



# Impact Report

2019/2020

 Lemonade International



**One Community.  
Deep Relationships.  
Standing in Solidarity.**

## Dear Friends and Partners,

Adversity is one of the greatest tests of character, and I am profoundly moved by the support, encouragement and dedication of the Lemonade family to our mission this year despite a great season of adversity. Just as we launched our fifth academy, we experienced the dramatic changes that the pandemic brought to daily life both in the United States and in Guatemala. We had to ask ourselves how we would continue our efforts of education, gang prevention, and community relief without the resources of academies and Service Learning Trips. Our supporters and donors stepped up like never before, and your character and commitment have carried us on solid ground.

We continued our mission of deep relationships and the development of a loving, trusting community through our sponsors. Our greatest advocates, the way that they pray, sacrifice, and care for the kids and families that they support makes sponsorship more than a monthly donation; it is true family partnership. We are honored to share this report with them.

Over the last several years the Vidas Plenas team in Guatemala has grown as well. As they added a new team of Social Workers they are better able to serve the parents and families of the children at each academy, and in January of 2020 they added an entire new team with a Coordinator, Teachers, and Staff as we launched the Naranja academy. The greatest test of this year has proven that although our five academies are powerful tools of transformation in La Limonada, greater still is the power of our team!

We also discovered that by meeting the most basic needs in times of crisis, opportunities to share hope with more families grew as well. Because many faced joblessness and economic challenges like never before, Vidas Plenas began distributing food provisions every two weeks. As your giving to the Community Relief Fund increased exponentially, trust in La Limonada deepened just as much. Those who received shared what they had, and just as we cared for our neighbors in the U.S., we created a culture of generosity, grace, and encouragement for our neighbors in Guatemala, too.

Change is never easy. Too much time has already gone by since we were last able to visit La Limonada - to hike the long, winding street down to Toronja or to say “buenos días” to Mercy as we park the van and walk into Mandarina. But despite the challenges we have faced and the losses we have lamented, children and families are being fed, abuse and gang activity is being prevented, and Tita’s team is continuing to be empowered to bring full lives to La Limonada. As we stand in solidarity supporting their work and advocating on their behalf, we step forward with faith to see what God will do next—and we invite you to walk with us!

*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.

## What We Do



### Education

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 five Academies and the opportunity of the Scholars program ushered children and youth through another year of discipleship, character development, and trauma healing.



### Community Relief

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 embody 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 500 students attend one of five academies that have become a refuge for the students.

Within the academies, the children are welcomed into bright and cheerful classrooms with teachers who truly love them. The teachers help with their assignments, supplement what they are not learning in a half-day of public school, all while exemplifying the love of Jesus. More than 50 local Guatemalans, some being from La Limonada, are employed by the academies as teachers, psychologists, cooks and custodians.



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 Mandarin Academy was the 2nd academy that was opened in La Limonada in the Lourdes 2 neighborhood. There are currently about 116 children enrolled in the Mandarin 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 113 children enrolled in the Toronja Academy.



In 2020 the Naranja Academy opened in the Lo de Reyes neighborhood to serve over 100 additional children who were without care and prevention prior to opening.

## Juanita's Sponsorship Story

We believe there is a vital connection to our work in the La Limonada community and the partnerships we have with our sponsors in the US. We have seen a paralleled experience of transformation for both the sponsor and the sponsor child. Our mission, through God, for each child is providing spiritual, emotional and relational support. We feel all three components are vital for guiding children to recognize their full potential as children of God. As a sponsor of a child within the community, one has the ability to experience a deep relationship of community, centered around the love of Christ.

Dan Fuhrman, a current sponsor and Lemonade board member, vividly remembers the first time he met Juanita in July 2012. He was on the second floor of the Limon Academy while he was awaiting her arrival from school. Dan eagerly waited at the top of the stairs as the principal brought Juanita to meet him. He shared with us, "the feeling of meeting her was fantastic." Through the Lemonade Guatemalan leader, Rebeca, Dan was able to communicate with Juanita for an extended time. While getting to know each other, Dan and Juanita shared a chair and had one arm around each other the entire time. Dan showed her pictures of his family and was able to give her the first of many gifts from his daughter. Juanita opened her gift with one hand because she refused to let go of Dan. During his visit, Dan was able to see her everyday and he had a different gift for Juanita each day.

On Dan's next trip in August 2016, he was able to take his daughter, Danielle, to experience La Limonada and meet Juanita.

Juanita had moved out of La Limonada and was living with an Aunt in Guatemala City. The staff were able to locate her and they were able to have lunch with Juanita. The girls hit it off and really enjoyed their time together. They looked at family pictures, the girls "talked about boys", laughed and exchanged lots of hugs. Juanita had many questions about their entire family and asked about them individually by name. Juanita was "one" with their family and truly considered as one of their family members.

On Dan's third trip in August 2019, he was blessed to take his wife, Kathy, along to meet Juanita. During their visit, Dan and Kathy were blessed to talk with Juanita about her boyfriend and her future with him. It was a great opportunity for them to understand the impact of La Limonada and culture on Juanita. They felt led to share their wisdom to give her "parental" advice about marriage. During this visit, they both felt such a bond with Juanita. There was an instance where they were leaving and Dan wanted to walk her to the bus stop. Dan shared, "Juanita was between Kathy and I and took Kathy's hand..... and then mine! The three of us walked just as a loving, caring family would. It was fantastic!"

Juanita graduated from high school in 2020 and they are incredibly proud of her. They feel she is a "beautiful young lady inside and out." She did very well in school and plans to attend college. Dan's plan is to see Juanita on every trip in the future.

Dan says, "There is no question that God has plans for Juanita and

my entire family wants to be with her as she walks in the path God has planned for her."

Juanita lost her dad at a very young age and her mom didn't care for her physical and spiritual needs. Juanita and her sister, Lourdes, attended the academies since they were elementary age and both graduated from the program. She also successfully completed the scholars program. Juanita feels the support from Dan and Kathy changed her path in life for the better. She is always so eager for a visit from them to connect and catch up...she feels her time with them is special. After finishing school, Juanita moved from La Limonada to live with her aunt that lives in Mixco, which is an area right outside of the Guatemala city limits. She is now 18-years-old and is interested in pursuing a Law degree. Because Juanita was given the experience of what a Christ-driven relationship looks like through the lens of Dan and his family, she now has the courage and opportunity to live a prosperous life outside of the walls of La Limonada.



# Naranja Academy Launch

In 2017 as construction was completed on the fourth academy, God miraculously opened the door for the purchase of property for a fifth location. Returning to the neighborhood adjacent to where the ministry started in the Limon academy more than 20 years ago, teams gathered month after month to pray over the empty lot where Tita envisioned God would build a fifth academy. Less than two years later the blueprints were ready and the building began.

The Guatemalan architect, engineer, and construction company broke ground the summer of 2019. Workers from the same Lo de Reyes neighborhood where the construction site was located were hired to help with a project that would benefit their very own community. Vidas Plenas sent teachers, psychologists, nurses, and the Rescue team to visit homes and prepare families for the new academy. Dedicated donors in the United States and around the world jumped in to help - in fact 10% of the construction costs for the building were raised by Guatemalan churches, businesses, and individuals.

Lemonade International's "Hope on the Horizon" campaign successfully raised money for classrooms and education supplies,

technology resources, kitchen equipment, and academy furniture. The new building includes additional space for a reception area and a third-floor terrace where kids can safely play in the open air. It is built around an interior patio allowing kids in every classroom to enjoy natural sunlight. Naranja academy, the fifth academy in La Limonada, opened in January 2020 fully equipped to bring light and joy to a new neighborhood.

However, no one could have anticipated what happened next. Families who had heard from neighbors about the impact of other academies understood the opportunity for their own children. They began forming a line a day in advance of registration, and some waited all night long just to secure a place for their child.

Because of your generosity the Naranja academy stands as a beacon of light in La Limonada, and the darkness cannot extinguish it. Through the COVID-19 pandemic and temporary closing of the academies, we are reminded that the academies are important community resources, but even more important is the brave team who continues to serve. Over the last twelve years we have been privileged to partner with five academies in five neighborhoods.



# Community Relief

The rapid, global spread of COVID-19 greatly affected vulnerable populations like the families and children we serve in La Limonada. With a proportionately small amount of resources compared to what we have in the US, we were able to accomplish great things together.

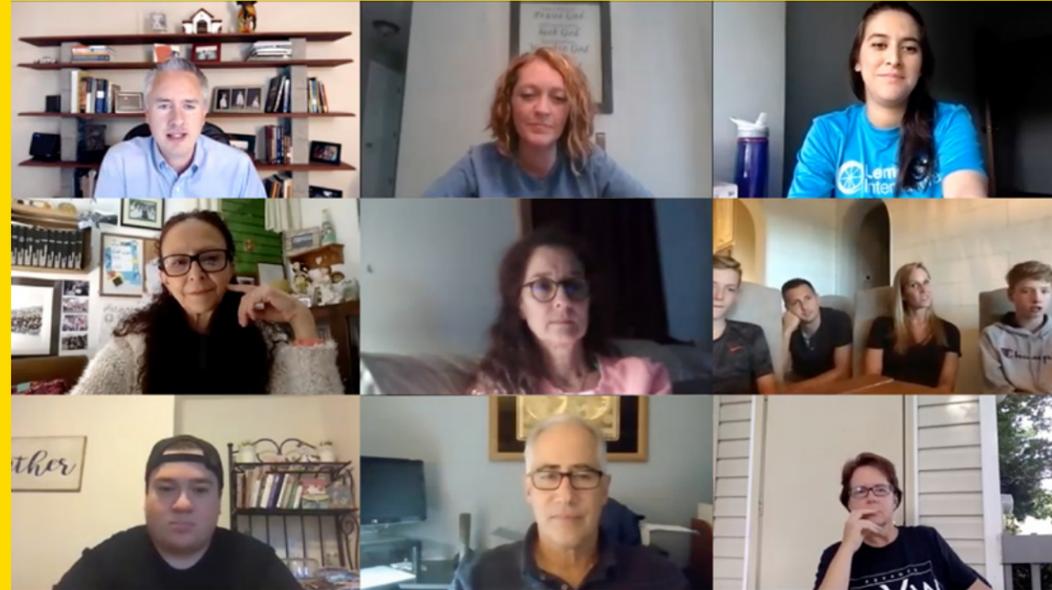
*We raised \$86,559 for the Community Relief Fund and through the Gift of a Neighbor campaign, and we found creative ways to reduce operating costs to remain consistent in our support of Vidas Plenas.*

*Vidas Plenas has been able to pack and distribute over 10,000 bags of food provisions.*

*These items include rice, beans, milk, spaghetti, oatmeal, cooking oil, and many important food staples to nourish and strengthen struggling families.*



# Virtual Learning Trips



Deep relationships are the basis for our work in La Limonada and we want those relationships to include you from a virtual perspective. We realize we are currently unable to meet in Guatemala as a group; however, we are eager to lay the groundwork for you to experience the community and the team that serves there.

From a virtual perspective, we want to encourage the perspective of learning from and participating with the leaders of this special community. We believe the best experience is learned from the people who live and serve in La Limonada.

As we schedule your virtual experience, we will work to maximize opportunities for your group to interact with the specific people within Lemonade International and Vidas Plenas, to listen to their stories and learn from their lives within the community.

We seek to develop meaningful, ongoing relationships between church communities in the US and the people of La Limonada. We encourage churches to send short-term, virtual trips for groups to serve, sponsor children, pray for the urgent needs of the community, provide financial support to sustain and/or expand programs and stand in solidarity with the ministry.

We invite you to schedule an exploratory trip to meet the leaders and community, and to see the ministry firsthand and prayerfully discern how your church, school, business, or family can partner with us.

## 2019 Impact

446

Children enrolled in four academies

48

Scholars continuing their education

48

Team Members serving in Guatemala

139

people on 21 teams took Service Learning Trips

## 2020 Impact

576

Children enrolled in five academies

44

Scholars continuing their education

54

Team Members serving in Guatemala

59

people on 9 teams took Service or Virtual Learning Trips

10,070

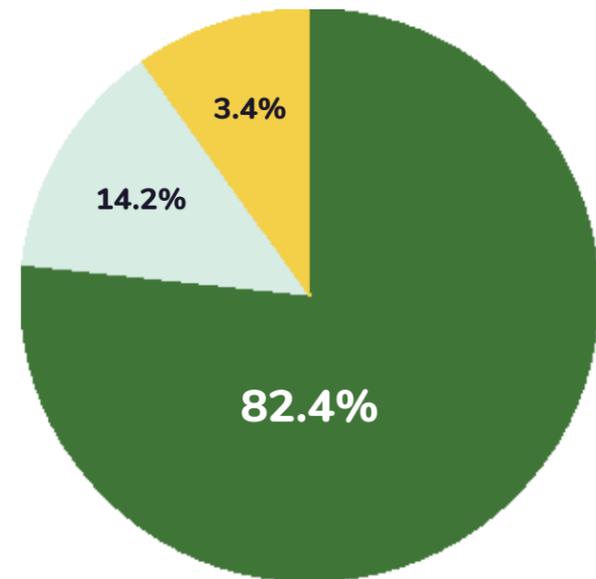
Meals provided through Community Relief



# Financials

## 2019 Revenue Distribution

Development ●	\$26,155.00
Management ●	\$110,482.00
Invested In Guatemala ●	\$641,497.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$778,134.00</b>



## Guatemalan Operational Support

	Operational Expenses	Capital Expenses
2015	\$360,000.00	\$68,450.00
2016	\$312,000.00	\$73,249.00
2017	\$360,305.00	\$170,062.00
2018	\$328,737.00	\$52,579.00
2019	\$372,000.00	\$72,158.00

## Total Donor Contributions Since 2008

**\$6,783,072**

## Give Christmas

Through our 2019 year-end giving campaign, you gave:

**\$91,646**

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 five academies.

## Community Relief

Through our 2020 COVID Relief giving campaign, you gave:

**\$86,559**

The Community Relief Fund enables the team in La Limonada to respond with tangible support for the urgent, unexpected needs of the families affected by COVID-19 once restrictions are lifted.



### Staff

Charles Knox  
Cherie Cummings  
Todd Hiestand  
Lizza Majus  
Cesar Eguizabal  
Silvia Lopez  
Marisol Garcia  
Cory Magnuson  
Cindy Witmer  
Juan Castro

### Board of Directors

Chris Marshall  
Ralph Schoenrock  
Drew Moser  
Kristin Lawrence  
Dan Fuhrman  
Laurette Durick

“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