS system, VeneTecnología (Grupo Venemergencia's healthcare tech firm), already resolved the largest technological complications; the alert system should launch soon. Additionally, a cadre of brigade members will be sponsored to enroll in the EMT course at Simón Bolívar. With more formal EMS education, they will develop the leadership, structure, and autonomy of the brigade.

### BOLIVIA

From Caracas, A Tu Lado traveled to Cochabamba, Bolivia to begin groundwork with Mano a Mano Apoyo Aereo. In the past three years, Apoyo Aereo transported over 1,000 rural emergent patients to definitive care. As demand has risen, Mano a Mano invited A Tu Lado to partner in training dedicated medical personnel. Our immediate goal is to train a team of paramedics from a local rescue service, SAR Bolivia, to provide standardized care on Apoyo Aereo's aircraft during emergency flights.

In February we taught an afternoon of classes that provided an introduction to our upcoming training program in June. The course also provided us an opportunity to assess current knowledge and skills of volunteers. Content included flight physiology presented

Community surveys with the Los Erasos Brigade.







**“As technology continues to make medical devices smaller and lighter, the paramedic is staged to become a central resource for community health management.”**

**A Tu Lado coordinated a one-day training program at SAR's hanger that included flight physiology, intraosseous access, backboarding, and airway adjuncts.**



by Mary Ann McNeil; airway adjunct training; backboarding, simulation of pneumothorax using pig plucks, and intraosseous access.

Universidad Mayor de San Simon will also partner in June, providing space and logistical support. The university's medical faculty intend to launch a full-length EMT class in February 2013 based upon our the curricula we build together. Elements of June's course may also be used to establish a basic life support program at the University – giving police, firefighters, and laypersons a standardized resource for first responder-level training.

Instructors from the United States, Bolivia, and Venezuela will each contribute their knowledge to the collaboration.

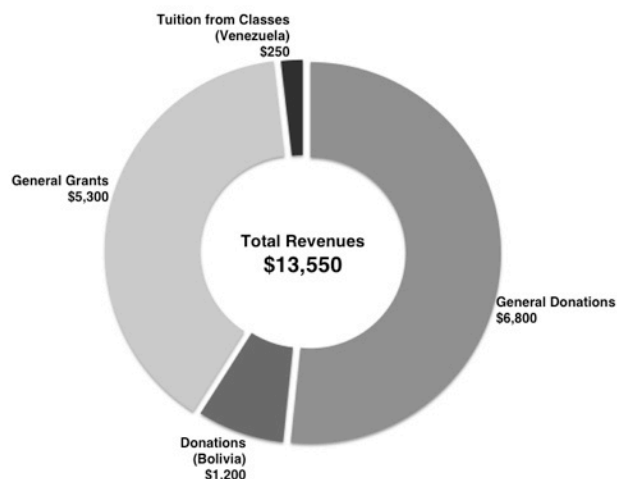
Find out more at [atulado.net](http://atulado.net).



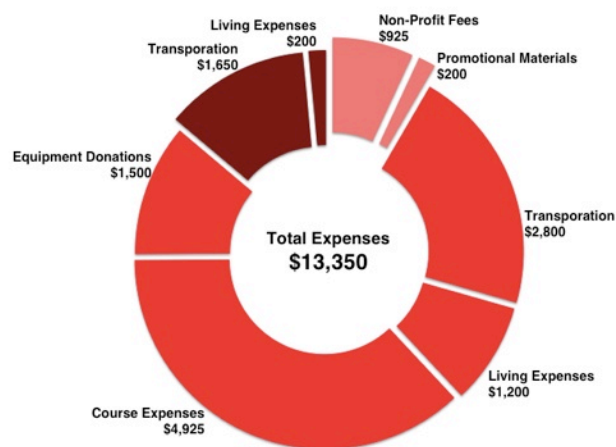
# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Summary of activities from January 2011 to February 2012

Revenue			
	General	Donations	\$6,800
	Bolivia	Donations	\$1,200
	Venezuela	Grants	\$5,300
	Venezuela	Tuition from classes	\$250
		Total Revenues	\$13,550



Expenses			
	General	Non-profit fees	\$925
		Promotional materials	\$200
	Venezuela	Transportation	\$2,800
		Living expenses	\$1,150
		Course expenses	\$4,925
		Equipment donations	\$1,500
	Bolivia	Transportation	\$1,650
		Living expenses	\$200
		Total Expenses	\$13,350



## PARTNERS

*Thank You*

### BOLIVIA

Mano a Mano Apoyo Aereo  
SAR Bolivia  
Universidad Mayor de San Simón

### VENEZUELA

El Cuerpo de Bomberos Voluntarios de USB  
Grupo Venemergencia  
Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración  
Universidad Simón Bolívar

### USA

Macalester First Aid  
Mano a Mano International  
UMN - Department of Emergency Medicine