



the Hospitaller Order of St John of God with

Cochabamba

BOLIVIA



UFFICIO MISSIONI E COOPERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE

Ordine Ospedaliero di San Giovanni di Dio
Vila della Nocetta, 263 · 00164 Roma · cooperazione@ohsjd.org



All together,
we can

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2014



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We need
298.649 €



The Brothers: During the rapid initial expansion of the Hospitaller Order of St John of God, its first foundation in Bolivia was in 1613, at Potosí. In the modern age, the Saint John of God Psychiatric Institute was founded on September 16, 1952 by Ministerial Resolution No. 072 with which the Bolivian government authorised the opening of the only Retirement and Neuropsychiatric Home in the Temporal Cala Cala region. Later, on February 23, 1953, authorisation was issued under Ministerial Resolution No.317 to transfer the hospital to the Sumumpaya region. The Brothers began their ministry there on September 6, 1953.

The original name of the institution was *Nuestra Señora de los Remedios*, but this was changed in 1982 to its present name, the Saint John of God Psychiatric Institute. It was originally maintained from its own resources and from donations, but subsequently it concluded a cooperation and assistance agreement with the government to nurse patients with this Social Security insurance and/or few resources of their own. At the present time it is located in the 5th Section of Colcapirhua, Quillacollo Province, in the Department of Cochabamba, in the Sumumpaya zone (Av. Blanco Galindo km 8).

The Psychiatric Institute is looking after some 200 patients in the following pavilions: admissions, medium term, long term and drug-dependency. In the Saint John of God Hospital, the patients are being cared for in the following services: psychiatry, psychology, nursing, social work, occupational therapy and so on. All these sectors work together to provide an integrated service to the patients in their care.



THE PROJECT

Renewal of the Saint John of God Psychiatric Institute at Cochabamba: Mother and Child Units (psycho-pedagogical). The project focuses on improving the quality of its services in order to comply with the present health care standards to gain accreditation as a 3rd Tier Hospital.

The socio-economic status of the vast majority of the people being cared for in the Saint John of God Psychiatric Institute and their loved ones is one of poverty or extreme poverty. Some of them do not even have a family of their own, or employment, precisely because of their type of illness, with the result that very often the Centre has to meet many of their basic needs in addition to nursing them.

The reception and medium term unit for women was built when the Centre was originally instituted. It is therefore a very old building, built of adobe bricks, with settlement cracks and fissures showing, as a result of which it has been made one of the Centre's priority projects. To highlight the importance of this project, suffice it to say that more than 4000 women seek the services of this unit every year.

Moreover, the Centre does not have a Psycho-Pedagogical Unit. All the boys and girls with mental illnesses are sent to the Centre in the town of Sucre (363 Km away, which takes more than 5½ hours by road). Many parents cannot afford to pay for these transfers, and the Cochabamba Saint John of God Psychiatric Institute has, on a few occasions, had to cover the cost of some of these children until they were ready to return home, or to be sent to the Sucre Hospital.

At the present time the Cochabamba Centre needs to incorporate this new service to cater for the current demand and to meet the needs of the poor families in the rural and periurban area of the town. 22% of the outpatients are aged under 20, for which the Centre provides 1700 treatments a year.

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