

# FUNDACIÓN **BAYLOR** ARGENTINA



## Annual Report



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**PREPARED BY**

Fundación Baylor Argentina: Mg. Agustina Pérez  
Texas Children's Global Health Network: Brodus Franklin

**APPROVED BY**

Board of Directors: Fundación Baylor Argentina

- Chairmain: Michael B. Mizwa,
- Vice President: Mg. Agustina Pérez,
- Treasure: Maximiliano Luciani
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- Texas Children's Global Health Network: James Thomas
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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**05**

Thank you

**06**

Network Impact At a Glance

**07**

Foundation Background

**09**

Transforming Lives: The Impact from 2017 to 2024

**11**

Executive Director Message

**14**

Key Numbers (Programs Infographic)

**15**

Key impact indicators per Objective

**18**

Areas of Operation (Program Map)

**20**

Program Highlights: Expanding Access to Healthcare in Argentina

**22**

The Impact of Social Investment Programs on Communities:

**23**

Making an Impact on Children's Quality of Life Through Vision Health

**24**

Implementing a new impact measurement strategy for FBA Vision Screening Program

**27**

The Impact of Baylor Argentina's Prenatal Care Program

**29**

Impact on Communities: Comprehensive Health Approach in Aguada San Roque

**30**

Testimonials

# THANK YOU

## Our Sponsors



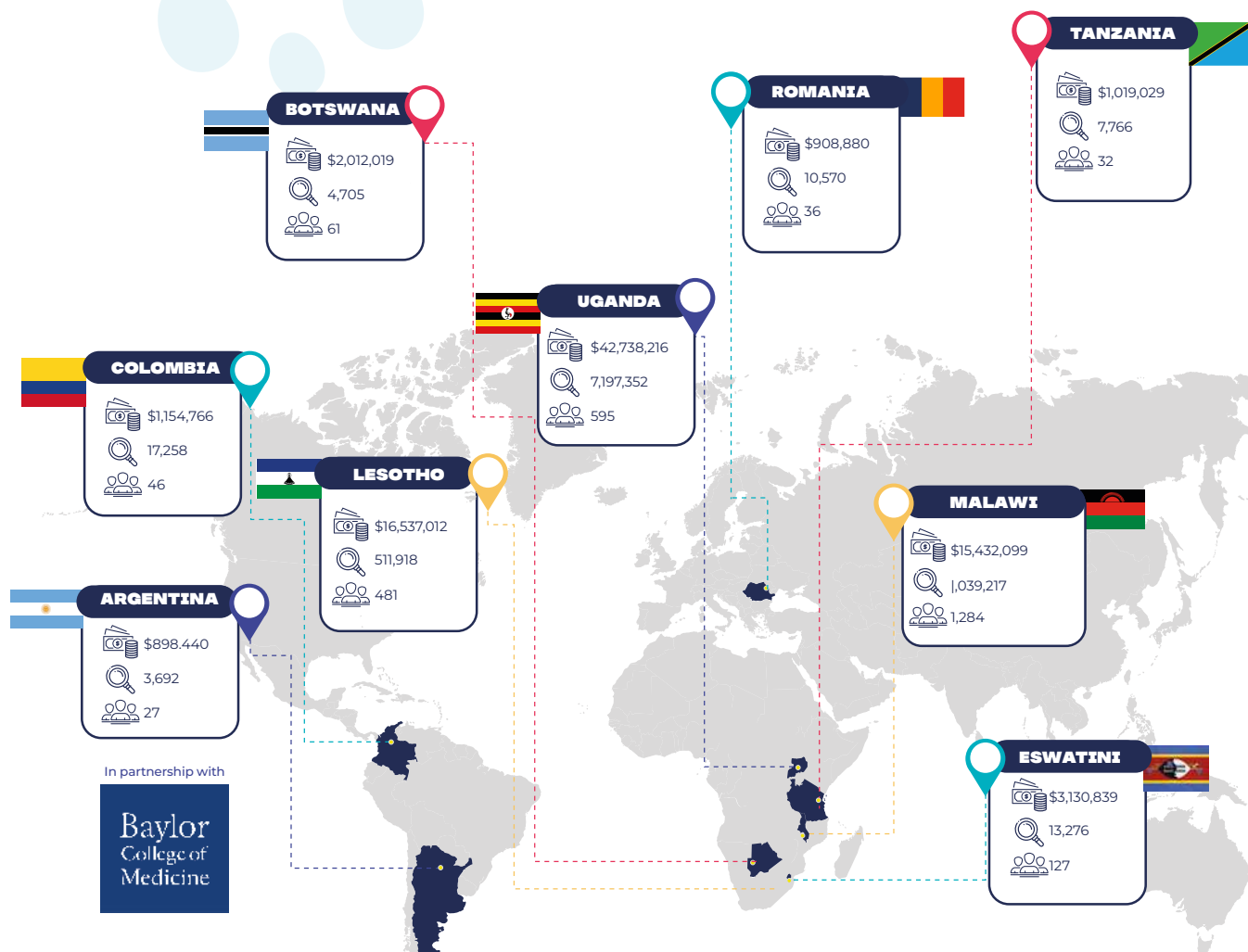
## Our Allies



Baylor  
College of  
Medicine



# NETWORK IMPACT AT A GLANCE



PROGRAM FUNDING



PEOPLE REACHED



FOUNDATION STAFF EMPLOYED

## COLLECTIVE IMPACT



**\$83,831,300**

Total Network Funding



**2,689**

Total Staff Employed



**8,805,754**

Total People Reached



**8,859**

Total Health Personnel Trained

Each foundation in the Texas Children's Global Health Network works together, sharing ideas to tackle tough health problems in their communities and around the world.



## Foundation Background

# Foundation History: A LEGACY OF IMPACT AND OVERVIEW



In 2017, Fundación Baylor Argentina was established with a bold vision: to improve access to high-quality pediatric and maternal healthcare in Neuquén Province. With the generous support of Chevron as its founding partner, the Foundation began its work in Añelo, a rapidly growing town facing significant healthcare challenges. Over the years, its reach expanded to Rincón de los Sauces, and Aguada San Roque and beyond, addressing critical health needs in some of Argentina's most underserved communities.

From its inception, Fundación Baylor Argentina has focused on three key pillars: **prevention, health access, and education**. In partnership with the Public Health Department of Neuquén Province, the Foundation has worked tirelessly to ensure that children, women, and families receive life-saving medical care. The Maternal-Child Health Program provides pediatric, general medicine, OB-GYN, and nutritional services, while health agents and promoters extend care into schools, homes, and community spaces to reach those most in need.

Through targeted programs, including vision screening, anemia detection, cervical cancer screening, teen pregnancy prevention, health professional training, and rural health initiatives, Fundación Baylor Argentina has transformed healthcare access across the region.

As a proud member of the Texas Children's Global Health Network, the Foundation benefits from an international alliance dedicated to advancing pediatric and maternal health worldwide.

Due to the redirection of social investment funds, the maternal and child program of Fundación Baylor Argentina closed on December 2024. This decision, though difficult, was made in response to changing funding priorities, and we were committed to ensuring that the transition was managed in an organized and seamless manner for patients and staff.



The closure of the program has been carried out in an orderly manner with the primary goal of ensuring that all beneficiaries continue to receive the care and support they need. As part of this transition, all individuals currently enrolled in the programs have been referred to the public health system, where they will receive the care available through government services.

### **EMPOWERING HEALTHCARE: DONATION TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH TO KEEP SAVING LIVES**

Additionally, in December 2024, the Baylor Foundation donated to the Ministry of Health of Neuquén all assets used in its health programs for the communities of Añelo and Rincón de los Sauces.

This donation included high-quality medical equipment, mobile medical clinics, furniture, and advanced pediatric emergency simulation tools. These resources were previously used during the Foundation's medical outreach activities in the region.

The corresponding equipment inventories were delivered and recorded in the Hospitals of Añelo and Rincón de los Sauces, ensuring that these resources could be used by the Ministry of Health staff and local hospitals according to their needs and priorities.

With this initiative, the Baylor Foundation aims to strengthen the healthcare system's capacity to provide quality medical care to the community, improve available services, and save lives.

This donation reflects the Baylor Foundation's commitment to the well-being and health of the communities it has worked with, leaving a lasting legacy for the benefit of the population.



# Transforming Lives: THE IMPACT FROM 2017 TO 2024

**49,817**

patients received specialized medical consultations,  
ensuring access to diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up care.

**19,776** pediatric, **10,324** OB-GYN, **8,929**  
ophthalmological y **5,190** general medicine consultations  
provided critical healthcare to vulnerable populations.

**2,093**

healthcare professionals trained  
to enhance emergency response  
and hospital care.

**THOUSANDS  
OF FAMILIES  
SERVED**

through programs that prioritize  
human-centered, accessible, and  
sustainable healthcare solutions.

In a region shaped by rapid industrial growth, Fundación Baylor Argentina has bridged the gap between medical needs and available services, strengthening the health system and empowering local professionals. While the Foundation is not currently providing healthcare services, its mission remains unchanged. If additional resources are identified, Fundación Baylor Argentina would resume its work and its commitment to delivering high-quality care to those who need it most, supporting a healthier future for generations to come.



## **MISSION**

Improve the health and well-being of our communities through the design and implementation of sustainable programs focused on children, adolescents and women.

## **VISION**

Ensure that children, adolescents and women have a healthy and sustainable lifestyle and that they have access to quality health services in the communities in which we work.

## **OBJECTIVE**

Through public-private partnerships, we are committed to:

- Improve existing health programs in the communities in which we work.
- Identify unmet needs
- Develop and promote new initiatives to maximize the positive impact on the health and well-being of children, adolescents and women.



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

Lic. Agustina Perez, M.B.A.

### TRANSFORMING LIVES: THE IMPACT FROM 2017 TO 2024


Dear Friends and Partners,

As we reflect on the journey of Fundación Baylor Argentina from its establishment in 2017 to the present, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride for the impact we have made together. Our mission has always been to increase access to high-quality pediatric and maternal healthcare by working in close partnership with the local health system of Neuquén Department. Through our dedicated efforts in Añelo and Rincón de los Sauces, we have prioritized prevention, access to care, and health education, ensuring that thousands of families receive the support they need.

Over the past seven years, Fundación Baylor Argentina has achieved remarkable milestones:

- **49,817 patients** received specialized medical consultations, facilitating timely diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up care.
- **19,776 pediatric, 10,324 OB-GYN, 8,929 ophthalmological, and 5,190 general medicine** consultations provided essential healthcare to vulnerable populations.
- **2,093 healthcare professionals** trained to enhance emergency response and hospital care.

Thousands of families served through programs designed to be human-centered, accessible, and sustainable.



Despite these successes, shifting funding priorities led to the closure of our Maternal and Child Health Program in December 2024. This decision, though difficult, was carried out with the utmost care to ensure continuity of care for all beneficiaries. Patients were seamlessly transitioned into the public health system, allowing them to continue receiving medical support.

In line with our commitment to sustainability, Fundación Baylor Argentina donated all medical equipment and program assets to the **Ministry of Health of Neuquén**, including:

- High-quality medical equipment and furniture
- Three fully equipped mobile medical clinics
- Advanced pediatric emergency simulation equipment
- Vision screening devices, fetal monitors, and other essential medical supplies

These resources have been formally integrated into the hospitals of Añelo and Rincón de los Sauces, ensuring their continued use for the benefit of the community.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the unwavering support of our sponsors, including **Baylor College of Medicine, Chevron, Texas Children's Hospital, YPF, Tecpetrol**, and **Total Energies**, as well as our invaluable governmental partners in Neuquén. Their collaboration has been instrumental in strengthening healthcare services and expanding our reach.

Beyond the numbers, the true impact of our work lies in the structured public-private collaboration we have developed, which has strengthened the existing healthcare system and improved the quality of life for children, adults, and healthcare professionals alike.



Looking ahead, Fundación Baylor Argentina remains steadfast in its mission. We are exploring new opportunities to expand our impact by launching innovative healthcare programs, replicating successful models in different regions, and continuously adapting to the evolving healthcare landscape.

I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated team, sponsors, and partners who have walked this journey with us. Your trust and commitment have been the driving force behind our success. As we move forward, we remain committed to building on this legacy and seeking new ways to transform lives.

**With gratitude and optimism,**

**Lic. Agustina Pérez, M.B.A.**  
**Executive Director**  
**Fundación Baylor Argentina**

## KEY NUMBERS



**49,817**

patients received specialized medical consultations through impactful health programs since 2017

**2,072**

pediatric consultations conducted in 2024

**19,776**

pediatric consultations provided since 2017

**7,246**

total medical consultations provided

**3,692**

unique medical beneficiaries this year

**1,665**

OB-GYN consultations provided this year

**349**

contraceptive methods delivered to women

**508**

women accessed prenatal checkups

**1,190**

children received vision screening exams

**422**

children received vision screenings in schools

**105**

eyeglasses delivered to children in 2024

**7,411**

received vision screening exams

**654**

eyeglasses since 2017-2024

# Key impact

## INDICATORS PER OBJECTIVE

 **GOAL:** Improved maternal and child health

 **SO1:** Children and adolescents have increased access to quality, routine, priority healthcare services

Period	2024	Cumulative 2017-2024
Pediatric consultations	2,072	19,776
Number of well-child checkup consultations	1,116	7,530
% of first-time pediatric patients	51%	48%
N° of children receiving an anemia test	154	922
N° of children receiving a visual screening exam	1,190	7,331
N° of children receiving a visual screening exam that are diagnosed with a visual impairment	279	1,470
N° of adolescents patients receiving sexual counselling	76	295

**SO2:** Women have increased access to quality, routine and priority healthcare services

Period	2024	Cumulative 2017-2024
Total N° of OB consultations	661	5,368
Total N° of GYN consultations	1,004	4,956
% of pregnant women that received a prenatal screening at 12 weeks or less	87%	78%
N° of pregnant women that received at least one prenatal visit	98	396
Prenatal Checkups	508	4,368
N° of contraceptive methods delivered	349	893
N° of consultations for nutritional health counselling	612	2,315
N° of general medicine consultations provided to women	593	1,209





**CROSS-CUTTING IR 1-2.1:** Health care providers have increased knowledge to address pediatric and Ob/Gyn care needs.

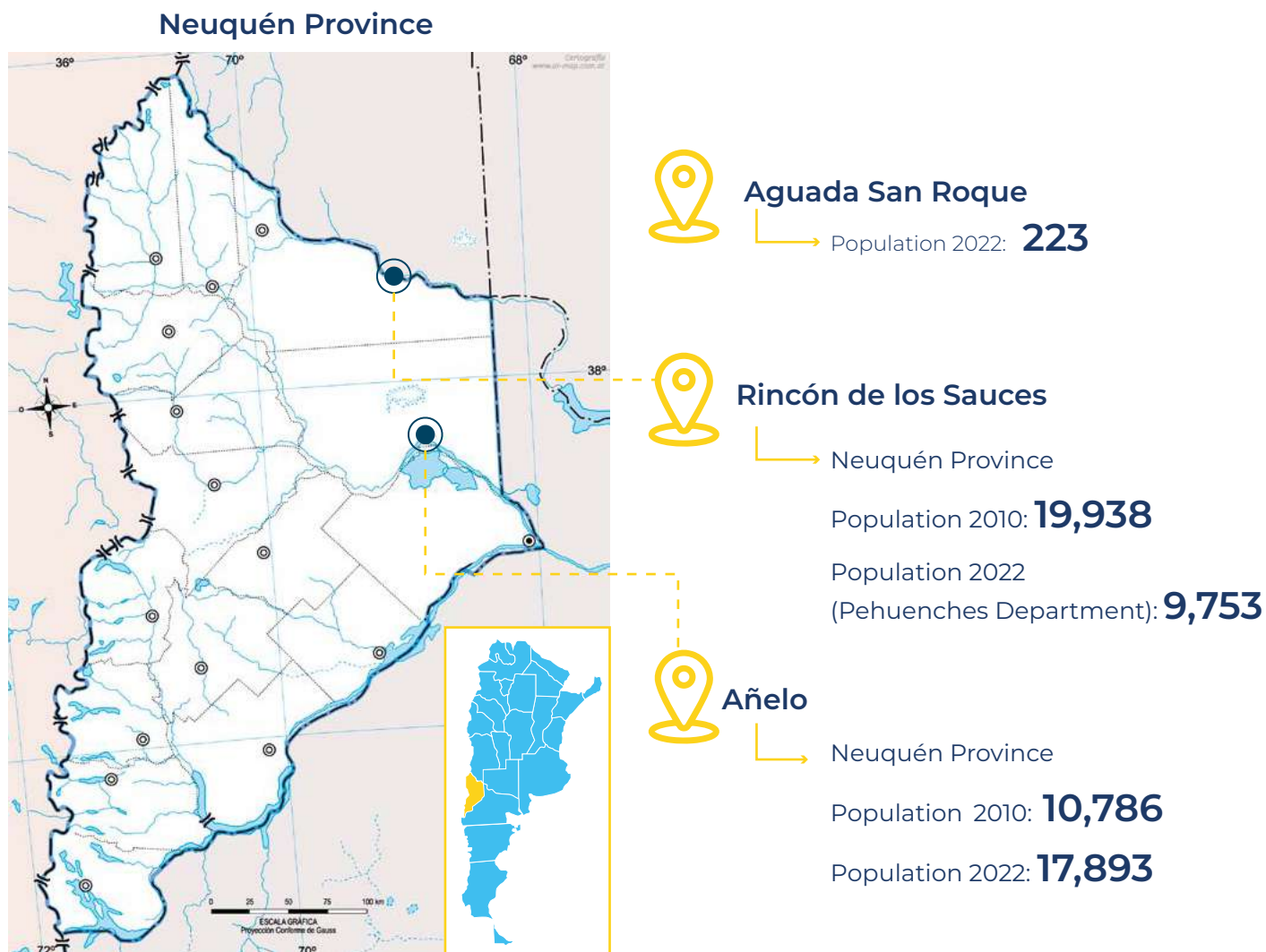
Period	2024	All-Time
Total health personnel trained	142	2,093
Nº of health staff trained by Simulation	89	578



**CROSS-CUTTING IR 1-2.2:** Community has increased awareness of services.

Period	2024	All-Time
Total People reached (webpage and social media)	21,335	155,200
Community members who receive updates on health topics	1,873	2,335

# AREAS OF OPERATION



(\*) The population figures provided for Rincón de los Sauces, Añelo and San Roque were based on the most recent national census conducted in 2022.

# PROGRAM INFOGRAPHIC 2024



## Children's Health

1. Scheduled appointments
2. Well-child checkups
3. Detection and treatment of anemia
4. Eye health screenings
5. Patient tracking



## Women's Health

1. Gynecological consultations
2. Prenatal checkups
3. Fetal monitoring
4. Teen pregnancy prevention
5. Comprehensive sexual health counseling



## Education

1. Healthcare training
2. Simulation-based training



## Nutrition

1. Scheduled appointments
2. Follow-up for vulnerable patients
3. Nutritional diagnostics



## General Medicine

1. Scheduled appointments
2. Prevention and treatment of chronic non-communicable diseases
3. Post-COVID health assessments
4. Patient tracking



## Investigation

1. Abstract presentation on Network Global Meetings



## Aspectos Destacados del Programa

### AMPLIANDO EL ACCESO A LA SALUD EN ARGENTINA

Fundación Baylor Argentina focuses on three key areas: promoting health and disease prevention, providing education, and improving access to healthcare. In partnership with the Ministry of Health of Neuquén and local hospitals in Añelo and Rincón de los Sauces, the Foundation designs and implements sustainable programs that enhance the well-being of children, women, and adolescents.

Since 2021, the Foundation has expanded its services to include gynecological and obstetric care in Rincón de los Sauces, thanks to the support of its founding partner and main sponsor, Chevron. Through a collaborative effort with the local hospital, **10,324 gynecological and obstetric** consultations have been provided, addressing a critical gap in women's healthcare.

The Foundation takes a multidisciplinary approach to care, integrating pediatric, obstetric, and nutritional services. “I see many pregnant women with diabetes or obesity, and working as a team makes a huge difference. When I see a patient, she is quickly referred to our nutritionist, ensuring quality care that truly changes outcomes,” shared Soledad Difabio, an obstetrics specialist at Fundación Baylor Argentina.

Beyond direct medical care, the Foundation also plays a vital role in connecting patients with essential services. “If we identify a case of addiction or malnutrition, we immediately coordinate with the hospital's psychosocial team to ensure the patient receives the support they need,” explained a Foundation team member.

Speed and accessibility are at the heart of Fundación Baylor Argentina's approach. “For us, care goes beyond the office visit. We ensure patients receive timely appointments because people can't afford to wait weeks for a check-up or prescription. Our patients appreciate that they leave with a solution,” he added.

## Impact in 2024

- **51% of pediatric patients were first-time visitors.** This milestone reflects the success of the Foundation's outreach efforts, bringing healthcare to children who previously had limited or no access. Early detection of health issues is crucial for reducing disparities between rural and urban communities and building a foundation for lifelong well-being.
- **1,190 children received visual screening exams.** Vision plays a key role in a child's development and education. By increasing access to screenings, the Foundation helps detect and address vision issues early, improving learning outcomes and preventing long-term health complications.
- **508 women accessed prenatal checkups.** Prenatal care is essential for healthy pregnancies and safe deliveries. By providing expectant mothers with critical medical attention, the Foundation ensures better health outcomes for both mothers and their babies.

Through its commitment to quality healthcare, community partnerships, and rapid response, Fundación Baylor Argentina continues to make a meaningful impact in some of the most underserved communities, helping children and families lead healthier lives.



## The Impact of Social INVESTMENT PROGRAMS ON COMMUNITIES

Social investment programs play a crucial role in transforming communities by addressing key social and economic challenges. These initiatives focus on improving healthcare, education, infrastructure, and overall quality of life, creating lasting and sustainable change.

By providing essential resources, training, and support, social investment programs empower local populations, strengthen institutions, and promote economic growth. They enhance access to critical services, reduce inequalities, and foster community development, ensuring a better future for generations to come.

Through strategic investments and collaborative efforts, these programs that has been developed and executed by Fundación Baylor Argentina improve health and social conditions and reach their full potential.

Thanks to our sponsors, Chevron, YPF, Tecpetrol, Total Energies Fundación Baylor were able to create lasting, positive change and continue working toward a brighter, more sustainable future for the communities FBA has served.

Fundación Baylor Argentina created a direct impact in the communities where it operated through its comprehensive health programs. By providing essential medical services, advanced training, and critical healthcare resources, the Foundation strengthens local health systems and improves the well-being of the population. Its commitment to sustainable and high-quality healthcare ensures lasting benefits for the communities it serves.

## Making an Impact on Children's Quality OF LIFE THROUGH VISION HEALTH



Since 2017, the Visual Health Program run by the Baylor Argentina Foundation in Neuquén has conducted **7,411 vision screenings for children**. Additionally, **654 of them have received glasses** through this program.

This initiative is part of the Baylor Foundation's action plan, aimed at early detection of visual conditions, directly improving children's quality of life. Pediatric eye exams are essential tools for early detection and prevention of vision loss in

children. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), between 15% and 20% of preschool-aged children will experience vision difficulties that, if left untreated, could interfere with proper visual acuity, development and intellectual growth.

The program was selected for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics (USA), attended by over 10,000 pediatricians worldwide. Additionally, it was chosen among hundreds of projects for CUGH 2024, which took place in Los Angeles, USA.

### ○ How Does the Program Work?

- 1. Vision Screening:** A pediatrician conducts a vision check using advanced technology to detect visual abnormalities.
- 2. Ophthalmological Assessment:** Children diagnosed with reduced visual acuity are examined by the Foundation's ophthalmologist. After evaluation, the specialist determines whether glasses are needed. An optical technician then analyzes the case and prepares the appropriate lenses.



**3. Glasses Distribution:** The Baylor Argentina Foundation provides the required glasses to children without medical coverage. The goal is to ensure that clear vision leads to a better quality of life and proper learning development.

**4. Follow-up and Impact Assessment:** The Foundation conducts follow-ups with the child's family to assess the impact of the glasses on their quality of life.

## **Implementing a new impact measurement strategy for FBA Vision Screening Program**

FBA sought tools to measure the impact of its Visual Health program, in operation since 2017-2024

### **What were we looking for?**

- To identify changes in school performance and the quality of life of children who received glasses
- To justify growing the Visual Health program and share its real-life impact with all parties

We selected a specific tool (PedQL Inventory) designed specifically for children that focuses on 4 domains. Families first completed the tool when the children received their glasses and again at 12 weeks after they received them.







The survey was administered to children receiving prescription lenses only

Focusing on four dimensions of a child's well-being:

- Physical Functioning
- Emotional Well-being
- Social Functioning
- School Functioning

This questionnaire was administered to children upon receiving their eyeglasses and repeated 12 weeks later

In addition to measuring quality of life, the program also asked 3 vision-specific questions

1. Is it difficult for you to read what the teacher writes on the board?
2. Do you have to do certain things to help you see better?
3. Do you worry about not being able to do things because of your eyes?

### Lessons Learned

- **86%** of children reported an improved quality of life with the glasses had delivered **654** glasses
- **7,411** visual screening

Today we know that the Visual Health program has an overwhelming positive value for beneficiaries in several quality of life domains

## TESTIMONIALS

add to and complement the impact numbers

Beneficiary	Before receiving glasses	After receiving glasses
<b>Testimonial 1</b>	Mom: He would bump into things, and fall over while playing	Son: I see now. It looks nice, Mom.
<b>Testimonial 2</b>	Mom: He was always hitting some edge or bumping into some things	Mom: He walks very well. he doesn't hit anything and fixes his gaze well



## The Impact of Baylor Argentina's **PRENATAL CARE PROGRAM**

Prenatal checkups play a crucial role in ensuring the health of both mother and baby. They help detect and prevent complications, provide essential medical guidance, and promote a safe pregnancy and delivery. Regular prenatal care improves health outcomes, reduces risks, and supports the well-being of future generations.

Since 2017, Baylor Argentina Foundation has been implementing the Prenatal Care Program as part of the Maternal and Child Health Plan in Rincón de los Sauces and Añelo. Through this initiative, **4,368 prenatal checkups** have been conducted, identifying high-risk pregnancies and ensuring timely referrals to higher-complexity medical centers for proper care.

The program's main goal is to provide early, accessible, and comprehensive care for pregnant individuals, aiming to detect potential complications, implement appropriate interventions, and achieve optimal perinatal outcomes.

To reach this goal, structured strategies were developed, including scheduled prenatal consultations following provincial health guidelines, timely referrals for high-risk pregnancies, nutritional

counseling, prenatal and postnatal breastfeeding guidance, childbirth preparation workshops, vaccinations, and fetal monitoring from the 34th to 37th week, depending on risk factors.

Key objectives included promoting healthy pregnancies, encouraging proper nutrition and physical activity, detecting pregnancy-related conditions early, and ensuring timely referrals for high-risk cases.

**As a result of these efforts:**

- **4,368** prenatal checkups were conducted.
- **76%** of pregnant individuals received a complete prenatal care plan with at least seven checkups.
- **96%** had at least five prenatal visits.
- **82%** attended their first prenatal checkup before 12 weeks of pregnancy.

These outcomes highlight the program's success in improving maternal and child health by ensuring early detection, proper care, and better pregnancy outcomes for the communities served.



## **IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES: COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH APPROACH IN AGUADA SAN ROQUE**

Following a health assessment in Aguada San Roque, Baylor Argentina Foundation, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, carried out a comprehensive health initiative in the Neuquén locality. The program included pediatric, nutritional, gynecological, and obstetric care, as well as vision screenings and general medical services.

Designed specifically to meet the community's needs, residents of Aguada San Roque—located 165 kilometers from Neuquén's capital—received specialized medical attention, including anthropometric evaluations, vision screenings, glucose testing, blood pressure monitoring, gynecological exams, and follow-ups for detected conditions. In total, 664 specialized medical consultations were conducted.

The program was made possible by the participation of 17 professionals, including medical, administrative, and coordination staff. Additionally, the initiative was supported by TotalEnergies and carried out in collaboration with the Aguada San Roque Development Commission, the Neuquén Ministry of Health, Health Zone V, Añelo Hospital, Aguada San Roque Health Post, School 144 of Aguada San Roque, the Municipality of Añelo, Rincón de los Sauces Hospital, and Castro Rendón Hospital.

## **TESTIMONIALS**

### **Empowering Emergency Responders: How Fundación Baylor Argentina's Simulation Program is Transforming Pediatric Care**

“Since completing the course, we have faced both pediatric and adult emergencies and now feel more prepared. Everything is more structured—we know exactly what to do.”

– Nain Navarro

### **Restoring Hope and Advancing Child Health: A Pediatrician's Journey at Fundación Baylor Argentina**

“What inspires me most in my work is witnessing the transformative power of programs like the visual health initiative. Beyond restoring a child's sight, these efforts open doors to education, personal growth, and a brighter future. This is just one of many initiatives at Fundación Baylor Argentina, but every success story—every child who receives quality care—strengthens my belief that investing in child health is the foundation for lasting change.”



## **Empowering Emergency Responders: HOW FUNDACIÓN BAYLOR ARGENTINA'S SIMULATION PROGRAM IS TRANSFORMING PEDIATRIC CARE**

since 2021, Fundación Baylor Argentina has been equipping healthcare professionals with life-saving skills through its Pediatric Emergency Simulation and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Course. Held in Añelo, this vital training program brings together nurses and doctors from across the region, including Rincón de los Sauces, Villa El Chocón, Picún Leufú, and Piedra del Águila. By providing hands-on emergency response training, the program strengthens pediatric care and ensures that more children receive timely, life-saving interventions.

Launched in response to the growing need for pediatric emergency training and the increasing prevalence of respiratory illnesses, the program blends virtual instruction with hands-on, in-person learning. Using low-fidelity simulations and in-situ training with hospital equipment, healthcare teams practice in real-world conditions, enhancing their preparedness and confidence in pediatric emergency care.

To create lasting impact in Fundación Baylor Argentina's areas of influence, including Añelo and Rincón de los Sauces, a facilitator training program was introduced. This initiative empowers local healthcare professionals to share their expertise, strengthening the skills of their colleagues and ensuring continuous learning within their hospitals. This year, two nurses from Añelo Hospital, were among those trained as facilitators. Both emphasized the profound impact of participating in the Baylor Simulation Program, describing it as a transformative experience in their professional development.

“We had just graduated, and for many of us, this was our first real job. Being able to simulate a pediatric emergency gave us the confidence we needed to face real-life situations,” said Navarro. “As a newly formed team at Añelo Hospital, our only prior training came from our studies. The course not only helped us approach emergencies with greater confidence but also strengthened our coordination as nurses,” Estrada reflected.

Both agreed that the Simulation Course revolutionized their approach to emergencies. “Since completing the course, we’ve faced both pediatric and adult emergencies, and we now feel more prepared,” said Navarro. “Everything is more structured—we know



exactly what to do.” Estrada added, “Before, we would respond, but without the level of organization we have now. Especially in pediatric emergencies, we’ve learned how to assess, coordinate, and execute procedures as a team. Today, we work with greater confidence and security.”

As trained facilitators, Navarro and Estrada are now passing on their expertise to others. “Colleagues and even newcomers seek our guidance on how to approach patients and handle complex pediatric cases. Being given the opportunity to serve as facilitators is both an honor and a responsibility,” Estrada shared. He added, “We are constantly looking for ways to pass on what we have learned. Being a facilitator makes me feel both confident and grateful—it’s a responsibility I embrace with joy.”

At Fundación Baylor Argentina, we deeply appreciate the dedication of healthcare professionals working in some of the most remote hospitals. The program’s core mission is to ensure high-quality pediatric emergency and urgent care in the regions where the Foundation operates, achieved through comprehensive training for both healthcare providers and the communities they serve.





## Restoring Hope and Advancing Child Health: A PEDIATRICIAN'S JOURNEY AT FUNDACIÓN BAYLOR ARGENTINA

By Dr. Andrea Imsen (\*)



Over the years, my journey as a pediatrician and medical coordinator at Fundación Baylor Argentina has been nothing short of transformative. This role has given me the privilege of moving beyond clinical practice and immersing myself in a global health network dedicated to changing lives. Working alongside passionate professionals committed to maternal and child healthcare has been one of the most fulfilling and enriching experiences of my career.

At Fundación Baylor Argentina, we believe that every child has the right to quality healthcare—yet we recognize the complexities of ensuring this, particularly in vulnerable communities. Being part of a global network empowers us to tackle local health challenges while drawing from international expertise. We embrace lessons from around the world, adapting innovative solutions to fit our unique context. Through collaboration, we strengthen our mission to advance health equity and provide every child with the care they deserve.

My journey with the Foundation has been one of profound growth, allowing me to merge my passion for medicine with a deep commitment to ensuring quality healthcare for children and families in vulnerable communities. Beyond clinical care, I have played a role in shaping and optimizing health programs, aligning resources to deliver comprehensive, accessible, and compassionate services. Together with a dedicated team of professionals, we continuously strive to improve children's well-being through a multidisciplinary approach. The Foundation's integrated model—spanning from primary to specialized care—aims to break down barriers to access and elevate the quality of medical services for children and adolescents in underserved regions.



Among the many initiatives, the visual health program has been one of the most transformative. My involvement has extended from coordinating medical teams to tracking patient outcomes and assessing the program's impact. Raising awareness about the importance of early vision screening has been a key aspect of this work. Witnessing firsthand how these efforts restore sight and unlock new opportunities for children has been truly rewarding, reinforcing my belief in the power of proactive, high-quality healthcare.

Being part of Fundación Baylor Argentina has given me the opportunity to contribute to a project that not only transforms lives but also restores hope. I am profoundly grateful to be part of an institution guided by unwavering ethics, a clear vision, and, most importantly, an enduring love for children. Every success story, every child's smile after receiving the care they need, is a powerful reminder of what can be accomplished when compassion, dedication, and expertise come together. Yet, one of our greatest challenges remains ensuring that the most vulnerable children have access to both basic and specialized health services.

Through my experience, I have learned that true impact extends beyond medical intervention—it lies in building bridges between community needs and the healthcare services available. I have had the privilege of working with teams that foster collaboration between local organizations and international partners, allowing us to expand our reach and ensure that no child is left behind, regardless of their circumstances. Together, we have provided 19,776 comprehensive pediatric consultations and 7,411 visual screenings—tangible milestones in our commitment to accessible, high-quality healthcare for every child.

“What inspires me most in my work is witnessing the transformative power of programs like the visual health initiative. Beyond restoring a child's sight, these efforts open doors to education, personal growth, and a brighter future. This is just one of many initiatives at Fundación Baylor Argentina, but every success story—every child who receives quality care—strengthens my belief that investing in child health is the foundation for lasting change.”

## A Clearer Future: **CRISTINA BARRIO'S STORY**

When Cristina Barrio first arrived in Rincón de los Sauces in 2001, she carried with her the same hope that brought so many others to this small but determined community, a hope for a better future. Though originally from Río Negro, she quickly made Rincón her home. Over the years, she became deeply connected to the people, the rhythms of daily life, and most importantly, the children whose futures she now helps shape as the principal of School 238.

So when the opportunity arose to bring the Baylor Argentina Foundation's Visual Health Program to her school, Cristina didn't hesitate. She had seen firsthand how vision problems could hold children back, and she knew how difficult it was for many families to access basic eye care. "I had seen the program before, back when I was at School 335, and I loved it," she recalled. "So when the chance came again, I said yes without thinking twice."

The impact was immediate and profound. Over 400 children at the school received vision screenings, and for 35 of them, a simple yet life-changing intervention awaited: their very first pair of prescription glasses. For these children, clear vision meant more than just seeing the board. It meant unlocking their full potential in the classroom, reading words that once blurred together, and stepping into a world that had suddenly become sharper and brighter.



Cristina vividly remembers the moment the glasses were distributed. “I made sure to tell the families just how important this was,” she said. “Especially for the youngest children, those just learning to read and write. Being able to see clearly at that stage makes all the difference.”

But one child, she noted, couldn’t make it to the distribution day. “We’re working on getting her glasses to her,” Cristina said. “No child should be left behind in something so essential.”

For families in Rincón de los Sauces, the challenges of accessing specialized care are overwhelming. The nearest major city, Neuquén, is far away, and the journey requires not just money for transportation, but also time, something many parents simply don’t have. “Appointments are hard to get, and the trip is expensive,” Cristina explained. “For many families, making that journey just isn’t possible.”

That is why programs like Baylor Argentina Foundation’s Visual Health Program are so vital. They bring essential services directly to the community, eliminating the barriers that stand between children and the care they need.

Cristina’s gratitude is palpable. “Everything was impeccable. This program is not just helpful, it is fundamental for communities like ours. It is a small grain of sand that makes a world of difference for these families,” she said. “I can only hope it continues, because the impact is truly life-changing.”



**[agustinaperez@baylorargentina.org](mailto:agustinaperez@baylorargentina.org)**

**[bafrankl@texaschildrens.org](mailto:bafrankl@texaschildrens.org)**



**[www.fundacionbaylorargentina.org.ar](http://www.fundacionbaylorargentina.org.ar)**

**[www.texaschildrens.org/texas-childrens-global-health/network/argentina](http://www.texaschildrens.org/texas-childrens-global-health/network/argentina)**

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