

*Let the little children come unto me,
and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.*

MARK 10:14



All
God's
Children



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

*I will sing of the Lord's great love forever, with my mouth
I will make your faithfulness known throughout all generations.*

PSALM 89:1

This verse comes closest to articulating my understanding of the love and faithfulness of God that I have been blessed to witness for 27 amazing years. It was the love of Jesus dwelling in young Carmen that compelled her to walk away from a convent to care for two abused girls. That providential meeting and subsequent partnership of Carmen and All God's Children can only be understood and explained by acknowledging God's faithfulness.

My first trip to Honduras in 1990 was an eye opening emotional roller coaster. The beauty of the mountains, the flowering trees and all of God's creation was visually amazing, yet the unimaginable poverty, and unrelenting filth reminded me of the brokenness that surrounded me. I expected the children to be sad and afraid but having those children climb up in my lap and accept me and love me was nearly impossible to understand. I didn't understand it 27 years ago and I still don't understand it today. But I have learned to simply cherish those moments. God's love and faithfulness is conveyed in the miraculous way He has provided the resources to continually expand the ministries of Carmen and All God's Children. The board and I have spent many sleepless nights worrying: "Where will the help and money come from?" Yet, God has always provided.

God has uniquely equipped Carmen to be both the mother to so many children as well as the visionary leader of the Hogar. I see God's love and faithfulness displayed in the way He has touched the hearts of so many of you that visit the Hogar to love these children and staff.

When we visit the broken and disenfranchised places in the world, God teaches us that His purpose for our life is to connect us to something far greater



Allen Heerema and Mami Carmen, First Serve Trip, 1990

than ourselves. When visiting the Hogar, we all experienced the deep satisfaction that comes with following God's call to that purpose. May He be praised.

For many years I operated in the "pioneer" stages of AGC. Although AGC is blessed with a passionate and capable board, the fact that we didn't have a bilingual consultant in Honduras became increasingly problematic as the ministry expanded. For years, Carmen and I had laboriously spent hours on the phone discussing each child and every new step of our expansion using my broken Spanglish as neither of us is fluent in the other's language. We needed a viable solution. In 2015, the AGC board began a nationwide search for a highly qualified bilingual couple to be on the ground in Honduras as our consultants. God's faithfulness was again displayed when Randy and Mercedes Wittig answered His call to serve in Honduras. God had been preparing them their entire lives for this position by having them serve as missionaries since childhood. Their contributions to AGC over the past 18 months are incalculable.

With the support of so many committed partners, AGC's future is brighter than ever. We will continue to ask God for wisdom, guidance and direction as

we strive to be obedient to His charge found in James 1:27: "What God the Father considers to be pure and genuine religion is this: to take care of orphans in their suffering."

Thank you for faithfully supporting the work God is doing in Honduras. Your partnership with AGC and Mami Carmen over the past 25 years has given a hope that lasts eternally and shares the love of Jesus that heals for a lifetime. You have made a life-changing difference to hundreds of children that had no hope and thought themselves unworthy of love.

Serving together,



Allen Heerema, President



Carmen and the children in the early days.



Hogar de Ninos Nazareth “Home for the Children”



Renovated
bathrooms

Hogar de Ninos Nazareth was founded in 1988 as a result of the childlike faith and courageous love of a teenaged Carmen Beteta. Young Carmen walked away from a convent to care for two girls that were being abused. She didn't know where she would live, nor did she have food or money. Carmen simply had faith in God and the love of Jesus in her heart. Relying on the kindness of both friends and strangers, Carmen was caring for 17 children within months of leaving the convent. It was illegal for a teenaged girl to be caring for non-family members. The government said it was like a baby taking care of babies. But the government also recognized the good work Carmen was doing and gave her time to legally create Hogar de Ninos Nazareth. Providentially, while seeking a serve site for high school students, Wayne and Char Merz met Mami Carmen and went on to eventually form All God's Children Honduras.

Through the years, growth has been rapid given the needs of so many abandoned children and disenfran-

chised individuals. The Hogar went from one building to multiple buildings and multiple campuses. God has been faithful to provide and direct each step of the way.

Recent improvements to the Hogar include the installation of a new well pump and extensive piping, providing an ample water supply. Major sewage problems were resolved. Security concerns required increasing the wall height and the addition of electrified wire. Remodeling of the 20-year old facility also included the beginning of renovations to bathrooms, closets and windows of the dorms.

While all of the children are provided with an education, the public school system in Comayagua is subpar. The objective of both Carmen and the AGC Board is that all the children will have access to educational opportunities in private bilingual schools. While this level of education is currently beyond the budgetary constraints of the organization, it remains both an ambitious and worthy goal.



The Granja "The Farm"

The Granja is an extension of Hogar de Ninos and was purchased in 1994. Because little boys grow into young men, Carmen knew she would need a place for them to expend energy, build their strength, and develop life skills. The small boys of Hogar de Ninos eventually move to the Granja. It is here on the 40-acre farm that Christian leadership and fresh air combine to help these young men mature into responsible adults. Skills such as farming, welding, woodworking, and shop class are taught regularly. The boys also learn animal husbandry by caring for cows, horses, chickens, and even how to raise fish in the farm pond. But their favorite pastime is easily their enthusiastic and competitive matches played on the futbolito.

In 2016, a roof was built over the futbolito, providing necessary shade and the ability to play during rain. Much of the equipment in the wood shop has been upgraded or replaced. As with Hogar Nazareth, the dorm bathrooms are being renovated to accommodate the increased number of children and to replace inadequate plumbing. Extensive renovations

are needed to update the aging Granja. The spiritual development of the boys under the direction of Randy Wittig has resulted in many of the boys growing in their faith walk and showing greater leadership potential in other areas.



A new roof for the futbolito



Casa Misericordia “House of Mercy”

Women with special needs who are unable to function in society are often defenseless, especially in impoverished countries like Honduras. Casa Misericordia was organized as an extension of Hogar de Ninos in order to provide a safe place for these young women. Deep emotional, psychological, and mental illness, as well as deafness and Down Syndrome, bring abuse and disdain from even close family members.

But at Casa Misericordia they are able to live without fear. Cared for by a patient Christian staff who willingly give them the extra time and attention they need, they are loved and nurtured. They enjoy working together, doing crafts, and learning skills to better care for themselves and one another.

Recently, portions of the 10-ft walls that protect Casa Misericordia were beautified with a variety of colors. The gazebo in the very nice courtyard was rebuilt to allow for some shade. The water system at the Hogar underwent an extensive repair. Since the two are connected, this enabled the tanks at Misericordia to be filled, solving the chronic water shortage problems encountered the last several years.

While Casa Misericordia has proven to be a safe and caring home for women, many of the special needs boys and young men currently served through Al God’s children could also benefit from a Misericordia home. Our hope is to raise adequate funding to build and staff a Misericordia for boys and men in the near future.



A rebuilt gazebo and brightly colored wall.



Casa Buen Pastor “House of the Good Shepherd”

Casa Buen Pastor, another extension of Hogar de Niños, provides a refuge to young single girls and their children. These young girls are mothers by no choice of their own. For many Honduran girls, their home becomes a place of abuse at the hands of fathers or trusted males. Often these girls become pregnant and once they have children, they have nowhere to go. Their homes are no longer a safe place to be. At Casa Buen Pastor, these girls are now living under the loving care of a Christian staff, benefitting from a safe family environment.

Our goal is to help the young mothers complete their education so they can get good jobs to support themselves and their child. Located in the heart of Comayagua, the walls of Buen Pastor were recently raised and razor wire was added for increased security. The older boys at the Granja built a swing set, specifically designed for the moms and their young children.

Casa Buen Pastor has experienced rapid growth since its founding in 2008 and is now near capacity, serving 14 young girls and their children. The AGC Board is currently exploring opportunities to expand this ministry to care for additional young mothers in need.



Young mothers with their children.

"Casa Divine Providencia" Home for University Students



Casa Divine Providencia "House of Divine Providence"

When the older girls graduated from high school, they wanted to go to university. In 2005, Carmen found a two-story townhome with walls and armed guards located within walking distance to the university in Tegucigalpa, a 90-minute drive away. The next

year, when the boys needed to go to university, we purchased another unit in the same complex. It is extremely dangerous to walk from the townhomes to the university. Every single one of the boys and girls have been held up at gun point. The boys living in close proximity became an extra layer of protection as advocates for the young women. Security remains a concern in Tegucigalpa.



First graduates from American universities.

An overcrowding situation at Casa Divine Providencia has been mitigated with the expansion of a university satellite campus located in Comayagua that enables the students to remain at their Hogar. Some of the best students with superior language skills have been brought to the United States to study at American universities. Funding for the U.S. universities is especially expensive. We introduced a College Sponsorship Program in the spring of 2017 that is in need of funding.



CasAyuda “House of Help”

CasAyuda is a state of the art educational facility for the physically and mentally disabled, organized by Nelly and Nelson Zelaya and built in the years since Hurricane Mitch devastated the country in 1998. Like Hogar de Ninos, its beginnings go back many years and also has its story rooted in God’s providence. When Nelly fell out of a tree at the age of 15 and was partially paralyzed, she could not have imagined the new course her life would take.

After great struggle and adversity, Nelly finished her education and married. With a passion to change the destiny for so many broken people, together she and her husband organized CasAyuda. Today, CasAyuda’s Christian staff educates 100 mentally and physically handicapped children and young adults. The large campus includes dormitories, educational buildings and a cafeteria.

Over the past several years, donations from AGC supporters provided for the purchase of a swimming pool for aqua therapy, all new exercise equipment and

modern machines for physical therapy. In addition, a beautiful new worship chapel was completed in 2016.

Nelly is a true visionary with a servant’s heart for the care for those in need. Over the next several years, she is committed to growing CasAyuda with additional staff and facilities to further serve the local community.



A beautiful new worship chapel was completed in 2016.



"House of Love"
Home for the Abandoned



Hogar de Amor “House of Love”

Hurricane Mitch, the most-deadly Atlantic hurricane in 200 years, stalled over Honduras for several days in October 1998 causing extreme flooding and destruction and leaving over 15,000 people dead or missing. Families were torn apart by death and thousands of children were orphaned. Arvil Smith and his wife were serving as Baptist missionaries at the time and witnessed the devastation first hand. While driving through the streets after the hurricane trying to determine how they

could help, they became aware of the many homeless and abandoned children. Overwhelmed with sadness for these children, they knew they had no choice but to reach out and do something. The Smiths remained faithful to their vision and Hogar de Amor was built, consisting of a children’s home, a Christian school, and a church where Pastor Smith preaches. After Arvil’s first wife died of cancer. God was faithful to provide another like-minded servant of the Lord in Miriam. Together, Arvil and Miriam are the “parents” of the children, having dedicated their lives to them.

After the primary donor for Hogar de Amor encountered financial adversity, Arvil began discussing with Miriam when they would be forced to close their orphanage. AGC stepped into the crisis to keep Hogar de Amor financially viable.

The school continues to thrive with over 400 students. The surrounding community is being reached for God through the school. The orphanage has updated its living quarters and currently cares for 25 children.



Roof repair in progress

Board of Directors



Allen Heerema *President*

Al met Mami Carmen when he joined a group of young Calvinists on a 1990 serve trip to Honduras. At the time, Al was building a waste hauling and landfill company with his business partners. After selling the business, Al and his wife Gert devoted their energy to serving a variety of non-profit organizations and ministries, including Al's role as Director of Development with Humboldt Christian School. Al was asked to assume the leadership of AGC in 2000. Allen, Gert and their four children and 12 grandchildren are all supporters of the work in Honduras.



John Hiskes *Secretary*

John is an attorney engaged in general civil practice with the firm of Hiskes, Dillner, O'Donnell, Marovich and Lapp. A graduate of Calvin College, John received his J.D. from Loyola University and is a member of the Christian Legal Society. John, his wife Elaine, and their two adult children are AGC veterans and supporters.



Robert Venhousen *Treasurer*

Bob is the Director of Advancement at Timothy Christian Schools. He earned a B.S. from the University of Illinois at Chicago and an MBA from Keller Graduate School. A former bank officer, multi-state sales representative and CFO, Bob serves as an elder on the Senior Leadership team at his church. Bob and wife Judy have nine children who have each experienced AGC serve trips.



Pamela De Boer

Pamela attended College of DuPage and has served in leadership roles for B.S.F., Youth Unlimited and her church. She also serves on the board of Badala International. For over 20 years, Pam has served alongside her husband, siblings, children and grandchildren in Honduras.



Jan Kamp

Jan, a Trinity Christian College graduate, is a former kindergarten teacher and has held many positions working with children of all ages. Jan co-founded an orphan ministry with her husband Dave. She serves in the capacity of Sponsorship Director for All God's Children in addition to her board role. Jan, Dave and their five children have participated on AGC serve trips.



Paul Lagestee

Paul brings over 30 years of business experience, including his work at Walt's Foods, a full-service network of food centers with seven locations in Illinois and Indiana. Paul and his wife Dyan, first visited Honduras in 2005. Since then, all five of their children have had the opportunity to visit the Hogar.



Timothy MacKenzie

Tim is a Managing Director of Merit Capital Partners and has previous investment experience with Prudential Capital and RepublicBank Dallas. He earned his B.A. at Northwestern University and his M.B.A. at the University of Illinois. Tim serves as a board member with Chicago Fellowship, Christ Church of Oak Brook, Bridge Communities and the Hinsdale Golf Club. Tim and his wife Mary have three adult children, all of whom have been actively involved with AGC.

AGC Facts & Figures

180 **Children** currently under the care of Mami Carmen, ranging in age from newborn to University students

50 **Employees at Hogar Nazareth.** Includes caretakers, cooks, administrative staff, drivers, guards, psychologists, maintenance personnel

102 **Children** enrolled in Nelly's school

47 **Children** attending/attended college

400 **Children** enrolled in Arvil's school

870 **Meals** prepared and served at all Hogars daily

Help in Honduras

156

Serve Trips

2,340

Serve Trip Volunteers

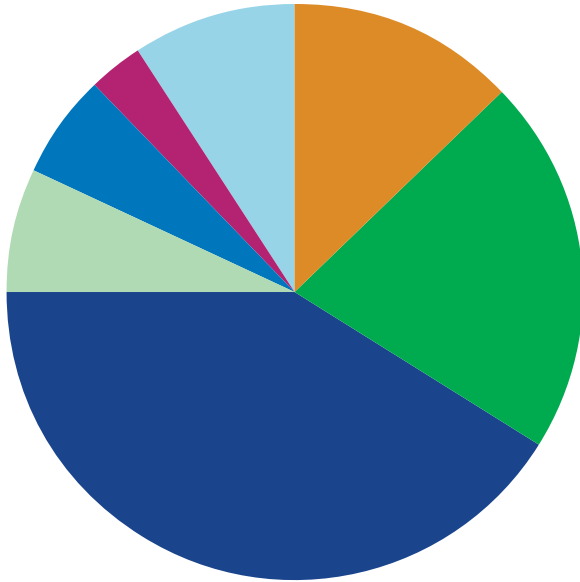
Sponsorships

157

Children sponsored

326

Sponsors

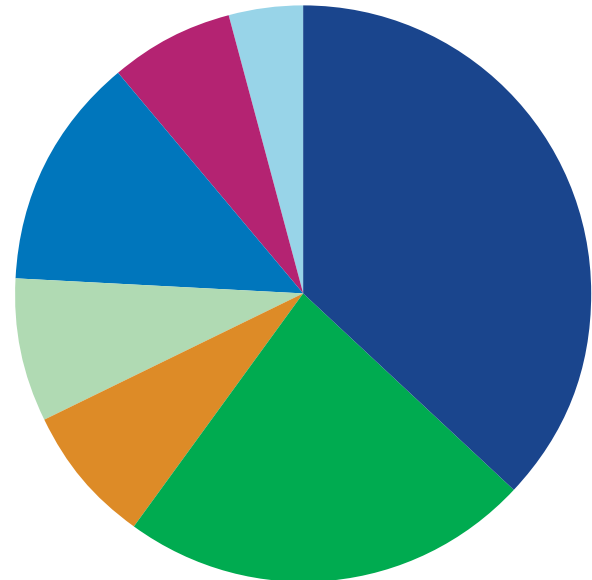


Monthly Expenses

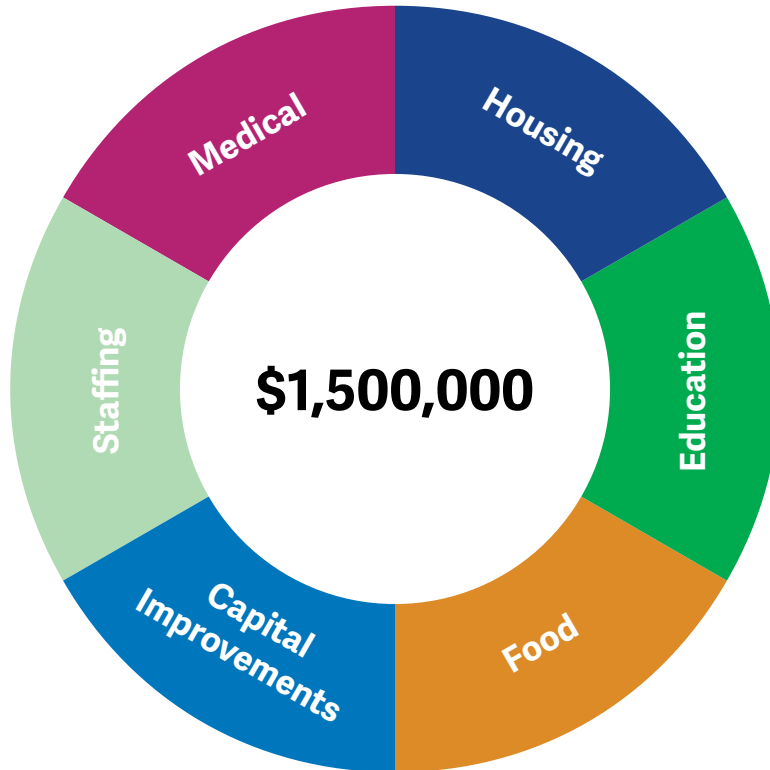
- Salaries 41%
- Food 21%
- Education 13%
- Capital Projects 9%
- Health 7%
- Transport & Utilities 6%
- Administration 3%

Money Allocated to Each Hogar

- Hogar Nazareth 37%
- The Granja 23%
- University (U.S. & Honduras) 13%
- Casa Misericordia 8%
- Casa Buen Pastor 8%
- CasAyuda 7%
- Hogar de Amor 4%



Annual Budget Needs



Financial Accountability

A.G.C., Ltd, operating as All God's Children, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to raising and distributing funds to several different ministries of compassion within the country of Honduras. Governed by a Board of Directors in the U.S. board members and other supporters volunteer their time, talents, and donate money to AGC. 100% of all designated and sponsorship funds raised go directly to the causes for which they are specified. AGC has the highest rating given by Charity Navigator, an independent charity watchdog that evaluates charitable organizations in the United States.



Board Members

Pamela De Boer
Allen Heerema, President
John Hiskes, Secretary
Jan Kamp
Paul Lagestee
Tim MacKenzie
Bob Venhousen, Treasurer



*"Thank you for all the help you provide us.
May God bless you and your families."*

- MAMI CARMEN AND THE CHILDREN



All God's Children is dedicated to raising and distributing funds to several different ministries of compassion within the country of Honduras.

AGC, Ltd. • PO Box 5909 • Villa Park, IL 60181
 P (630) 862-1728 W allgodschildrenhonduras.org