

A look at how far Stand With Me has come in the last 3 years, and where we are going this year!

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## Stand With Me Quarterly Newsletter

I am proud to say that as of today, Stand With Me has officially donated a total of **485 standing frames over the past 3 years**. We are reaching real children suffering from a variety of debilitating medical conditions in Guatemala (378), Peru (64), Honduras (20), Vietnam (15), Belize (4), Zambia (2), China (2), and even North Korea(2). The distribution of standing frames has been a huge success! To see more images and stories visit our website [www.standwithme.org](http://www.standwithme.org).

Over 2016, we focused on steadying and improving our production at the factory in Xenacoj, Guatemala, and securing our relationship with our partners Hope Haven International. After transitioning workers, we now have a steady production of about 30 standing frames being produced each working month! At this rate, we are set to reach over **330 new standing frames per year** going forward. This is a huge accomplishment which would be impossible without the wonderful collaboration of our Hope Haven Partners. Mark Richard, the director of Hope Haven International says it is "nice to see the how the Stand With Me project is doing". Below you can see Erik Saban building standing frames in the workshop in Xenacoj, Guatemala and one of our patients receiving his new standing frame.



Our most recent achievement was the arrival of **15 standing frames in Hanoi, Vietnam!** The standing frames were distributed with wheelchairs in conjunction with Hope Haven. We also landed **2 standing frames to Lusaka, Zambia** in late December of 2016. They are being used by Regina Zulianello, a Pediatric Physiotherapist working with MSc International Child Health Organization.



A photo of a child receiving both a Stand With Me standing frame and a Hope Haven wheel chair in Vietnam!  
January 2017



Blessing is one of our newest patients in Zambia!  
December 2016

Emily Donaldson traveled to Peru for two weeks this January 2017 to reconnect with our partners in Lima, including an orphanage, hospital and clinic. In speaking with families and healthcare professionals, it became clear that the need for standing frames continues to outstrip our ability to produce. At Shalom, a physical therapy clinic that doubles as a ministry, families who had heard about our work there in 2015 still regularly inquire if any are available. During the 2015 trip, we brought a standing frame with us from Guatemala for Shalom, and arranged for a second to be sent after our departure. Both standing frames are in constant use today. The first belongs to Ruth-Juliet, a three-year-old girl with CP who shares it with two other children in her area. They all live so far away from a clinic that the physical therapists sent it to them. The second standing frame is used by Jeremy, a three-year-old boy who uses it daily for therapy at his home. We are working on locating a local CNC machine to cut out more standing frame parts to make more standing frames soon. Hopefully within the year, more children will be able to access standing frames in Lima.

The Casa Hogar Padre Martinho is continuing its mission of caring for the children under their care. By covering their basic needs, physical therapy, education and social integration they actively contribute to a brighter future. The standing frame we left them is still in good condition, although many of their children are too big for it. Emily met 4-year-old Adriano, who has CP and very little strength, who had been using the standing frame until he outgrew it. There is a little girl named Alexandra, who might be able to use it in the next few years. Alexandra is tiny for being over year old, with microcephaly, seizures, and blindness. Hopefully, if her therapy progresses well, someday she will be able to stand.

Emily was also able to visit the Hospital de Rehabilitación del Callao, with the help of a wonderful former employee (also named Emily) who used to work with disabled children there. Hospital administrators and therapists shared their ideas of how to make the standing frames more versatile and also requested more standing frames, including to distribute to other area hospitals. It was inspiring to see how far we have come in a year, and to be reminded of how many more children are in need of their own standing frame.



With these tremendous strides forward, we continue to rely on your generous contributions to continue rapidly expanding our patient base and to reach children on our extensive waiting list of patients. Each standing frame costs just \$50 to donate, and our work is projected to cost roughly \$20,000 for the 2017 fiscal year, and that is to say nothing of our plans to expand production and delivery systems in existing and new locations.

I hope that during this Valentine's day season you will consider a loving gift to support children who are courageously fighting cerebral palsy. I hope that you will continue supporting the work you have helped begin with an equal or more significant gift than you have in previous years. Remember all contributions are tax deductible.

Donate online at [www.standwithme.org](http://www.standwithme.org) or make checks payable to Stand With Me and mail to: 160-7 Cedar Breeze South, Glenburn, ME 04401

I invite you to stand with me to combat childhood disability!

Sincerely,  
Scott Mitchell  
Stand With Me Director  
Phone: (207) 478-1100



Scott with one of our first patients in Guatemala.  
Summer 2015 project

