



## Every time we think of you, we thank God for you.

1 Thessalonians 1:2

*All God's Children supports 1,500 children in our portfolio of ministries, without our donors this wouldn't be possible, thank you. We want to highlight one of the many children your support has helped to find Justice for.*

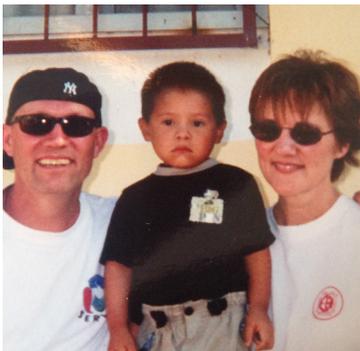
Allan Adrian Paredes was brought to the Hogar when he was two days old. Tragically his mother was thirteen years old and was unable to care for him. Allan knew who his mother was because over the years he would spend some time with her. Unfortunately they struggled to develop a loving relationship. The fact that she couldn't acknowledge him as her son to others was very painful to Allan. She kept his birth a secret, trying to forget the pain she experienced and simply trying to have a normal teenage life. Ultimately this hurt Allan because he couldn't understand this sense of abandonment. Years later his housemates overheard on TV that someone with Allan's last name was killed in an accident. They called him in the room and Allan told them it was his mother. He and other Hogar alumni immediately went to the scene of the accident to support Allan and then provided a proper burial for her the next day.

Despite Allan's longing for a better relationship with his mother, he gives thanks for the farm and the special people he met. He doesn't think of himself as unfortunate, he actually feels Blessed. He says that his true family are those he grew up with at the farm. He also considers his sponsors Justin and Traci Hoogendoorn, and Mr. Allen his parents.

Allan always demonstrated a heart of compassion, mercy and generosity. For example, while all the boys went on an outing to the river, it was Allan that held the hands of the special needs children and got down in the water so they could step on him as they navigated the tricky path through the river. When Allan was presented with a birthday cake he refused to eat his piece until he made sure he personally brought a piece to every child. He then ate his piece and without being told to, gathered all the garbage from every child. Years later we are still in awe, having witnessed Allan perform these acts of kindness.

Justin & Traci always wanted the best for Allan, and they were ready to support him to accomplish his dreams. Growing up, Allan always loved working with animals, and frequently could be found taking on extra responsibilities at the farm. This love grew into hope of becoming a veterinarian. Ultimately realizing that school wasn't a good fit for him, his goals changed. God put it on the hearts of Justin and Traci to help support him through veterinarian school if that was his path, but they were also committed to look for new ways to support Allan navigate these transitional years. They all struggled, it was hard to figure out what the next steps should be. Job opportunities are few and far between in Honduras. ➡

**Thank you  
for always keeping us  
in your prayers and  
for always thinking  
of us.**



Eventually, Justin and Traci brought the concept of Micro lending to AGC. The idea was to help build up the business community in an effort to find work for Allan and other Hogar Alumni. In the process of doing a survey of the business community to see if in fact there was a need for Micro lending Justin met Efrain Elvir owner of Atucum Chocolate. Allan started working as a volunteer at Atucum with the hope of this opportunity developing into a job. Due to Allan's determination and dedication to his craft, he was soon offered a paid position.

This experience has been a wonderful affirmation for our Micro lending program, and more importantly another "God sighting" as we see God's hand in providing for Allan. Good Honduran employers oftentimes have lines of people waiting around the block for a single open position. Our plan is to offer small loans to build up a network of businesses that are willing to work with our alumni; impacting not only individuals in our alumni circles, like Allan, but also the city as a whole. This model of internships with local businesses is what we hope to replicate. Our dream is that Allan is the first of many alumni that can follow this same model of acquiring work experience. This work experience can help provide meaningful life lessons, define future aspirations, or in the case of Allan, develop into a career.

Allan says his confidence has grown immensely in this job; his coworkers accepted him very quickly and he has become one of a handful of chocolatiers in the country of Honduras who can turn cocoa beans into the finished chocolate product. The factory has won multiple international awards for its chocolate. You can purchase bars of it in coffee shops in Comayagua, Grand Rapids & France. Allan gives thanks for the continuing support that he has received from his family at the farm, AGC, and all of you. May God be praised.

*"I am Allan, and I hope that you are well. I would like to thank you for all that you do for each one of us. For everything that you do to help me reach my goals and dreams. Thank you for always keeping us in your prayers and for always thinking of us. I do not have the words to express the gratitude that I have for all that you have done to support us. Thank you and may God bless you always. I will always love you. I hope that you enjoy Thanksgiving with your family and friends."*



**Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;  
His loving kindness continues forever.**

**Psalm 136:1**



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