



Juanita two days post-surgery – pictured here with her son – shares with us, “I feel like a queen.”

THE HOUSEHOLD AND THE FAMILY

Juanita lives in Chiclayo, the capital of the northwestern Lambayeque region of Peru, with her daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter. Juanita also has three sons: one is an accountant; one serves in the military; and her third son works for the government. Theirs is a close family: most weekends, the whole family gets together. Now retired, Juanita worked for 18 years at a government agency, starting as a secretary and working her way up to become the director of her department. To help out her daughter, a school teacher, Juanita uses her typing skills to write up documents on the computer. Juanita also enjoys cooking and knitting, a traditional Peruvian craft form.

MEDICAL HISTORY

Juanita had been experiencing trouble breathing and had heart palpitations before she sought care. Specialists at a military hospital diagnosed her with several valvular conditions: aortic valve stenosis, a common form of valvular disease that occurs with age; severe aortic regurgitation; and severe mitral regurgitation. Because Juanita required specialized medical treatment, she was transferred to INCOR, Lima where Heart to Heart colleague Christian Nolte examined her. Juanita’s age and condition made her an excellent candidate for transcatheter valve replacement (TAVR). This fairly new and revolutionary technology allows cardiologists to replace a human heart valve without traditional open heart surgery, which some elderly patients are not able to withstand. Juanita received a life-saving gift – a functioning aortic heart valve – a generous donation from the Edwards Lifesciences Foundation.

CURRENT CONDITION

On January 07, 2016, Juanita underwent a transcatheter aortic valve replacement procedure by the joint Heart to Heart-INCOR team of cardiologists. Following her surgery, Juanita is visibly happy and already feels relatively well. Two of her sons visit during her recovery and express their great pleasure to see their mother feeling so much more comfortable and relieved. When Juanita is ready to be discharged, one of her children will pick her up and take her back to Chiclayo, 478 miles from Lima up along the the northern coast of Peru. Heart to Heart is grateful to have played a role in repairing Juanita’s heart and returning her to a full and rich family life in Chiclayo.

PATIENT PROFILE

Name	Juanita E.
Age	84 years old
DOB	August 7, 1932
Home	Chiclayo, Lambayeque Region
Diagnosis	Aortic valve stenosis, severe aortic regurgitation; and severe mitral regurgitation
Surgical procedure	Transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) December 7th, 2016
Discharged from ICU	January 7, 2016
Discharged from hospital	January 14, 2016

Based on an interview conducted by Albina Popova, Heart to Heart staff, with the aid of a volunteer interpreter.