

# Annual report 2024





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# 1. Management report

Every year we say it's been the busiest year so far, and 2024 is certainly proof of that! We've never operated on so many children in a single year (548!), thanks in part to the 'Cleft Palate Marathon'.

In total, we helped more than 1,200 children through all our various programs in 2024. We are incredibly proud of our team, who work tirelessly every day to give these children a chance.

Of course, we could never achieve all of this without our sponsors, friends, fans, and the wonderful people who believe in us and are always willing to help! In addition, in 2024 we opened our patient residence, made possible by the AFAS Foundation in the Netherlands. We've already welcomed hundreds of parents with their children to our AFAS House, and we've received nothing but praise for how much everyone loves it!

We also expanded our board in the Netherlands with Ine van Bakel and Ilse Taken. And we organized our first event for Tess Unlimited in Minnesota, USA, which was a great success!



## 1.1 Results from 2024

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- 548 children received surgery!
- 330 babies were part of the milk project!
- 580 children received speech therapy! We are currently working with 11 speech therapists, all trained by Tess Unlimited!
- 32 young people received psychological support, and our psychologist provided group therapy to all 548 families during the surgery weeks. Our psychologist, Pini, not only offers individual and group therapy, but also supports all parents in our hospital when their child is about to undergo surgery.
- 466 children went to the dentist! We collaborate with 5 dentists spread across Guatemala.
- 80 children are in our orthodontics project! This year, 80 children received orthodontic treatment to prepare them for jaw surgery and once again this year, we were able to operate on 12 of them!





## 1.2 About the foundation

### 1.2.1 Introduction

The Tess Unlimited Foundation was established after Tessa de Goede traveled to Guatemala in January 2008 and was confronted with the challenges surrounding cleft lip and palate. At that time, there was no holistic care for children with clefts in Guatemala, and many of them had never undergone surgery. That same year, Tessa founded Tess Unlimited with the goal of creating a professional organization to help these children and offer them a meaningful life.



### 1.2.2 Mission

Tess Unlimited is a non-profit organization focused on providing medical care to underprivileged children, youth, and adults with cleft lip and palate in Guatemala. We take a comprehensive approach to ensure that our patients can lead meaningful lives after completing the full treatment process.

### 1.2.3 Vision

The Tess Unlimited Foundation provides access to medical care and all necessary pre- and post-operative support to over 1,200 vulnerable children, youth, and adults with cleft lip and palate each year. Our goal is to give them the opportunity to fully participate in Guatemalan society and to prevent them from falling into a life of isolation and neglect due to their cleft condition.

## 1.2.4 Strategy

Our strategy is focused on a comprehensive approach, in which we identify patients as early as possible in their lives, provide medical support throughout all stages of recovery, and continue to follow up with them. Our approach includes the following projects.

**Promotion:** To identify children with cleft conditions at an early stage, our local promoters are active throughout the country and serve as the first point of contact in their regions. Through these promoters, we also reach youth and adults with clefts who are in need of medical care. We have alliances with both government agencies and local hospitals and health centers that refer children directly to us. Additionally, we collaborate with various local and international foundations in Guatemala. At present, we have partnerships with more than 150 organizations across the country.

**Milk project:** Malnutrition poses a major challenge for children with cleft conditions. They are enrolled in the milk project to ensure they reach a healthy weight before undergoing surgery. Collaboration with a local dietitian is essential. As we treat more and more newborns, we also promote breastfeeding and use hand pumps and special Haberman bottles to ensure these children can drink breast milk.

**Surgeries:** Since 2022, we have opened our own hospital, Tulipanes, which is equipped with two operating rooms. We also continue our collaboration with Hermano Pedro Hospital, where we organize surgical weeks for adolescents and young adults in need of nose surgeries.

Although most surgeries are still performed by international surgeons, we began training our first local surgeon, Bruno Wenhcke, in 2022. After two years of training, he has been performing cleft palate surgeries two days a month since 2024!

In addition, we have added two new local surgeons to our program: Fredy and Francisco, who have been in training since May 2023. Another surgeon, Michel, began his training in 2024. In 2025, Fredy and Francisco will begin operating alongside Bruno!



**Speech therapy:** Our eleven speech therapists work throughout the country to support children in developing their speech skills. All of these therapists are local professionals trained by Tess Unlimited in collaboration with the international organization Smile Train.

**Dental care:** Before and after the repair of the lip and/or palate, children need dental care. We collaborate with five local dentists and also place great emphasis on education and prevention.

**Orthodontics:** Almost all children born with a cleft need to visit an orthodontist, and the first visit usually takes place around the age of six, when the first teeth begin to change. The orthodontist focuses on the position of the teeth and the development of the jaws. To assess this, they take X-rays of the teeth and jaws, and also make impressions or scans of the teeth.

Prior to the jaw closure surgery, the orthodontist typically places a brace on the upper jaw. This is necessary to widen and shape the upper jaw. We work together with three local orthodontists.

**Psychology:** We often see that children are regularly bullied and experience social isolation, making it difficult for them to connect with others. Many mothers are also blamed by their own partners and families for their child being born with a cleft. For these reasons, we work with a local psychologist who addresses these issues and provides support when needed.



## 1.2.5 Ambition

Our goal in the Netherlands is to raise awareness about the Tess Unlimited Foundation and bring attention to the challenges surrounding cleft conditions in Guatemala. Through this awareness, we aim to raise more funds to help make our mission a success. In Guatemala, our ambition is to help as many children born with clefts as possible and provide them with a complete medical treatment journey, so they can lead meaningful lives after their recovery.

**Target audience:** Our target audience in Guatemala consists of children, youth, and adults of all ages, backgrounds, and religions. Every child born with a cleft has the right to access appropriate healthcare. Together, we stand up for the right to health.



## 1.2.6 Milk project

Our milk project is the most crucial initiative of our entire foundation. If children are malnourished or haven't yet reached the right weight, they simply cannot undergo surgery. In Guatemala, nearly 50% of all children under five are malnourished, which is also evident within our foundation. Because these children cannot breast-feed or drink from a regular bottle, and parents often cannot afford formula, they sometimes resort to giving water with sugar or coffee out of desperation. We want to give these children a chance and ease the worries of their parents.

Cleft conditions are not treated in the large government and regional hospitals. When a mother has her baby, there is no cleft team to support her. Over the past 16 years, we have built our own and only cleft team, and we hope to help many children. Every year, we provide nearly 11,000 cans of formula to help all these babies reach the proper weight.



## 1.2.7 Training

Tess Unlimited has been a proud partner of Smile Train for twelve years, the largest organization in the world focused on cleft conditions and active in nearly all developing countries. We share the same vision: it is more effective to train and educate local people rather than continuously working with foreign organizations.

Each year, various members of our team are invited to courses and conferences. In 2024, part of our team traveled to Mexico, El Salvador, Brazil, and Colombia. This way, we stay up to date with the latest developments in cleft care and continuously receive training.

## 1.2.8 Patient residence AFAS

At the end of 2023, the construction of the AFAS patient residence was completed. We have created a beautiful home for our beloved families who come from far away. It is a warm and cozy house where everyone immediately feels at home, a true home away from home. Features of the residence:

- 🏠 Bedrooms: There are a total of 16 bedrooms with 35 beds, all handcrafted by four furniture makers from the Netherlands, giving each room a unique layout.
- 🏠 Facilities:
  - A spacious kitchen
  - A dining area
  - A comfortable sofa with plenty of cushions for mothers to relax while feeding their babies
- 🏠 Decoration: Each room is decorated with beautiful murals by the renowned artist Carin Steen.
- 🏠 Additional spaces: We also have spacious bathrooms, separate toilets, and a laundry room.

In February 2024, we held the official opening, and since then, we have welcomed hundreds of families. The land, construction, and full furnishing were generously donated by the AFAS Foundation in the Netherlands, and we are extremely grateful to them. In November 2024, three representatives from the AFAS Foundation traveled to Guatemala to see the patient residence with their own eyes, and they were very impressed.



## 1.4 Results between 2008 and 2024

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- Ü 4,032 children operated on
- Ü 130 surgical weeks organized
- Ü 3,858 children brought to a healthy weight through our milk project
- Ü More than 35,000 speech therapy sessions provided
- Ü More than 4,000 psychological sessions conducted
- Ü 1,400 children visited the dentist
- Ü 80 children are receiving orthodontic treatment

## 2. Set goals for 2025

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Our goals for the coming year are as follows:

- Ü We aim to operate on 450 children.
- Ü Our local surgeons Bruno Wenhcke, Fredy Velasquez, and Francisco Cabellos will each operate on 12 children every month (twice a month). Bruno will begin his training for surgeries on unilateral cleft lips.
- Ü We would like to start an audiology program so that we can also treat children's hearing.
- Ü We would like to add an additional orthodontist to our team in Alta Verapaz.

## 3. Future plans

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Recently, thanks to a generous donation from Canada, we were able to purchase a piece of land right next to our Tulipanes hospital. This is an important step forward, as we plan to incorporate this land into the hospital in the future to expand our facilities and provide even better care for our patients.

At the moment, we are already using the grounds for various purposes. We look forward to the opportunities this expansion will bring us.

## 4. Foundation

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Name: Tess Unlimited  
Street: Fliermatenweg 1  
Postal code: 7451 NH  
City: Holten  
Country: The Netherlands



Phone number: +502 4990 5021  
Email: tessa@tessunlimited.nl  
tom@tessunlimited.nl  
Website: www.tessunlimited.com

Account information: NL95ABNA0619717688 | BIC/Swift code: ABNANL2A | Bank name: ABN Amro

### 3.1 Foundation data

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Legal Form: Foundation  
Date of establishment: 11-18-2008

### 3.2 Foundation goals

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Raising resources, both financial and human (volunteers), to support selected charities in developing countries, particularly to support the activities of Asociación Tess sin Límites and Asociación Tulipanes in Guatemala.

### 3.3 The foundation means to achieve these goals through

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Organizing activities to raise funds and resources and recruiting sponsors.

### 3.4 ANBI/tax exemption

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On the 1st of January 2009 the tax department of the Netherlands designated Tess Unlimited as a society for public welfare and all beneficial tax exemption are applied.

### 3.5 Chamber of commerce number

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08181442



## 4.6 Promotion



Our website contains a lot of information and videos about our activities in Guatemala: <http://www.tessunlimited.com>



We are also active on Facebook and Instagram, where, through daily updates and posts, you will be kept informed of our various activities and events:



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TESSUnlimited>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/tessunlimitedguatemala/>



We also have a wide variety of videos on our own YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UcswRr9hnyEzqfmSAXqyUxRQ>

## 4.7 General information Tess Unlimited

The Tess Unlimited team in Guatemala consists of:

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 11 local speech therapists who also serve as promoters | 5 dentists                            |
| 2 pediatricians  | 3 orthodontists                       |
| 1 nutritionist   | 3 anesthesiologists                   |
| 3 health promoters                                     | 1 technician                          |
| 1 psychologist   | 4 local surgeons in training          |
| 5 full-time office staff                               | 15 nurses hired during surgical weeks |

Two of the team members were born with cleft conditions themselves, and five have a child with a cleft. Since 2021, we have been collecting data to research the causes of cleft conditions in Guatemala. We do this by conducting interviews with all families participating in our project. We aim to expand this research further in 2025.

## 4.8 Board structure

| Starting date | Description  | Name board member         | Date of birth | Function                        |
|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 18-9-2008     | Board member | Tessa de Goede de Ordoñez | 09-04-1983    | Founder & Director in Guatemala |
| 9-1-2018      | Board member | Christina Tinselboer      | 18-11-1979    | Chairman                        |
| 1-3-2018      | Board member | Paul de Goede             | 03-06-1956    | Treasurer                       |
| 4-11-2019     | Board member | Paula van de Kamp         | 06-08-1996    | PR/Design                       |
| 01-10-2024    | Board member | Ine van Bakel             | 23-09-1967    | Vice chairperson                |
| 01-10-2024    | Board member | Ilse Taken                | 12-05-1991    | Board member                    |

*None of the board members receive compensation for their board duties.*

## 4.9 Employment

Tess Unlimited has no employees in the Netherlands, and the board in the NL does not receive a salary or compensation.

## 5. Balance sheet

Foundation T.E.S.S. Unlimited (NL) - Tess Sinlimites (GUA) - Tulipanes (clinic GUA) - Patient residence

| Balance per 31 december 2024                              |           |                    |
|---|-----------|--------------------|
| Starting capital as of December 31, 2023                  |           | € 427.867          |
| ABN Amro checking account NL                              | € 3.016   | NL95ABNA0619717688 |
| ABN Amro account NL                                       | € 135.771 | NL90ABNA0810803607 |
| ASN Crisis account NL                                     | € 74.815  | NL19ASNB0635348977 |
| BAM Tess Sin Limites bank account in Guatemala            | € 57.034  | Q 30-2008727-3     |
| BAM Tess Sin Limites bank account in Guatemala in \$      | € 1.445   |                    |
| BAM Tulipanes (clinic) bank account in \$                 | € 34.329  |                    |
| BAM Tulipanes (clinic) bank account                       | € 17.701  | Q 30-4024447-7     |
| URA platform  | € 19.591  |                    |
| BAM Tess Sin Limites & Tulipanes bank account             | € 56.252  |                    |
|   | € 399.953 |                    |
| Income and expenses 2024                                  |           |                    |
| Donations and sponsorship from the Netherlands            |           | € 438.020          |
| Donation of a piece of land next to the clinic from CAN   |           | € 151.743          |
| Donations and sponsorship received in Guatemala           |           | € 224.655          |
| Interest received in the Netherlands                      |           | € 2.566            |
|   |           |                    |
| Costs Tess Sin Limites & Tulipanes Guatemala              | € 672.782 |                    |
| Bank fees NL  | € 771     |                    |
| Travel expenses, insurance, etc. NL                       | € 8.715   |                    |
| Income/expenses via PayPal                                | € 8.849   | € 6.416            |
| Costs for the piece of land next to the clinic (one-time) | € 151.743 |                    |
| Maintenance of website and software                       | € 4.363   |                    |
| Miscellaneous expenses                                    | € 4.009   |                    |
|   | €         |                    |
| Currency differences NL/GUA/CA/USA                        | € 82      |                    |
|   | €         |                    |
|   | € 851.314 |                    |
|   |           | € 823.400          |
| Total decrease in capital                                 |           | € - 27.914         |
| Capital comparison  |           |                    |
| Capital per 31-12-2023                                    |           | € 427.867          |
| Capital per 31-12-2024                                    |           | € 399.953          |
| Total decrease capital in 2024                            |           | € - 27.914         |

The balance sheet above only relates to TESS Unlimited in the Netherlands. This is the foundation that has the ANBI status. The auditor's report is for TESS Unlimited in the Netherlands. There are a limited number of expenses in the Netherlands. The bulk of the funds are transferred to TESS Sin Limites in Guatemala. This foundation is responsible for the implementation of the activities under the management of Tessa de Goede de Ordoñez.



## 6. Expenses in Guatemala

The following overview gives more insight into the expenses of the various projects in Guatemala.

|  |     |           |
|--|-----|-----------|
| Milk project   | GTQ | 930.437   |
| Psychology   | GTQ | 24.160    |
| Promotion  | GTQ | 127.537   |
| Speech therapy   | GTQ | 273.721   |
| Evaluations  | GTQ | 74.329    |
| Dentistry  | GTQ | 95.243    |
| Surgeries Tulipanes  | GTQ | 2.336.102 |
| Personnel costs  | GTQ | 609.111   |
| Training and conference expenses   | GTQ | 95.794    |
| Orthodontics   | GTQ | 134.640   |
| ENT (ear, nose, and throat) specialist   | GTQ | 18.058    |
| Casa de AFAS (patient residence)   | GTQ | 255.140   |
| Transportation costs   | GTQ | 81.798    |
| Maintenance, service costs, and furnishings (office and hospital)                      | GTQ | 77.320    |
| Office & administration (Tess Unlimited & Tulipanes)                                   | GTQ | 175.505   |
| Legal costs / accountant / insurance / permits / bank fees, etc. (office and hospital) | GTQ | 404.935   |
| Events   | GTQ | 300       |
| Total costs Tess Sin Limites / Tulipanes in Quetzales                                  | GTQ | 5.714.130 |
| Total costs Tess Sin Limites / Tulipanes in Euros                                      | €   | 672.782   |