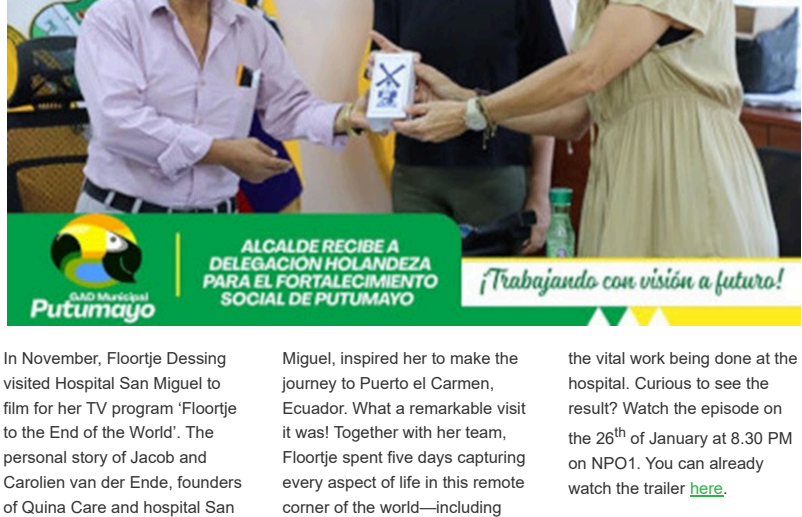


Recordings of 'Floortje to the End of the World' last November at Hospital San Miguel! That's where we begin this newsletter! In the previous newsletter, we gave an advance announcement of our GivingTuesday campaign. In this edition, you can read more about it. We also highlight the sponsorship events surrounding the Ironman and the 5th edition of the Putumayo Run. Additionally, we introduce two members of our staff and share some fun facts about the number of babies that have now been born in our hospital. One of our board members recently visited the hospital and shares her experiences. We also look back on the volunteer gathering held last November.

## Floortje Dessing visits Puerto el Carmen

Carolien and Jacob featured in episode of 'Floortje to the End of the World'.



In November, Floortje Dessing visited Hospital San Miguel to film for her TV program 'Floortje to the End of the World'. The personal story of Jacob and Carolien van der Ende, founders of Quina Care and hospital San

Miguel, inspired her to make the journey to Puerto el Carmen, Ecuador. What a remarkable visit it was! Together with her team, Floortje spent five days capturing every aspect of life in this remote corner of the world—including

the vital work being done at the hospital. Curious to see the result? Watch the episode on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January at 8.30 PM on NPO1. You can already watch the trailer [here](#).

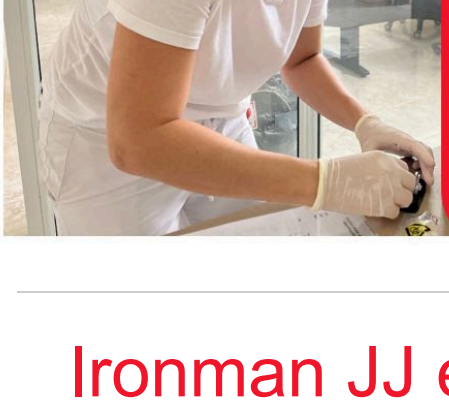
## GivingTuesday and staff sponsorship booklet

Support Quina Care by sponsoring staff salaries.

December 2nd was GivingTuesday—a global day of generosity, reflecting on those less fortunate than ourselves, such as the people of Putumayo. To ensure they

continue to receive proper healthcare, a sponsorship booklet was introduced. In this booklet, we introduce our hospital staff and offer the opportunity to sponsor their

salaries. The more salaries that are sponsored, the more we can guarantee continued care for the community. Interested to know more? Visit our website via this [link](#).



**María Vanessa Dávila Campos**

Employed since: July 2022

Position: Laboratory technician, full-time

Tasks: Daily laboratory diagnostics

Training in / developing skills in: Scientific research on infectious diseases in the region

## Ironman JJ en Matya

An incredible athletic achievement!

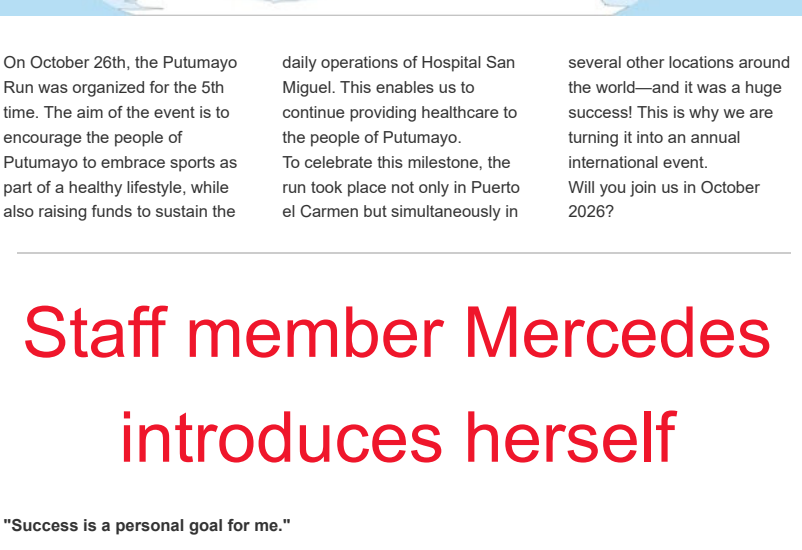


Jaap Jan (JJ) and Matya, two passionate athletes who competed in the Ironman in Portugal in October, raised funds for the operational costs of Hospital San

Miguel. Together, they collected nearly €1,000 and delivered an outstanding athletic performance. JJ and Matya—thank you!

## Putumayo run

Participants in Ecuador and far beyond.



On October 26th, the Putumayo Run was organized for the 5th time. The aim of the event is to encourage the people of Putumayo to embrace sports as part of a healthy lifestyle, while also raising funds to sustain the

daily operations of Hospital San Miguel. This enables us to continue providing healthcare to the people of Putumayo. To celebrate this milestone, the run took place not only in Puerto el Carmen but simultaneously in

several other locations around the world—and it was a huge success! This is why we are turning it into an annual international event. Will you join us in October 2026?

## Staff member Mercedes introduces herself

"Success is a personal goal for me."

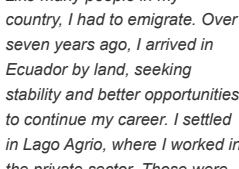


"I was born on December 10, 1989. I am currently 35 years old. I come from the canton of Putumayo, in the province of Sucumbios. I have three children: the oldest is 17 and has a physical disability, the second is 12, and my youngest—a girl—is 4 years old. I completed my primary education at the bilingual school

"Blanca Andí" and attended high school at the "Juan Jiménez" educational institution. After that, I took a nursing assistant course in the city of Lago Agrio, offered by the state college Peninsula de Santa Elena (UPSE). I gained practical experience at the Marco Vinicio Iza Hospital, specifically in the emergency and intensive care units. When I heard through social media that a Dutch couple was opening a hospital in our region, I thought: "I want to study nursing so I can work there." That motivated me to continue my studies in healthcare. I began a nursing program at the technological institute CRECERMAS (ISTEC) and completed four semesters. However, before I could start my internship, I had to stop studying due to financial difficulties. Later, I tried to switch to a technical program using exemptions, but

that also proved too expensive. So, I decided to temporarily pause my studies. I still hope that, regardless of my age, I will one day be able to complete my education. As for my work experience: For two school years, I worked as a teacher for the Ministry of Education."

Interested in more? Please click following [link](#).



## Staff member Patricia introduces herself

"Even in the most remote corners, health starts with a timely diagnosis."



"I didn't choose the easiest path, but I chose the one that allowed me to reach my goal." That's how I ended up at San Miguel Hospital. My name is Patricia Coromoto Picón Nadales. I was born on February 16, 1988, in Mérida, Venezuela, and I am the oldest of three children. My parents have always been my greatest support. From them, I learned to never give up on my dreams, to always keep my goals in sight, and not to let obstacles stand in my way. As a bioanalyst, I strive to practice my profession with passion, patient-centered care, and respect for clinical diagnostics. Since graduating more than eight years ago with a degree in Bioanalysis, I've believed—and am reminded every day—that the clinical



laboratory is an essential tool for medical diagnoses and patient well-being. I began my career as a laboratory assistant in Venezuela, and later, as a licensed professional. I shared this passion with my mother, who is also a bioanalyst. Though we come from different generations, we both graduated from the

Universidad de Los Andes (ULA) in Mérida. More than just a degree, we share a vision: to practice science with humanity. Like many people in my country, I had to emigrate. Over seven years ago, I arrived in Ecuador by land, seeking stability and better opportunities to continue my career. I settled in Lago Agrio, where I worked in the private sector. Those were years of hard work, adaptation, and professional growth."

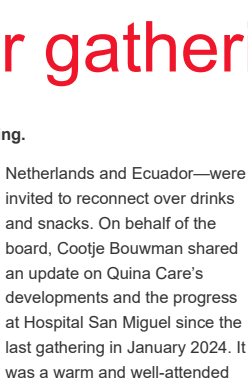
If you would like to know more about Patricia, click [here](#).



## Yvonne van der Ende visits hospital San Miguel

"I experienced once again how different life is in Ecuador."

"In October, I visited Hospital San Miguel. During the two weeks I stayed there, I once again experienced how different life in Ecuador is compared to life in the Netherlands. The care we provide through Hospital San Miguel is desperately needed. I had the privilege of assisting in a surgery, attending the monthly staff lunch, celebrating birthdays, and participating in the Putumayo



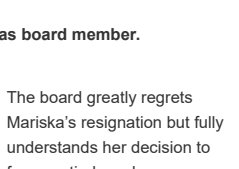
Run! Running 10 kilometers in the jungle is quite different from running at home—but I made it! I'm very proud of that result and look back on an inspiring visit. I hope to return again in 2026. Being there and witnessing the daily realities and challenges firsthand always renews my motivation to continue supporting Quina Care's mission."

## Volunteer gathering 2025

A pleasant and well-attended evening.

On November 28th, another volunteer gathering took place. All volunteers who are currently active or have supported Quina Care in the past—both in the

Netherlands and Ecuador—were invited to reconnect over drinks and snacks. On behalf of the board, Cootje Bouwman shared an update on Quina Care's developments and the progress at Hospital San Miguel since the last gathering in January 2024. It was a warm and well-attended evening, and it was wonderful to see the ongoing dedication of so many volunteers.



## A quarter...

...filled with facts about 50 babies at hospital San Miguel.

- Since the hospital opened, 50 babies have been born at Hospital San Miguel—21 girls and 29 boys!
- In 2025, the average was 5 births per quarter
- The first baby was born on December 2, 2021, and named after Dr. Carolien
- The 50th baby was born on October 31, 2025—a boy named Tomas Adrian Parra Criollo. His parents are overjoyed. He required significant medical care after birth and remained in the hospital for two more weeks. His story is yet another reminder of how essential Hospital San Miguel is for healthcare in Putumayo. The day he was in Bioanalysis, I've believed—and am reminded every face in the photo was filled with smiles!

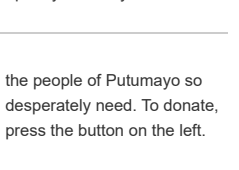


## Board announcement

Mariska van de Sande steps down as board member.

Our secretary, Mariska van de Sande, has unfortunately stepped down from the board of Quina Care as of 1 January 2026 for health reasons. Since the founding of our foundation in January of 2017, Mariska has served as secretary with great dedication and played a key role in the establishment of our hospital in Ecuador. In addition to her duties as secretary, Mariska was deeply involved in shipping the containers and was, among other things, responsible for agreements with our hospital volunteers, compiling newsletters, designing promotional materials, and closely contributing to the development of policy plans in recent years.

The board greatly regrets Mariska's resignation but fully understands her decision to focus entirely on her recovery in the coming period.



Fortunately, not all ties with Quina Care are being severed. Mariska will continue to support the foundation as a volunteer, including taking care of the layout of our newsletters and coordinating the Nutrition project. The board, together with Carolien and Jacob, thanks Mariska for her tireless commitment and wishes her a speedy recovery.

Donate

Quina Care needs the support of donors. Only with your help we can realize the health care

the people of Putumayo so desperately need. To donate, press the button on the left.

