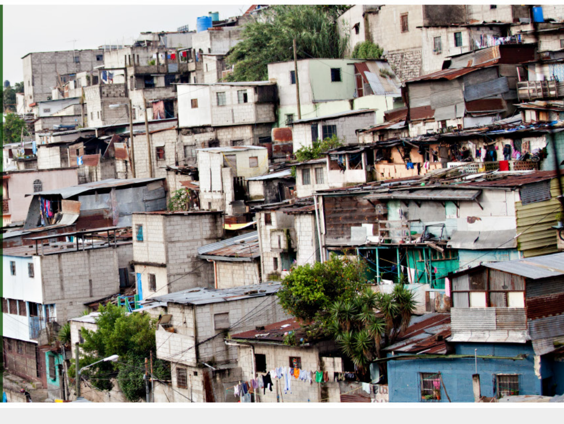
Lemonade International

2015 Donor Impact Report



One Community. Deep Relationships. Standing in Solidarity.

Through your generosity and prayers in 2015, the team in Guatemala was present in the midst of pain, violence, abuse, and deep poverty.

Our Mission

We exist to partner with local leaders as they facilitate community development programs in solidarity with the people of La Limonada in Guatemala City.

Our Vision

For cycles of poverty, violence, and injustice to be broken and for vulnerable children to be loved, discipled, educated, and equipped to be the future leaders of a peace-filled and flourishing community.

Why La Limonada?

An estimated 60,000 to 100,000 people live in an urban slum community in the heart of Guatemala City. Built into a ravine a mile long and half a mile wide, there are ten neighborhoods, each one protected by its own gang. La Limonada, or "The Lemonade," is notorious for violence, theft, drugs, lack of access to social services, sexual exploitation, and murder. Deeply marginalized and dehumanized by the rest of the city, many spiral into destructive, desperate, and fatalistic lives. We are called to enter into this story as partners and friends. We are in La Limonada because God is there.

Letter From Guatemala Director

Friends,

There are no words that can express what has happened in the lives of so many in 2015, but here are some examples:

• Abused children being restored and now living a normal life a life with love, passion, trust, and dreams.

• Children being empowered to have a voice.

• Youth having a chance to study, daring to dream about a better future – not an impossible dream but a tangible one. Kids having a daily nutritious meal and their parents having peace about it.

• Sinners repenting and experiencing the freedom to receive God's lavish love for them.

• Children learning they can trust in God and themselves – now they see a light, an open door, and they have hope.

• God's justice has happened in so many ways – we have cried a lot, but we see and trust that God is working.

• So many godly interventions in families, in lives, and in the community – the actions of a God we cannot see, but who we still feel tangibly, who cares for the poor, the sinners, and the vulnerable – a God who stands for them, a God who is so alive!

For us, every day brings a different challenge and different miracles. You have been part of the miracles, and together we have seen it is very different to face those challenges when there is a secure provision.

Tita Evertsz

Impact By The Numbers

295
Children enrolled in three academies

91
Scholars continuing their education

39
Team members serving in Guatemala

60,000
Healthy meals fought malnutrition and hunger

34,400
Home visits through the Community Relief Fund

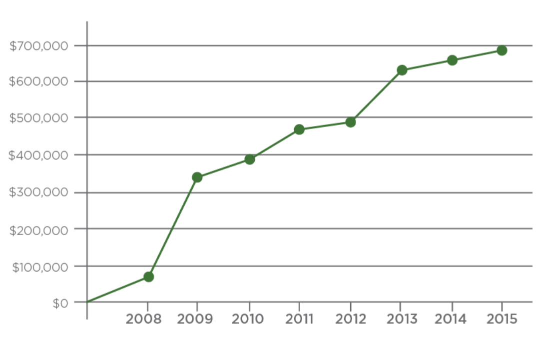
8 Years of Financial Stewardship

We are committed to financial stewardship of every dollar we receive for maximum investment in the community development programs in La Limonada. We highly value the trust you place in us to invest your gifts wisely in a high-risk community.

More than 2,800 donors have invested over $3,770,029 in 8 years.

Revenue Progression

2008	$92,430
2009	$336,491
2010	$391,372
2011	$475,083
2012	$481,321
2013	$640,692
2014	$670,507
2015	$682,133



2015 Financial Summary

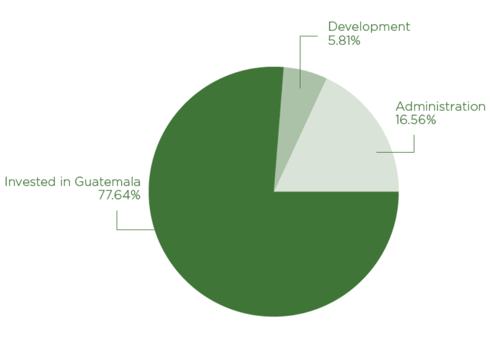
2015 Actual Expenses

Development	$40,719
Administration	$116,120
Invested in Guatemala	$544,575
Total	$701,414

Revenue Sources

Individuals and Businesses	78%
Churches	22%

Full Details in our 990



"I love being in the academies, because here there is harmony and peace."

– Jeffrey

Achieving Holistic Impact

We believe in walking with the children through the years they are most at risk so they are prepared to grow into capable adults, leading their families and community in what is right.

The three academies serve children and their families in three different neighborhoods in La Limonada.

Each day, children attend classes in the morning or afternoon, during the half of the day when they are not attending public school. In addition to completing their public school homework with the help of their teachers, the children engage in academic lessons that expand and reinforce their learning. Critical thinking, character, good decision-making, and healthy relationships are cultivated.

Each classroom has an average of 15 students per teacher. Lasting change happens as each staff member embodies the love of Jesus for the children.

They receive a nutritious meal to fuel their growing bodies, learn to brush their teeth, take a vitamin to combat malnutrition, and wash their hands.

Academy psychologists are addressing the emotional, spiritual, and psychological impact of ongoing trauma, illness, extreme poverty, and family disintegration. Many of the children are receiving 45 minute therapy sessions where they are given the opportunity to process and heal.

Biblical principles, verses, and truths are integrated into the academies as a whole and are reinforced through the value-of-the month character based curriculum. In addition to serving the teachers and children, the Vidas Plenas Chaplain facilitates Bible studies in two homes in the community.

Parents are also invited to monthly trainings geared towards equipping them with the knowledge, parenting skills, and Biblical principles needed to face the unique challenges those in extreme poverty go through.

Whole lives and whole families are being impacted!

Meet Mauricio

Miriam's sons, Mauricio and Dempsey, were among the first to be registered in Limon, the first academy in the community. Miriam was amazed to see their minds expand, character strengthen, respect for their elders develop, and trust in God grow. They also loved receiving letters, gifts, and pictures from their sponsors. These relationships brought encouragement and confidence beyond words as they felt valued and known.

The scholarship program enabled both sons to continue studying past the sixth grade. After graduating from a vocational program, Mauricio now has a job as a bookkeeper for a motorcycle company. He is newly married and proud to be able to support his family with honest work. Dempsey also has a steady job as a marketing promoter and is married with a son.

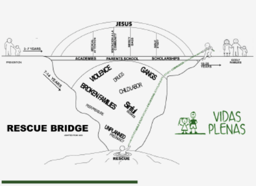
"The academies kept my sons safe from the contamination of violence in the community," Miriam said earnestly. "Instead of being vulnerable or bored, they were safe here with education, good values, Bible studies, and people who taught them to respect their elders. The teachers kept their minds busy here on good things, and not the bad things on the streets. If you help kids now, [then] tomorrow, we won't have these gangs."

She looks to the future with hope for her younger daughter, two sons, and their families. And so do we. That's why we do what we do. And stories like these encourage us not to give up hope.

Highlights From Guatemala

PRAYERS FOR PEACE

In May, we requested your prayers in response to increased violence in the community. The team in Guatemala also began weekly prayer walks as a way of standing in solidarity with those living in fear while crying out for justice. Every Wednesday morning, they filled the streets with songs, prayers, light, and hope. God heard these prayers as those responsible for the violence were arrested and fears began to subside.



RENEWED FOCUS

Our partner in Guatemala, Vidas Plenas, renewed their focus on gang prevention and rescue as visualized in the "Rescue Bridge." The reality of poverty hits children around age seven, when they start making decisions that shape their future. Strategically walking with them during their most vulnerable years, the team offers a bridge over the darkness so boys and girls can be equipped and transformed, ready to lead godly families and act as future leaders of their community.

COMMUNITY RELIEF FUND

We officially launched a new avenue for supporting relief efforts with a beautiful video produced by our partners at Silent Images. Urgent, unexpected needs emerge every day in La Limonada. Families already struggling to survive another day face sudden illness, unaffordable medicine, funeral expenses, or simply bus fare to get to the hospital. The Community Relief Fund enables the team in Guatemala to respond to the deepest needs of the vulnerable with compassion and tangible support.

Meet Betty

Betty is a six-year-old girl living in La Limonada. Tragically, she has been sexually abused by two different men in her family. Besides the individual work with her, the process included bringing the situation to her mother's attention and walking with her to take the emergency steps necessary to stop the abuse, help the girl to feel safe, and to set up a support system for her.

We continue to work with her as she faces anxiety, helping her develop healthier communication skills and the ability to express her emotions. She is now empowered enough to say "no" when someone wants to take advantage of her. She can now defend herself and run away from predators. The trauma is starting to heal as she begins to recover the ability to stay in touch with reality. She is developing a healthier identify in Jesus Christ, as she learns she is an image-bearer who is valuable, competent, and worthy of being loved. She is gaining self-value and acceptance, and her spiritual life is being nurtured through our studies of verses and beautiful conversations about Jesus.

I am trusting and resting in God's immeasurable mercy to finish what he has started in the life of this beloved little girl.

–Sofia Scoffield, psychologist

**name has been changed to protect her identity*

Service Learning Trips

We facilitated 128 service learning trip members to have incredible impact on the community through activities with the children, prayer walks, vision screening, painting projects, delousing children, assembling mercy bags, and home visits.

The teachers in the academies felt the impact as the children learned about another culture and were taught from a different perspective. They were delighted by different kinds of crafts, games, and activities while the teachers gathered new ideas, methods, and strategies for how to engage the children.

But most importantly, the teachers described the emotional and spiritual impact on the children as they felt the warmth, love, and shared faith with these groups that came from so far away to communicate how precious and treasured they are.

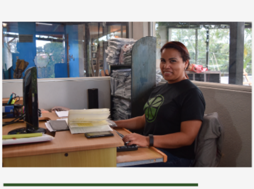
Team Highlights

GUEST HOUSE HOSTS

Dave, Beth, and Charlee Skinner joined us in 2015 as Lemonade Guest House managers. In addition to managing day-to-day household logistics, they provided hospitality to Service Learning groups during their visit to Guatemala. They made countless airport pick-ups, packed dozens of sandwiches, and facilitated hundreds of debrief conversations.

VOLUNTEER NURSES

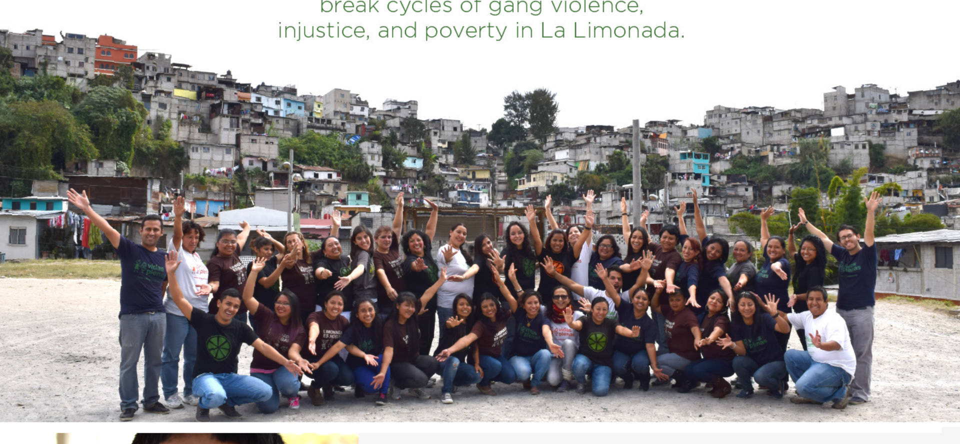
We were thrilled to welcome three volunteer nurses in 2015. Sarah Zimmerman, Elise Janssen, and Niki Bothman worked alongside our community nurse, Janina, visiting homes and offering tangible help to those in greatest need. They each brought incredible passion, skill, and friendship to the team and community.



GUATEMALA OPERATIONS

Our Guatemala partner, Vidas Plenas, hired Jessica Olivares to oversee day-to-day operations. In addition to freeing up Tita Evertsz to focus on leadership and time in the community, this new position will enable capacity-building and sustainable growth as we look to begin a fourth academy in 2016.

This team is investing in children and youth to break cycles of gang violence, injustice, and poverty in La Limonada.



OUR SUPPORTERS

Child, scholar, teacher, and academy sponsorships continue to have incredible impact in providing financial stability.

373 recurring donors provided a strong funding base for consistent presence, commitment, and long-term transformation.

Thank you for making this possible!

Lima Academy Renovations

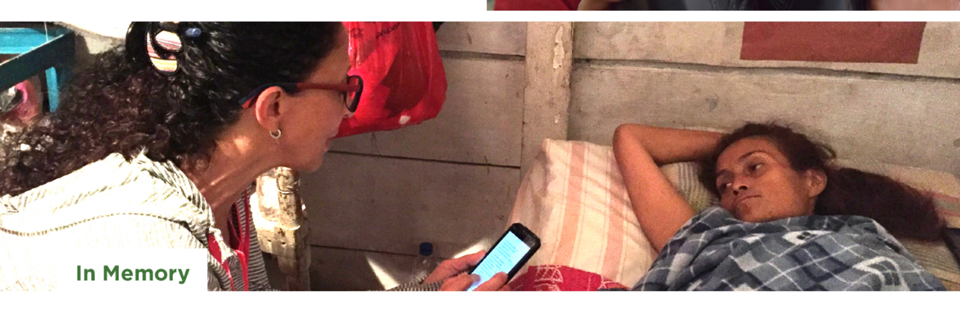
The third academy was launched in 2014 in a poorly constructed building lacking the space required to reach all of the children in the neighborhood. Through the incredible love and generosity of Flipside Christian Church in Madera, California, renovations of the Lima academy were completed in 2015. While reconstructing walls and weight-bearing beams to improve the safety and stability of the second floor, a third floor was added. With the additional two classrooms and improved space, the academy now serves an additional 49 children each year. Each child represents a unique story and family. The impact is immeasurable!

"What motivates us is that we already said 'yes' to God," says lead pastor Karl Roth. "All we are doing is following through with what we have already said yes to. Also, we cannot turn away from the children there. We are being the voice of those who have no voice. We believe Christ has an affinity with the poor. We want to stand in solidarity with Him, and alongside them. If this ministry isn't important to us as a church, it means the Gospel isn't important to us. Once God revealed to us the need of His people in La Limonada, we became responsible to do our part."

Give Christmas 2015

Through our annual year-end giving campaign, you gave $90,163 to provide school shoes and supplies for the new school year, scholarships to students continuing their education past sixth grade, and fair wages for teachers in our three academies. Special thanks to Istrouma Baptist Church in Baton Rouge for sending a team to help distribute school shoes and supplies to the children.

Your generosity enabled 341 children to attend school with their required dress shoes and supplies!



In Memory

In 2015, we celebrated the lives and grieved the loss of several dear friends in La Limonada. Three of the many we lost were among the first friends made by Tita when she first began working in the community – Vitalino, Braulio, and Tania. We honor each life that was lost and continue to pray for the children and families impacted.

Many years ago, Tania welcomed Tita into her story. It was a story filled with deep pain, loss, and darkness – yet shining the whole time. When she was eight, she began working to provide for her family while helping to raise her four siblings. One by one, they were each killed by the gangs. She was also shot in the back and was paralyzed, yet provided for her niece and nephew by sitting long days in her wheelchair at the street corner. She suffered in ways we cannot share. But she was also strong, a monument of God's redemptive hand. Her bright eyes communicated so much beauty and strength. She was a hero to us.

STRATEGIC FOCUS 2016 AND BEYOND

1. A fourth academy. We are excited to pursue growth opportunities into a new neighborhood in La Limonada. A new academy will reach new children and families!

2. Transformational development through child sponsorship and scholarships. Our focus will continue to be on preparing children for adulthood, ready to lead godly families.

3. Intentional peace-building efforts between neighborhoods. The team in Guatemala will bring children from all three academies together for unifying activities that break down walls of fear.

THANK YOU

On behalf of the vulnerable children, families, teachers, elderly, and marginalized community of La Limonada, thank you for generously giving your love, prayers, time, and financial support!

– Lemonade International Team

GUATEMALA TEAM

Tita Evertsz
Angélica Abigail Quiej Cash
Blanca Verónica Hernández Salán de Cap
Blanqui Elizeth Reyez de Jeréz
Christian Cirilo Umul Castro
Cinthya Yadira Gonzáles Santizo
Claudia Adriana Ponciano Juárez
David Campos
Diana Ac Choc
Eluvia "Mariela" Gómez Hernández
Gadiel Elías Ávalos Aguirre
Gladiz Karina García de Chang
Gloria Castillo
Guadalupe Elízabeth Jeréz Pérez
Hilda De Sánchez
Ingrid Janeth Alonzo
Ingrid Patricia Lemus
Jéssica Lourdes Olivares Alfaro
Jorge Rodríguez Pineda
Joseline Alejandra Castro Dionisio
Kevin Moya
Lizza Margarita Majus Pérez
Lucía Chach
Luvia Maricela Alay Flores
Máira Judith Tabalán Camey
Maria "Susana" Iren Rucuch
Maria Elízabeth Oroxon Lemus de Paau
Maria Guadalupe Mátzar
Martita de los Angeles Ventura Sicajá
Mirna Judith Juarez Pérez
Mirza "Janina" Rodríguez Pérez
Mónica Carlota Figueroa Mayorga
Sofía Elízabeth Majus Perez
Veronica Velásquez Alvarez de Soto
Yaneth Alva
Yolanda del Carmen Prado Ramírez
Zulmy Magdalia Coy Bellón

STATESIDE TEAM

Bill Cummings
Cherie Cummings
Terry Bracey
Beth Skinner
Katie Hoiland
Tim Hoiland
Cory Magnuson
Sommer Wisher
Daniela Lombardo
Kevin Martin
Alejandra Urdaneta (Intern)

LI BOARD MEMBERS

Todd Hiestand
Rebecca Caswell
Dana Byers
Ray Strecker
Ralph Schoenrock

Photo Credits:
Silent Images and Rebecca Gant

SPECIAL THANKS

Dan Fuhrman
Ralph Schoenrock
Jeffrey Long
Paul and Carmen Gant
Lyle and Vickie Henkel
Thom and Susan Olmstead
Guillermo and Sarah Quezada
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Heather Patterson Meyer
Christopher Nathan Kattner
Elise Nicole Janssen
Wendy Pitha
Erin Marie Campbell
Krista Allers
Julia Matchell
Jesse Perales
Nathan Good
Sandra Figueroa Torres
Tammi Palpant
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Aaron and Kristine Lynch
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Crystal and Theo Davis
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Swarnatara Sivamani
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Derek Bresson
Emily Norcross
Julia Russell and Bill Crunk
Angeles Schwindt
Cheri Janssen
Beth Pong
Lynn Aneiro
Frank J Dame
Beatriz Woodall
Clint and Ashley Beaver
Jennifer Smith
Deanna DiSarro
Thomas Tutolo
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Karen Brown
Brett Dowdy
Annette Tuttle
Lori Wagner
Cynthia Turner
Mike and Cheryl Schmoker
Michael Mancino
David Kiser
William Voth
The Root Collective
Pure Charity
HIPP Engineering & Consulting, Inc.
Hope Glows Candles
Flipside Christian Church
Istrouma Baptist Church
Ekklesia - Church at Raleigh
Christ Church Anglican
Rivers Crossing Community Church
Forest Hill Church
Lifechurch Ministries Inc.
Lifechurch Missions
Bridgepoint Bible Church
Ordinary Community Church
Shiloh Christian Fellowship
Friendship Baptist Church
Shiloh Community Church
First Covenant Church
Edenton Street United Methodist Church
River City Christian Church
Progressive Insurance Foundation
Life of Hope Ministries
Proctor Academy
Cincinnati Christian Schools
Visions of Grace
The Flourish Market
Center City Collison and Preicison Frame and Body
Todd and Melanie Hiestand
National Christian Foundation
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