



Presbyterian Women
in the
Synod of the Trinity
2024 Mission Project

*San Juan La Laguna
Guatemala*

MISSION AND VISION

Founded in 2016, the Casa Materna project provides necessary medical services and education for low-resource mothers and babies in the rural region of San Juan La Laguna and nearby towns in Guatemala. Our goal is that all women in this region have an affordable, accessible and safe place to give birth to their babies and, consequently, reduce fetal and maternal mortality in the region.

- **Maternal mortality rate (MMR)** is the annual number of female deaths per 100,000 live births from any cause related to or aggravated by pregnancy or its management(excluding accidental or incidental causes). Guatemala’s MMR(96) is **THREE** times higher than the U.S. maternal mortality rate(21) and more than **THIRTY** times higher than Sweden(5), Italy(5), Japan(4), and Australia(3).

- **Worldwide causes of Maternal death** are Hemorrhage 27%, Sepsis 24%, Eclampsia 20%, Indirect Causes 11%, Obstructed Labor 10%, and Anemia 8%. Indigenous Guatemalan women are more than twice as likely to die from pregnancy related deaths than non-indigenous women. Up to 9/10 maternal deaths are preventable with timely access to evidence-based maternal care.

Casa Materna staff is trained to respond to emergencies which arise during labor and birth, and to provide transport to the closest hospital when needed. We serve the community 24 HOURS/DAY, 7 DAYS/WEEK with a team of all female qualified midwives, educators and nurses who speak the local Mayan dialect and use culturally preferred practices. We are supported by a US Doctor and Physicians Assistant.

All of the local Redstone PW's are encouraged to support this very worthy mission project. Help us to make a generous donation to this organization this fall.

PW Synod has changed the collection deadline for Mission Projects to **December 1, 2024. Redstone PW will request that you bring your donation to the Fall Gathering on Nov.2, 2024 at Poke Run PC., Apollo** or mail it to Sue Blank, Treasurer, 4068 Bushy Run Rd., Jeannette, PA 15644. Make **checks payable to Redstone PW**, write Synod Mission on memo line.