



2018

Impact REPORT



Dear Friends and Partners,

God began something special ten years ago when Bill and Cherie Cummings, Leah Craver and Donnie Long set out on a mission to support Tita Evertsz and her ministry in the La Limonada community in Guatemala City. Over the past ten years, Lemonade International has faithfully continued to fulfill our mission by standing in solidarity with Tita and the local leaders of Vidas Plenas. God has worked through this incredible team by breaking the cycles of poverty, violence and injustice through education, gang prevention, and community relief for the people of La Limonada.

Lemonade has now partnered with Vidas Plenas to build four academies in La Limonada with the ability to serve more than 600 children and scholars. With this special partnership, our ministry in Guatemala has grown, our Guatemalan team has grown, our Sponsorship program has grown and our Service Learning Trips have grown. We had the opportunity to hire an additional team member in Guatemala to more effectively prepare our teams to serve in La Limonada. The Toronja academy that opened last year continues to grow to include more students and families. One community, deep relationships, standing in solidarity - together we celebrate the many areas of successful growth with which God has blessed us this year.

As we experienced growth, we also experienced the challenges of both sustaining this growth and preparing for the future. Transitions in our board and staff made fundraising for immediate needs and developing for long-term growth a difficult balance. This test of our faith and finances reaffirmed our unity and stimulated our ability to do more with less.

This year has been more than a celebration of financial stability and growth. One of the most exciting moments of 2018 was our Tenth Anniversary Celebration in Cincinnati, Ohio. Lemonade International past and present board members, staff, supporters, sponsors and donors came together to hear stories from key leaders. This commemoration also included a special interview with Tita which was the highlight of the event. Another special memory for me was seeing the staff together - the first time in several years where our remote staff in Guatemala and the US were together in the same room.

La Limonada is still a place of both beauty and brokenness. We pray, yearning for the transformation of this beloved community, as Jesus prayed - "thy kingdom come, thy will be done," in La Limonada as in heaven. As we join God at work, we are grateful for your generosity, prayers, and partnership...empowering others to share the distinctive love of Jesus for the marginalized children and families in La Limonada over the last ten years. With your continued support, here's to ten more!

Serving Him together,

Charles "Chal" Knox



Lemonade International
Executive Director



our mission

We exist to stand in solidarity with the local leaders of Vidas Plenas as they break the cycles of poverty, violence, and injustice through education, gang prevention, and community relief for the people of La Limonada in Guatemala City.

our vision

To see those most in need in La Limonada experience transformation and live full lives in Jesus.



ONE COMMUNITY. DEEP RELATIONSHIPS. STANDING IN SOLIDARITY.

Together we have joined God in working for the transformation of La Limonada. Through your generosity, prayers, and partnership in 2018, the team in Guatemala embodied and proclaimed the overflowing love of Jesus for the children, families, and marginalized in La Limonada.



Prevention

Walking with the children and youth of La Limonada during their most vulnerable years through education and gang prevention, the team in Guatemala offered a bridge over the darkness that pulls young people into self-destruction and cyclical poverty. The holistic transformation of the four Academies and the opportunity of the Scholars program ushered children and youth through another year of discipleship, character development, and trauma healing.



Care

Providing relief for the urgent and unexpected needs of the most vulnerable in La Limonada, the community support team responded with compassion, presence, and tangible support. They offered benevolence and relief to many suffering from respiratory illness, diabetes, ulcer and bullet wounds, high blood pressure, and other health concerns.



Rescue

Reaching out to youth who are deep in darkness, the team demonstrated love and hope. On the streets, youth must show they are tough and can't appear vulnerable. But many were eager to share their stories of pain with trusted mentors. Some gang members enrolled their kids in an academy, and others asked when an academy would be started in their neighborhood. One young man even made the decision to leave his gang, and our team helped him erase his profile from social media and relocate safely.

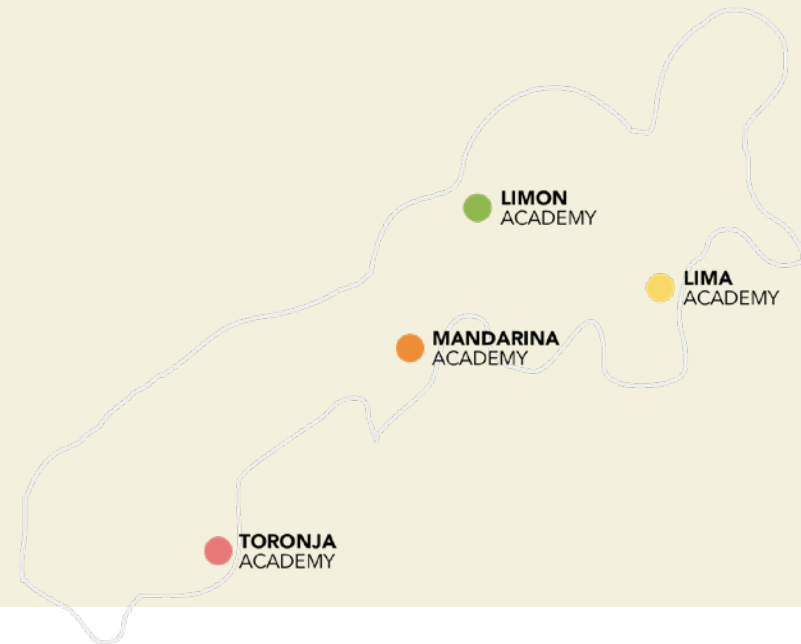




The Academies

The Academies in La Limonada are the heartbeat of our ministry in the community. They are embodiments of God's hope, love, presence and compassion. They provide the possibilities of a new future for the children and families of La Limonada.

Currently, more than 400 students attend one of four academies. With your support we are making plans to build a fifth academy with the potential to serve 150 more students.



In 2000 the Limon Academy was the 1st academy that was opened in La Limonada in the Lourdes 1 neighborhood. There are approximately 137 children enrolled in this academy today.



In 2008 the Mandarinina Academy was the 2nd academy that was open in La Limonada in the Lourdes 2 neighborhood. There are currently about 116 children enrolled in the Mandarinina Academy.



The Lima Academy, the 3rd academy in La Limonada opened in 2014 in the El Esfuerzo neighborhood. There are approximately 111 children enrolled in the Lima Academy.



In 2016 the Toronja Academy was the 4th academy to open in the 15 de Agosto neighborhood. There are about 100 children enrolled in the Toronja Academy.



Coming Soon

The property has been purchased to establish a fifth academy in La Limonada, and Naranja is set to open in 2020. Naranja will serve a whole new community of children and families and is adjacent to the Limon Academy.

Toronja Launch

In June of 2018, we invited you to help us launch the fourth academy in the “15 de Agosto” neighborhood of La Limonada. Through the generous response of 85 supporters, the team in Guatemala was able to begin the steps to secure a building to rent while building relationships with families and community leaders.

Forest Hill Church in Charlotte, North Carolina has been an incredible partner and advocate for the people of La Limonada. Their thoughtful and passionate leadership has been an incredible encouragement to us as they have helped drive the launch of Toronja forward. Their generosity played a significant role in the purchase and construction of a space capable of serving the

largest number of children in the years to come— and there are many children in need of intervention!

A mother named Marta told us that when she heard about what we were doing for vulnerable children in Mandarin several years ago, she began asking God to bring something like this to her community. With tears in her eyes, she said, “You are the answer to years of prayers!”

Thank you for your help to answer to Marta’s prayers—and we will be needing your help again in 2020 to build and grow a fifth academy similar to Toronja!

“We were thrilled to see the doors of the fourth academy open in July to reach more children with the love of Jesus and the life-changing impact they so desperately need.”

*Katie Hoiland,
Director of Strategic Advancement*





Serving La Limonada For 10 Years: Our Story

Over 10 years ago Tita Evertsz started serving the community of La Limonada.

This community of over 60,000 people developed out of a 36 year-long civil war – the longest in Latin American history. During these years, dictators and military leaders committed despicable acts of violence and terror against their people.

These atrocities led to a massacre of over 200,000 people and caused thousands to flee to rural areas in search of refuge in cities.

It is from this unrest that settlers took claim to land that would become known as La Limonada. Here they built homes in an area the government owned and once considered “uninhabitable.”

La Limonada, now a “Red Zone” – a designation given to Guatemala City's poorest and most dangerous neighborhoods, is now considered the largest urban slum in Central America.

LEMONADE INTERNATIONAL TIMELINE

1994

Tita Evertsz begins
serving in La Limonada

2000

Limon Academy opens

2004

Vidas Plenas officially forms
as NGO in Guatemala

Lemonade Int'l founders first
visit La Limonada

Over the years, a sub-culture of extreme poverty has taken root in La Limonada. This has led to a lack of education, job opportunities and unsustainable living conditions – often including a lack of access to running water and electricity.

This community now consists of ten neighborhoods ruled by rival gangs who have also instilled a deep-seated culture of fear. It has become an ignored and forgotten community. The government and often even the church keeps their distance. There is a saying in La Limonada, “Even Santa Claus doesn’t visit La Limonada.”

This is the community that Tita walked into in 1994. She had a calling to serve wherever God would lead her. Despite local church leaders’ warnings about the community due to its violent reputation, she had a deep concern and passion, and chose to go out of obedience to God.

As a result of this vision Vidas Plenas was formed in 2001.

A few years later she was introduced to Bill and Cherie Cummings, Donnie Long and Leah Arrington as they were visiting Guatemala City on a missions trip with their church. This little group of people, with a desire to support Tita and La Limonada, formed a nonprofit called Lemonade International.

Over the last 10 years, Lemonade International’s calling has been laser focused: Support Tita and her friends as they seek to break cycles of poverty, violence and injustice in Central America’s largest urban slum.

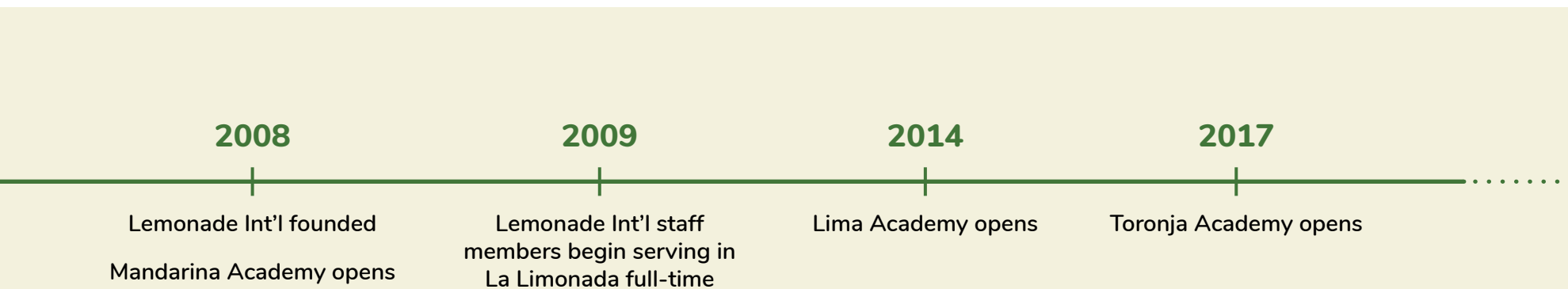
Serving alongside Tita, we have seen 4 Academies opened that have served hundreds and hundreds of children – giving them a hope for an education that is so vital for a better future. We have seen God work miracles with gang members.

We have seen generations transformed as students receive high school and college scholarships and return to La Limonada and become teachers and counselors in the very academies where they were once students.

We have seen a beautiful community of donors and supporters just like you join us along the way. All has not been easy. There have been many setbacks. But God has been abundantly faithful to Tita and to Lemonade International in ways that we can only describe as miraculous.

Together, we have seen hope grow out of some of the darkest places. Along with Tita, we sit on the edge of La Limonada and all we can smell is hope.

As we celebrate 10 years of serving La Limonada, we want to say, from the bottom of our hearts, “Thank you.”



Welcome Silvia Lopez As Our New Service Learning Trips And Communication Liaison

For the past few years we have been blessed to have Beth Skinner serve as our Service Learning Trips Coordinator. Beth, and her husband Dave, have been (and will continue to be!) good friends of Lemonade International. They even spent a year living in Guatemala City serving the people of La Limonada. Beth is currently transitioning out of this role and we are excited to introduce our newest team member, Silvia Lopez.

Silvia will serve as our new Service Learning Trips and Communication Liaison. She lives in Guatemala City and comes to us as a seasoned leader in Guatemala. She served as Administrative Director with our partner organization CMT Guatemala for seven years. She also has experience leading teams in La Limonada, and has a degree in Bilingual Administration.



Speak of Joy

By Christa Heinzelman

One person, one response, one moment, one forever memory...ONE is all we need to make a difference.

For me, that one is Bailey, my niece, who invited me to go to the community of La Limonada through Lemonade International. The Holy Spirit is very much present and God is incredibly ALIVE in the hearts of these sweet people. I feel our prayers prevail over the community and still protect them to this very day.

Before going on the trip, my husband got word of a little girl named Sophie who had fallen out of a 2nd story window and was not expected to survive. She needed immediate attention and her family did not have the finances to afford the medical care needed. We felt led to help and she got the care needed to fully recover from her fall. We were not aware of the precious gift waiting for us in the near future when we were able to meet sweet Sophie.

Speak of JOY!

That is a moment I will never forget. I wish I had more time with her...to hear her laugh...to see her smile. She looked restored and exuded joy, just as a little girl should. It is a vivid memory that I will always have because the Holy Spirit led the heart of my husband to respond.

There is a ripple effect in my experience that started with ONE person which led to my response, which led to spiritually-awakening moments, which now has my mind etched with lasting memories. I may be physically in a different part of the world but my heart and prayers are with the people of La Limonada.

Just like Sophie, there are other children, in need of sponsorship. With your support, you could give a child the opportunity to learn about God and receive an education. They are fed a hot meal during the school day, given vitamins for adequate nutrition and they even have the opportunity to brush their teeth.

You could be that ONE person for a child by sponsoring through Lemonade International.



**“Blessed is the one who finds wisdom,
and the one who gets understanding,
for the gain from her is better than gain
from silver and her profit better than
gold.”**

Proverbs 3: 13-14

SERVICE LEARNING TRIPS

We facilitated 140 service learning trip members on 20 teams to travel to La Limonada and have incredible impact on the community through lessons with the children, soccer and art camps, prayer walks, medical clinics, nutrition workshops, haircuts, massages, painting and construction projects, peacemaking, and home visits. In addition to the deep personal impact, group members participated in hands-on ministry with the children, schools, families, and staff.





2018 Impact

414

Children enrolled in
four academies

47

Scholars continuing
their education

8

Students graduated
from high school

45

Team Members
serving in Guatemala

140

people on **20**
teams took Service
Learning Trips

5

Full-time
Lemonade Staff

73,692

Healthy meals fought
malnutrition and hunger

2018 Financials

Revenue Progression

2008	\$92,430	2014	\$670,507
2009	\$336,491	2015	\$682,133
2010	\$391,372	2016	\$746,826
2011	\$475,083	2017	\$764,558
2012	\$481,321	2018	\$754,565
2013	\$640,692		

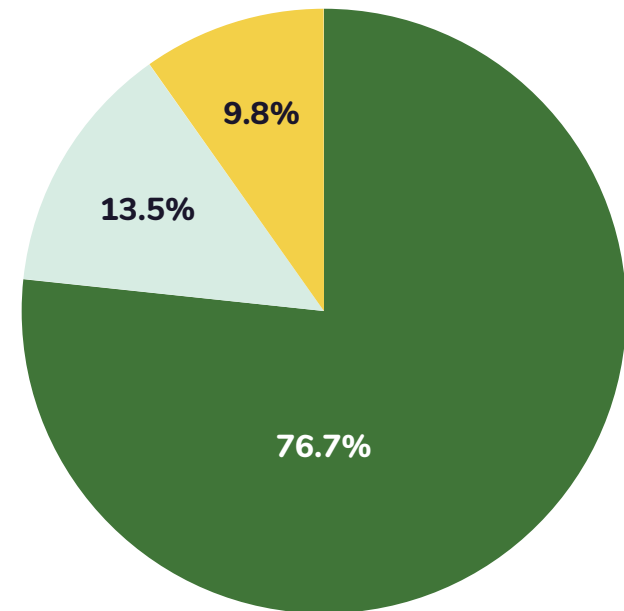
2018 Revenue Distribution

Development	\$68,990.00
Management	\$94,948.00
Invested In Guatemala	\$540,165.00
Total	\$704,103.00

Give Christmas

Through our annual year-end giving campaign, you gave: **\$97,908**

This provides school shoes and supplies for the new school year, healthy meals and vitamins for children attending the academies, scholarships to students continuing their education past sixth grade, and fair wages for teachers in the three academies.





Staff

Charles Knox
Cherie Cummings
Beth Skinner
Todd Hiestand
Lizza Majus
Silvia Lopez
Marisol Garcia
Cory Magnuson

Board of Directors

Chris Marshall
Ralph Schoenrock
Drew Moser
Kristin Lawrence
Dan Fuhrman

**“Love and faithfulness meet
together; righteousness and
peace kissed each other.”**

Psalm 85:10



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Lemonade International is a 501(c)(3) organization
All donations are tax-deductible