Experiences in Huehuetenango

Our twenty-first core mission trip will be from June 11-22, 2026. Our first formation meeting for the trip will be on Sunday, January 18. If you're interested in joining us for the first time, or going to see the people of Huehuetenango again, please contact Charlie using the information below.

Trip 21 will begin our third five-year commitment with a partner community in Huehuetenango, following San Miguel Acatán and San Sebastián Coatán. Our new partner is the parish of La Libertad.

Also in 2026, Ixim will create a new experience for those who wish to revisit Huehuetenango and the places where they served and worked during their core mission trip. This shorter experience will focus on relationship and reconnection.

Finally, two Disciples of the Good Shepherd are expected to take their perpetual vows next fall. Look out for more information this summer.

Goals for 2026

The expansion of our water program will continue in parishes in the north and west of the Diocese of Huehuetenango. There are home water filtration systems in over 7,000 homes, improving the lives of more than 40,000 people across the diocese.

Next year, Ixim will partner with a new parish in Huehuetenango to forge a five-year commitment to build relationships of service and solidarity there. This winter will include many initial meetings to begin to build this relationship. Please keep the success of this process in your prayers.

Our telehealth program will look to grow in a new partner community. We will take what we've learned from our two years in San Sebastián Coatán and apply it to building a long-term program focused on helping patients suffering from chronic illnesses, particularly diabetes, hypertension, and mental health concerns.

Ixim: Spirit of Solidarity is an archdiocesan ministry cultivating relationships of friendship, faith, and solidarity between the Archdiocese of Omaha and the Diocese of Huehuetenango, Guatemala.

Visit us at ixim.org.

Charlie Petro
Executive Director
cpetro@archomaha.org
531-218-6354

1248 S. 10th St.
Omaha, NE 68108





LONGING FOR CHRIST

Ixim: Spirit of Solidarity 2025 Annual Report

Successes in 2025

Trip 20

This year's group included 19 men and women from several parishes across the Archdiocese of Omaha, 12 of whom had never travelled to Huehuetenango. The group included college students and retirees, working parents, a married couple, and lifelong friends.

Fr. Damien Zuerlein, one of our founders, joined us as our priestly support for the first time in several years.

Our medical clinic had four clinicians—one joining through telehealth—and four nurses who saw almost 300 patients in a three-day clinic. One highlight of the clinic was being able to refer patients to our telehealth program for ongoing care.

Our education team visited the two schools in the parish of San Sebastián Coatán. In both schools, groups of missionaries taught a mathematics lesson and a religion lesson to all students in the schools.

Missionaries also continued our annual fluoride treatment program in both schools, applying fluoride to all children in the school as well as any family members not in the school. This treatment was accompanied by dental hygiene instruction and new toothbrushes.



Telehealth

Ixim's telehealth program in San Sebastián Coatán held 192 patient visits in 2025. All visits were free for the patients, with medicines included in the visits.

This year, our medical team focused on continuing care for patients with chronic illnesses. Three clinicians rotated throughout the year, establishing care and building relationships of trust and respect. The success of this model gives us hope that we can leave a lasting impact on the long-term health of communities in Huehuetenango.

In 2026, we seek to test this model of care in a new parish community.

Home Water Filtration

The Huehuetenango team has spent the last few years catching up with requests for replacement filters and parts, which came in as the Diocese of Huehuetenango stabilized following the challenges of the pandemic. Many communities have passed the initial five-year replacement period. During this time, expansions have been limited to two parishes: San Sebastián Coatán and Cuilco.

In the fall of 2025, Jandy and the Huehue team began an evaluation process with all existing partner parishes to ensure that every parish is up-to-date with their replacements and has rebuilt the monitoring process, which might have been disrupted during the pandemic.

As this process concludes, Ixim will invest in the expansion of the program into three other communities in 2026. We hope to reach 10,000 active filtration systems in 2027.

Financial Report

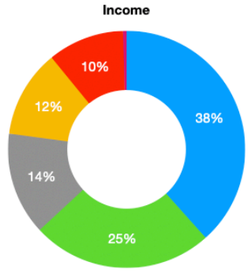
In the fiscal year ending in June 2025, Ixim saw the highest amount of income from Sustaining Pledges and Coffee Sales ever. 2025 also had the second-highest amount of One-Time Donations, surpassed only by our very successful pandemic food support program from several years ago. Overall, 2025 was the best fundraising year in Ixim's history. Thank you for your generosity!

This past year, Ixim committed to ongoing support for a full-time staff member in the Diocese of Huehuetenango. Previously, Ixim supported the diocese through a payment that supported members of the Huehue team who worked in the social pastoral department of the Diocese of Huehuetenango. After diocesan restructuring in Huehuetenango, this ceased to be a viable way to support our work.

Maria Alejandrina, better known as Jandy, is now fully dedicated to coordination of Ixim's programs in Huehuetenango. She continues to be an employee of the diocese, but her salary and benefits are funded by Ixim. As part of this transition, Jandy studied English for five months at the University of Nebraska Omaha. This one-time expense is reflected in Mission Program Support.

For the new fiscal year, Ixim remains on a steady increase in fundraising with the goal to meet and exceed our financial obligations. As Jandy and Huehuetenango complete an evaluation process on our home water filtration program, we expect to hold a fundraising campaign to expand the program to new parishes.

Income	
One-Time Donations	$73,781
Sustaining Pledges	$47,514
Mission Trip Payments	$26,959
Coffee Sales	$23,019
Operations Grants	$20,000
Interest and Dividends	$958
Total Income	**$192,232**



Expenses	
Mission Program Support	$90,162
Disciples of the Good Shepherd	$54,317
Mission Trip	$32,008
Diocese of Huehuetenango Support	$22,695
Coffee Costs	$15,764
Health and Education Programs	$6,500
Total Expenses	**$221,446**

