

# News of the Niños



## Dear Sponsors, Friends and Members of the Board of Directors,

May God bless you abundantly as you celebrate Thanksgiving on November 22. We join you in thanksgiving and glorify God at all times. We do not cease praising Him and thanking Him infinitely for His Divine Providence that has come to our Hogars through all the kind hearts which form All God's Children Honduras.

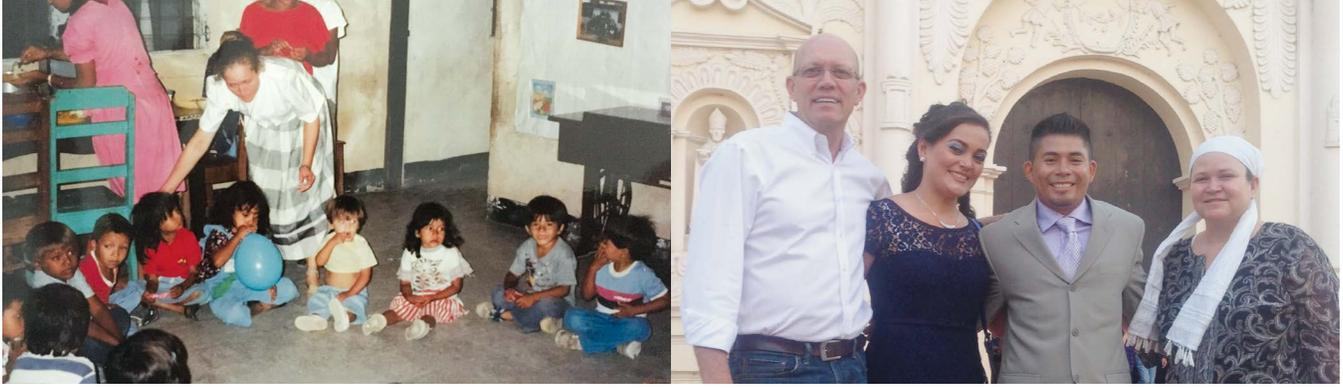
We have endured many difficult situations with the children since the beginning days. Many of the children have experienced or witnessed terrible tragedies. But we thank God for His love, for His protection, and for His goodness. It is by His mercy and His faithfulness that He gives us the strength and wisdom as we strive to restore the wounded heart of each child or young person.

We thank God for all the happy days, for each baby, for each child or young person who comes to be protected in our homes. Thanks to the generosity of all the sponsor parents, benefactors, friends, pastors and churches that help All God's Children. We thank God for the Board of AGC and all they do for our homes and for being good role models that our children need.

Infinitely, we thank God for His glory and His honor to be shown here at all times.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!  
Carmen and the Children





The boy second from the right is Mario who is the groom in the photo.

## Long-term effects of Adverse Childhood Experience

All God's Children has been caring for children in Honduras for over 25 years. We count ourselves blessed for the opportunity to care for them as they grow into adulthood. Our goal for the children of our Hogars is the same as your goal for your children. We seek to prepare them to be happy, healthy, contributing members of society that have a firm foundation in Christ.

We are proud of the effort and growth we see in our young people. When children of the Hogar graduate from college, get married, and move on into the world, it is a joy to celebrate their milestones and accomplishments. Unfortunately, not all fare as well. Some have struggled and experienced extreme challenges into adulthood. To better understand why some thrive while others do not, we have studied Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) and its effects.

ACE affects adults who, as children, grew up in environments where there they were abused physically, emotionally, and/or psychologically, neglected, observed parental substance abuse or intimate partner violence, had an absent parent or a mentally ill parent, or even witnessed a violent crime. In the long-term, as children with Adverse Childhood Experience become adults, they are more likely to have poor decision-making abilities, engage in risky behaviors including substance abuse, have chronic health conditions, and even have early death. They are four times more likely to develop a mental disorder.

Many of those in our care come to our Hogars as young children or youth who have experienced some level of loss, abuse or violence. On a day-to-day basis, our team in Honduras witnesses the short-term effects of ACE on children including aggressive behavior, depression, anxiety, difficulties in school, etc. All God's Children seeks to minimize the short-term effects of ACE while also reducing the long-term impact.

At each Hogar, we have always sought to create a safe and loving environment where the children feel accepted and part of a larger family unit. Being mentored in a long-term loving relationship in an enriched family environment has been shown to mitigate many

of the future affects from their childhood and to drastically improve mental health.

From day one, when the children arrive at the Hogar, Mami Carmen meets with each child to begin to develop a one-on-one relationship. The staff, known as Tia's, are consistent in the children's lives. They develop strong bonds with children through their dedication to the children. Many of the staff have been at the Hogars for years. This dedication helps build the continuity of relationship the children need for emotional development.

In daily life, the children learn responsibility, team work and life skills as part of a family unit, by working at the bakery, through projects the boys work on at the farm, and being included in various projects around the Hogar. Even nightly bedtime routines are a factor in developing healthy emotional and cognitive functioning.

An anchor of faith is instilled through prayer, church attendance, bible studies based on age and gender, and the Awana program run at the farm. Faith is walked out each day in the love shown to the children and the approach of grace and mercy.

We are mindful of the need to prepare the children well for life after the Hogar. To this end, we have implemented a program that helps them as young adults to transition into independent living with self-sustaining employment and life skills. This is in addition to the trade skills or college education that almost all of the older children may receive.

The work of the Hogars is supported through the generosity of our faithful donors. The visits, cards, letters, and outpouring of love the children receive from Sponsors and Serve Team members often makes a lasting impact. Some of the bonds formed last for years, even after the children leave the Hogar. Again, providing the continuity of love and support needed.

We are aware of Adverse Childhood Effect and we will continue to do all we can to counteract the effects for our children. With hundreds of children in our care, we have a long road ahead of us. Please continue to keep AGC and the children of the Hogars in your prayers. We know that with God, all things are possible.

# From Hogar to Home Owner

We are excited to share an update on Daniel Castellanos. Daniel grew up in the Hogar from a very young age. He was a shy young man with a big heart. As a child, Daniel knew he wanted to be a good leader and a man committed to his friends and brothers at the orphanage. He was very determined and tried to fulfill his dreams even when all the circumstances were to the contrary. His determination inspired those around him to strive for their own dreams.

Daniel was a good student and a good brother. Sensitive to the struggles of his brothers, Daniel was often in a helping role. He enjoyed assisting the special children in their daily activities and made sure that all the children took their materials to school. Good with mathematics and architecture, Daniel liked to design the house of his dreams from a very young age. After school, he helped his brothers at the farm with their homework.

Daniel's desire to help was what led him to study teaching at the National University of Honduras. While living in our student townhomes at the university, Daniel always kept the house clean and cooked for everyone (he is a great chef). To protect his brothers and sisters, he often walked to the campus to escort them home safely when they left school late.

He went on to graduate from university and moved away from the Hogar. More recently, Daniel became the manager of a large movie theatre that he had helped to build. As a father to Daniel, Allen was always a part of his life and would seek Daniel out wherever he was working. Daniel often shared his dreams with Allen, including his desire to become a homeowner.

This year, he purchased a plot of land and began the home building process. **Daniel is now, officially, the owner of a brand-new home!** You can see the pride on his face and in his posture as he receives the keys to his new home. Unfortunately, Daniel can't move in just yet as there is not running water and he needs to save up enough money to build a walled yard with razor wire. Without a walled yard, he would be robbed while at work.

Daniel has soared while some of his peers battle with the long-term effects of Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE). By

the grace of God, Daniel has been able to graduate from college, live independently, maintain a management level position, plan, and save for the purchase of a new home. We are proud of Daniel and his many accomplishments. Join us as we congratulate Daniel on his hard-earned achievement as a new home owner!



## Golf Open

On a blustery Friday in late September, over 80 golfers from as far away as Michigan and Indiana, spent the day at the 14th Annual AGC Open at Pine Meadow Golf Club in Mundelein, IL. We are thankful for the golfers and the numerous sponsors, benefactors, donors, and volunteers who locked arms with us and gave generously for the care of the over 400 children and youth supported by All God's Children in Honduras. As you consider who you partner with for your home and business needs, we encourage you to visit the Events page (under 'How to Help' tab) on our website for a list of our Golf Open sponsors.



Winning Low Gross Team: Ray Carter, Pete Legan, Tim MacKenzie, Terry Gulley



Amanda Pearlstein, Longest Drive Winner

### AGC Board of Directors

Allen Heerema,  
*President & Executive Director*  
Robert Venhousen, *Treasurer*  
John Hiskes, *Secretary*  
Pamela DeBoer  
Abby Huizenga (*not pictured*)  
Jan Kamp  
Paul Lagestee (*not pictured*)  
Tim MacKenzie



**Sign up for AGC e-mails**

[allgodschildrenhonduras.org/signup](http://allgodschildrenhonduras.org/signup)

**Like our Facebook page**

[facebook.com/AllGodsChildrenHonduras](https://facebook.com/AllGodsChildrenHonduras)

**Donate Online**

[allgodschildrenhonduras.org/give-online](http://allgodschildrenhonduras.org/give-online)

**Sponsor a Child**

[allgodschildrenhonduras.org/sponsorship](http://allgodschildrenhonduras.org/sponsorship)



**AGC, Ltd.**  
PO Box 5909  
Villa Park, IL 60181

**P** (630) 862-1728  
**E** [agcltd@comcast.net](mailto:agcltd@comcast.net)  
**W** [allgodschildrenhonduras.org](http://allgodschildrenhonduras.org)