

## OCHO Annual Report- August 2026



### June 2026 Brigade Volunteers:

Alicia Allen (Board), Pablo Argimon, Martha Benson, Zack Berger, Kristin Brockmeyer-Stubbs (Board), Rachel Cane, Laura Donegan, Stephanie Felton, Kevin Franiak, Sheilagh Franiak, Peter Gergen, (Board), Teana Gomez, Samara Green, Jessi Hargadine, Howard Hauptman (Board), Meg Jacoby, Micah Kramer, Eleana Loane, (Board), Hal Malone, Rebecca Marsden (Board), Michelle Melicosta (Board), Rachel Neumoyer, Meghna Rajaprakash, Caleb Runyon, Eva Taylor, Cristina Saenz de Tejada(Board), Sam Serafi (Board), Pilar Shoap, Ashvin Sinha, Heather Strzelczyk, Mey Suculpe (Board), Mercy Viator, Claudeth Zavala





## **OCHO Board Meeting while in Honduras**

Rebecca Marsden (Medical Committee/Social Media/PR), Kristin Brockmeyer-Stubbs (President/Rehab); Mey Suculpe (Rehab), Alicia Allen (VP/Medical/Social Media/PR), Peter Gergen (Medical/Peds), Howard Hauptman (Medical Director), Patrocinio Sarmiento (OCHO Employee/Honduran Representative), Elena Loane (Brigade Coordinator), Sami Serafi (Medical), Cristina Saenz de Tejada (Honduran Liaison), Michelle Melicosta (Rehab/Peds).  
Not pictured: Jocelyn Diaz (Treasurer), Fatima Salem (Secretary), Bo Brand (Rehab/Projects)



## **OCHO and UNAH 2026 Team**

Dr. Patrocinio Sarmiento, OCHO Director of Operations in Honduras  
Dr. Samara Matute, Concepcion Sur  
Dra. Ana Xiomara Perez Medina, Rehabilitation, UNAH  
Lisbeeb Portillo, Atima, Functional Therapist



# A Year In Review (July 2025-August 2026)

## Administrative

1. Added three new members to the OCHO Board!  
Ellie Loane, Michelle Melicosta, MD; Sami Serafi, MD
2. Created a Social Media and PR committee  
Ali Allen, Rebecca Marsden, Vesi Mineva
3. Dr. Patrocinio Sarmiento visited Baltimore Nov. 2025



Dr. Sarmiento visited Baltimore to present at the NCFR 2025 Conference. Several OCHO members (Kristin, Ali, Elena, and Cristina) met with Patro and University of MD representatives (Rosalynn-(Student), Raya Francio, Javiera Monardez and Ghaffar Ali Hurtado Choque and the authors of “Rural Honduras: Perspectives from Teachers and Youth (i.e. Javiera Monardes, MD; Raya Francis, MS; Silvia Alvarez de Davila, PhD; Aleyda Dubon, Alex Chan, PhD, Jessica Moore Solozano, Rose Linares, Mona Mittal, PhD, and Ghaffar Ali Hurtado Choque, PhD.) We shared the history of OCHO and our current projects and they shared their experiences and goals. Patro shared the overwhelming positive feedback from the presentation. We discussed furthering the collaboration over the next few years.

4. Seven OCHO Brigade Scholarships were granted to off-set some of the brigade costs for volunteers whose skills and expertise contributed to this year's goals.

## Social Media/Website

OCHO has increased the amount of platforms in which we have a presence. Now visible on:

- Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OCHOorg/>.
- LinkedIn [Organization for Community Health Outreach \(OCHO\): Home | LinkedIn](#)



- Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/ochoorg/>

The total number of followers is over 1.1 K and growing!

Our website is still undergoing changes to reflect the many projects <https://www.ocho.org/>. We have a new link to the [Tele-education projects](#) that take place in Honduras.

## **Telehealth Consultations and Training Highlights**

**Rehab Consults** are done once monthly via zoom with Lisbeeb Portillo, Functional Therapist/Atima; Dr. Sarmiento/OCHO MD; Yeni Aceituno, Functional Therapist/Concepción Sur; Cristhian Omar Montoya, Functional Therapist/San Vicente Centenario; Kristin Brockmeyer-Stubbs, OT/Board Member; Fatima Salem, SLP/Board Member; Josefina Fernandez, SLP; and Mey Suclupe, Board Member/interpreter with evaluation and treatment planning for 7 specific cases over this past year. This year's focus has been: capacity building and training on topics of mutual interest; identifying resources needed to support the Honduran communities for rehabilitation/habilitation; sharing best practices for engaging communities and partners; and planning all the logistics for a successful brigade. Therapy topics discussed this year included: signs of motor delays; speech and language issues; treatment planning for hemiparesis following a CVA; impact of scoliosis on development; learning disorders and behavioral management techniques and more.



**Medical Telehealth** consults expanded again this year with Concepción Sur using telehealth to treat patients with complex medical conditions. 59 surgeries and curative procedures were completed as a result of this collaboration. OCHO will continue efforts to expand and strengthen telehealth in other municipalities. Follow-up care has been provided, and it continues to be done through local doctors and local hospitals. Howard Hauptman and Patrocinio Sarmiento lead this project with Cristina Saenz de Tejada's assistance.

OCHO continues to offer **virtual training** for staff. Three training sessions with doctors from the United States was organized by Dr. Howard Hauptman. OCHO also coordinated training with PAHO (Pan American Health Organization)—also held in a virtual format.

Our OCHO home team (Dr. Sarmiento and Lisbeeb Partillo) were invited by Dr. Vera Joanna Burton, MD/PhD-Co-Director, Infant Neurodevelopment Center to specialized training given by the CP Foundation in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula in early 2026. OCHO provided a stipend to Lisbeeb to attend this offering.



## **2025-2026 Services in Honduras**

Ophthalmology services were provided only on weekends over the last year. These appointments were delivered by volunteer groups from the Lions Club and by Dr. Patrocinio Sarmiento. The total number of patients seen was **299**, and some required referrals (4 patients) to a hospital with higher complexity in San Pedro Sula. Former volunteer Jude Wilson, ran a very successful campaign to support the Ophthalmology Clinic through his Xavier High School and raised \$2000. These funds will be invested at the new clinic in San Nicolas once OCHO signs an agreement with the Lions Club in Santa Barbara.



**The Centro Rehabilitacion Integral Comunitario (CRIC) provided over 500 functional therapy sessions during the year.** Monthly reports, highlighting the number of patients seen and their diagnoses, are sent to the OCHO Board and reviewed. Lisbeeb Portillo, functional therapist, also includes photos each month to highlight the programming provided at CRIC.



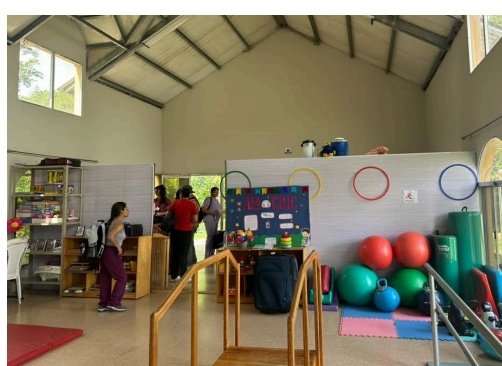
**Finance Report Brigade 2026.** OCHO was successful in running a self-sufficient brigade. Thanks to the donations we received totaling \$4968, we were able to recover costs for the rehabilitation program, off-set travel expenses for much needed volunteers and interpreters, as well as medications and medical procedures. There is a surplus of \$3125 that will be deposited in the Scholarship Restricted Funds to off-set the \$8700 awards given to 7 volunteers.

## Highlights from June-July 2026 Brigade:

6/27/26: Set up the medical clinic at Francisco Morazan School (home base) and saw patients from municipalities of Arada and San Vicente. Specialized training sessions were also held at the Francisco Morazan School.



6/28/26: Rehabilitation team traveled to Atima and saw patients at the CRIC. The medical team saw patients from San Vicente and Nispero at the home base.









6/29/26 All of OCHO Travels to Atima

The Rehab team was joined by the UNAH students, professors and physicians at the CRIC and the Medical team treated alongside the physicians in Atima at the clinic.





6/30/26 RehabTeam travelled with the UNAH students to Concepcion Sur and the Medical Team saw patients from Nuevo Celilac and San Nicolas.





7/1/26 Rehab Team worked alongside UNAH team in San Vicente and Medical Team worked from the home base in San Vicente



### **Medical Services Summary and the Numbers:**

**This year the OCHO teams saw approximately 700 patients** who traveled from multiple communities in the Santa Barbara area to Atima, Concepción Sur, Nuevo Celilac and San Vicente Centenario. The multispecialty clinics included pediatrics, internal medicine, rheumatology, obstetrics-gynecology, dermatology, and rehabilitation. This year we had a pharmacist, Pilar Shoap who was supported by our youth team of Micah Kramer and Ashvin Sinha. The medical team coordinated care with our full time Honduran physician, Dr. Patrocinio Sarmiento. Additionally, Honduran doctors from nearby villages participated in the care of their patients and helped support our team in the clinics. The Honduran physicians who joined the brigade and collaborated in care included Samara Matute, Sindy Vásquez, Ramón Pineda, Sofia Sánchez, Edimar Medina, Aldyn Lagos, Mario Puerto, and Yoseri Molina and Manuel Ramos sent referrals for their patients.



COMPLETE DAILY WHEN CLINIC CLOSES

PATIENTS

|                   | Saturday | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday |     |
|-------------------|----------|--------|--------|---------|-----------|-----|
| Pediatrics        | 22       | 28     | 33     | 12      | 25        | 120 |
| OGBYN             | 17       | 10     | 14     | 12      | 16        | 69  |
| Rheumatology      | 35       | 37     | 22     | 42      | 33        | 169 |
| Internal Medicine | 39       | 33     | 23     | 102     | 25        | 222 |
| Dermatology       | 29       | 50     | 18     | 17      | 32        | 146 |
| Rehabilitation    |          |        |        |         |           |     |
| Other             |          |        |        |         |           |     |
|                   | 142      | 158    | 107    | 186     | 131       | 726 |

THE ORGANIZATION FOR  
COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH

OCHO.ORG  
PROMOVIENDO LA SALUD EN HONDURAS

**ATENCIÓN  
DE LA BRIGADA  
MÉDICA  
OCHO**

**¡ATENCIÓN!**  
Este día finaliza la atención médica  
en San Vicente Centenario.

Hasta **1:30 p.m.**  
se brindará atención.

Aproveche esta última oportunidad  
de recibir atención médica gratuita.

**¡GRACIAS POR CONFIAR EN OCHO!**  
Trabajamos juntos por una comunidad más saludable.

SALUD | COMPASIÓN | COMUNIDAD



## Across the clinic days

- **Consultations:** 726+ (not including rehabilitation patients and UNAH patients)
- **Rehabilitation:** 35 families
- **Procedures performed:** 14 biopsies and 6 cytology samples
- **Ophthalmology:** 95 patients
- **Patients who merit follow-up after the brigade:** 166

The 2026 **Pediatric team** participating in the 2026 OCHO bridge consisted of three Pediatricians (Rachel Cane, MD, Michelle Melicosta, MD, and Peter Gergen, MD) and a Pediatric nurse (Sheilagh Franiak, RN). Together the Pediatric team evaluated, diagnosed, and treated 138 patients. Many of the patients had been referred by their local doctor due to concerns about the appropriate strategy for evaluation, diagnosis, or treatment. The team provided recommendations that were made to the local physicians either by face-to-face communication or brief written evaluations. As part of a training seminar, Dr Rachel Cane present on *Common Pediatric Respiratory Conditions (Bronchiolitis, Asthma, and Pneumonia)*.



The following are some of the highlights from the Brigade from the **Rehab Team** (Members: Kristin Brockmeyer-Stubbs, OTR/Board Member; Samara Green, OTR; Hal Malone, Interpreter; Meg Jacoby, OTS; Meghna Rajaprakash, MD; Mey Suculpe, Board Member/Interpreter; Eva Taylor, OTS)

- Evaluated 35 pediatric patients across three clinical sites: Atima, Concepción Sur, and San Vicente
- Delivered educational lectures on *Acute Seizure Management* and *Autism Spectrum Disorder* to local healthcare providers (Dr. Meghna Rajaprakash) and Kristin Brockmeyer-Stubbs provided training on “*Importance of Healthy Routines for ADLs to Prevent Functional and Mental Decline Post Injury: An OT Perspective*” and “*Hand Function Workshop on Orthotics to Optimize Function*”



- Distributed laminated acute seizure management algorithm cards to physicians and community healthcare providers to support rapid, evidence-based emergency care.
- Donated a RiTa-T Autism Screening Kit to Lisbeeb Portillo at the CRIC to expand local autism screening capacity.
- Introduced three developmental assessment tools to strengthen early neurodevelopmental evaluation:
  - RiTa-T for autism screening,
  - Capute Developmental Test (CAT/CLAMS) for developmental assessment,
  - Hammersmith Infant Neurological Examination (HINE) for early detection of cerebral palsy,
- Provided preliminary hands-on training to CRIC staff on the administration and interpretation of these assessment tools.
- Collaborated with two Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (PM&R) physicians from UNAH to discuss complex patient cases and gain multidisciplinary perspectives on management. Dr. Meghna Rajaprakash led this collaboration.
- Initiated discussions on establishing parent support groups for children with disabilities. One parent at the CRIC expressed interest in serving as the inaugural parent leader.
- The Rehab team worked alongside UNAH students during the brigade to partner with communities in Atima, Concepcion Sur and San Vicente. OCHO helped to identify resources for the patients and develop treatment plans. The UNAH students practiced clinical skills with the OCHO team providing guidance/mentoring to further their learning.

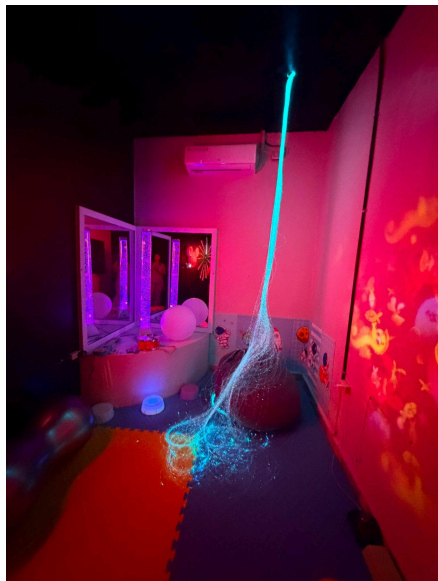
### **Reflection on 2026 Brigade from Mey Suclupe, Board Member/Interpreter on Rehab Team**

“The 2026 Brigade has been a meaningful experience for me in many ways. As a healthcare advocate, being part of something bigger and truly impactful has been an honor. When we arrived in Santa Barbara, the people who came from different villages helped us better understand the needs that parents and caregivers face. Some of these needs were basic, such as transportation, which is a major bridge to accessing healthcare services. Others needed more information about therapies and the possibilities available for their specific situations. Some parents sought validation and inclusion, as these continue to be challenges that communities are working to address and embrace. At the same time, some parents simply needed to hear from professionals that they were doing a great job as caregivers. This reminded us that the work accomplished over the years has been fruitful and meaningful. It showed that the follow-up, dedication, and efforts made both for and by the community have produced tangible results. Finally, although each day brought new challenges, connecting with our patients through a smile and witnessing their achievements made every obstacle worthwhile. Seeing their progress was a powerful reminder of why we do this work and made every effort to get there truly rewarding.”





A highlight was returning to Concepcion Sur to tour their new rehab setting and visiting with Sandra Adriano, (wife of mayor), and the staff at the Centro de Atencion Integral Los Amigos de Sara



The OCHO Board met with the Mayor of Atima on 6/29/26 to discuss ongoing collaboration with Atima medical providers.



Thank You to our Honduran Partners, Our Home Team, the Families of our Volunteers, our Donors and our current and past OCHO Volunteers!!



## Plans for 2026-27:

This next year brings us many opportunities to continue our partnerships highlighted in this annual report. OCHO looks forward to continuing our mission that is built on collaboration and sharing knowledge, and resources to promote access to medical and rehabilitative care in Honduras. The work continues after our arrival home and most recently, the following has been accomplished:

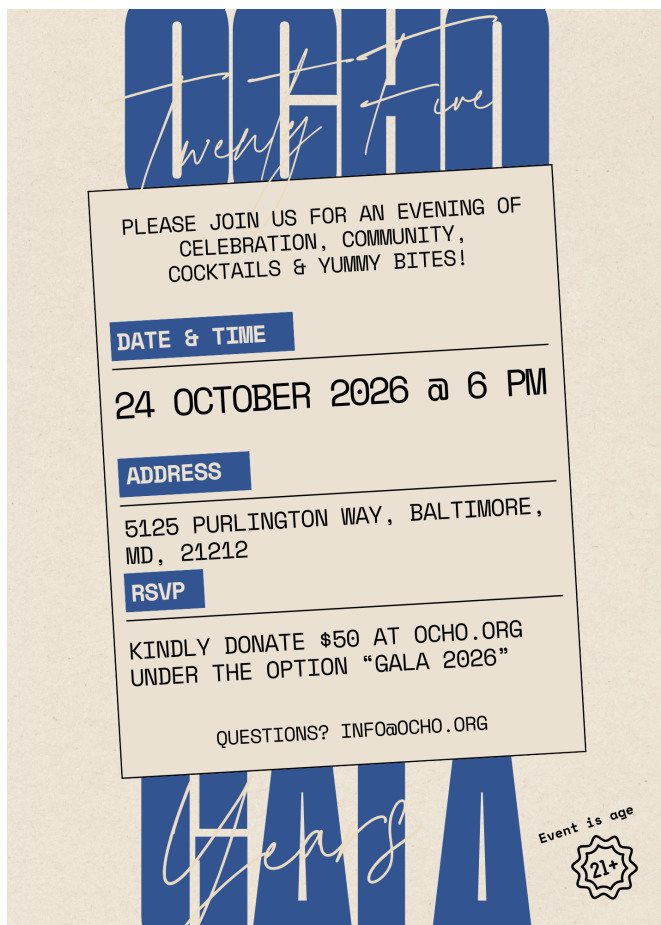
- On July 4-5th, 2026, Dr. Patrocinio Sarmiento visited a space to install the ophthalmology clinic, because the municipality of San Nicolas needs the current space where OCHO has the eye clinic equipment.
- OCHO has now established a follow-up process for the urgent cases identified from the 2026 brigade. Two relevant cases involve children with hydrocephalus. OCHO has already coordinated so that the mayor of Átima can help the patients obtain the necessary studies/medical testing and the Ministry of Health will provide transport, and Ocho via Dr.



Patrocinio Sarmiento will manage the scheduling for the specialist evaluation in San Pedro Sula.

- Rehab is following up on two epilepsy cases and one possible cardiac surgery case.
- **OCHO will be following 116 cases in follow-up this year—double what was done last year!** This reflects the constant efforts to make certain the model of care is sustainable from the referral stage, to the provision of consultations and then vigilance in follow up. Dr. Patrocinio Sarmiento is instrumental in this model.
- **Vision for 2027:** Ensure that the municipalities that OCHO provides coverage during the brigade are working in the teleconsultation model and also understand Ocho's team-work dynamics, to make the work sustainable and to reach those who need the care the most.
- Interested in volunteering for the brigade from June 18th-26th-2027? Contact [eloane.ocho@gmail.com](mailto:eloane.ocho@gmail.com) for information.

OCHO is celebrating 26 years of service this year and stay tuned for an epic celebration of the 25th year on October 24th.



Sign up is on the [OCHO.org](https://OCHO.org) site under the donation tab for "Gala 2026". Please join us!

Sincerely,  
OCHO Board of Directors-September 2026

ALICIA ALLEN

BOUDEWIEN BRAND

KRISTIN  
BROCKMEYER-STUBBS,  
MS, OTR/L

JOCELYN DIAZ

PETER GERGEN, MD

HOWARD HAUPTMAN,  
MD

ELENA LOANE

REBECCA MARSDEN, MS,  
APRN, ANP-BC

MICHELLE MELICOSTA,  
MD

VESELINA MINEVA

CRISTINA SAENZ DE  
TEJADA, PHD

FATIMA SALEM, MS,  
CCC-SLP

PATROCINIO SARMIENTO,  
MD (HONDURAS)

SAMI SERAFI, MD

MEY SUCLUPE

PO Box 26162  
BALTIMORE, MD 21210

