

Guatemala Mission News: Donna Connell, President of the Guatemala Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Spokane and two others from the diocese traveled to the Guatemala Mission in February. They met with the staff and Board of Directors of **Nawal Estereo Radio in Nahuala** and sent the following report.

Thank you to the people of Sacred Heart Parish in Pullman for your generous donations to the Guatemala Mission! One hundred percent of your donations are directed to the Radio Station, Nawal Estereo Radio.

Lourdes Tzoc Ramirez, director of the station, and staff members expressed their appreciation for donations over the past four years, which included funds to purchase a new truck, a transmitter, cameras, and video equipment.

The station continues to broadcast eighteen hours each day of the week, covering topics such as agricultural practices, medicinal plants, youth and women's issues, religious events, and health news. Broadcasts reach over 1.5 million people with the use of a transmitter. In addition, they now transmit on Facebook Live using cameras and video equipment, with staff members self-trained on usage of the new technology.

Both staff members and members of the Board of Directors mourned the passing of Sr. Janel Druffel, SSND, of Colton on December 30th, 2022. She was the first female director of the radio station and remained on the Board of Directors until the last few years. Lourdes is the first indigenous woman director, and the second woman director after Sr. Janet.

Recently the transmitter was destroyed during an electrical storm even after taking appropriate precautions. Radio staff raised one-half of needed funds through a raffle. Upon hearing of the need, a donor from the Spokane diocese sent funds to complete the purchase of a new transmitter along with the funds necessary to install a canopy over the building to prevent the ceiling from leaking, which causes mold and moisture to accumulate in the building, endangering equipment and the employees. The entire team is **incredibly grateful** and stated that this donation will be an enormous help in sustaining and continuing their work. In gratitude, they plan to hold a ceremony in thankfulness for the donation.

For further information about other programs supported by the Guatemala Commission and for a description of "Mission Needs", please go to the Guatemala Mission website at:

[Guatemala Commission | Catholic Diocese of Spokane | Spokane, WA](#)



Pictured are staff members Francisco, Lourdes, Beatrix, Maria, Lazero, and Fernando.