



**Lemonade**  
International

**2023 - 2024**

**IMPACT REPORT**

# FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHARLES KNOX

## Dear Friends and Partners,

As a boy growing up in rural Pennsylvania, I loved throwing rocks into ponds and streams. Sometimes I skipped flat rocks across the surface of the water, and other times I heaved a large, heavy one toward the center, excited at the booming “ker-plunk” and to see if the ripples reached the shore.

In our most recent season Lemonade has expanded our work in a similar ripple effect to include new partners and reach more of the poorest neighborhoods in Guatemala City. The largest city in Central America, Guatemala City has experienced the rapid growth of many marginalized communities, with the same physical, social, and spiritual needs we encountered in La Limonada. Since the pandemic, Guatemala’s school dropout rate has nearly doubled, making families and communities more vulnerable than ever to gangs. While there is much need, local Guatemalan leaders – high-caliber, compassionate visionaries serving sacrificially in nonprofits around the city – are rising up to serve their neighbors.

They have shared inspiring stories of limited resources being used to break the cycles of poverty, violence, and injustice, sparking a movement of indigenous leaders with a humble desire to learn from each other. And it has been a privilege to begin to support and empower them.

While some organizations go wide and assist with different countries or a diverse array of support, Lemonade’s focus on deep relationships, our model of education, gang prevention, and community relief, and our development of key, urban partners has yielded efficient, scalable, long-term success.

As we shared the vision with a new generation of leaders, our first new partner for 2023 was Asociación Comunitaria Alcance (“Community Outreach Association”) which serves nearly 1,000 children in four neighborhoods in southeast Guatemala City through four Centros Comunitarios (“community centers”).



In our first project together Alcance raised 82% of the overall need through in-country donations, giving us confidence to move toward ongoing, sustainable, financial support.

In addition to expanding our work with new partners, we hired Guatemalan staff to grow our Child Sponsorship program, the Equipo teacher support fund, and better serve our Service Learning Trips. Beyond this we also hired strategic, US-based staff in 2024 to further our fundraising efforts.

We are grateful for the support of so many sponsors and donors, and consider your generosity a sacred trust. As we look forward to 2025, our goal is to see the ripples expand to serve more children, more academic centers, and even more organizational partners!

Serving Him together,



**Charles "Chal" Knox**  
**Lemonade International**  
**Executive Director**



# MISSION AND VISION

## OUR MISSION

We exist to stand in solidarity with Guatemalan leaders as they break the cycles of poverty, violence, and injustice through education, gang prevention, and community relief for families in the poorest neighborhoods of Guatemala City.

## OUR VISION

To see those most in need in Guatemala City experience transformation and live full lives in Jesus.



# WHAT WE DO



## EDUCATION

Lemonade International offers a bridge out of the darkness that plagues so many of Guatemala City's children and youth during their most vulnerable years. Through education and gang prevention – focused out of strategically placed community centers – Lemonade provides holistic transformation through discipleship, tutoring, parent education, character development and trauma healing.



## COMMUNITY RELIEF

Providing relief for the urgent and unexpected needs that arise in Guatemala City's most marginalized neighborhoods allows Lemonade to connect with compassion, building relationships within communities that aid in physical and emotional healing, hope and holistic transformation.



## RESCUE

When vulnerability is a liability on the tough gang-ridden streets in Guatemala City's most marginalized neighborhoods, Lemonade International steps in to provide a safe place for children and youth to build relationships, have basic needs met and connect to trusted adults who provide a way out of the darkness that awaits them.



# IN-COUNTRY IMPACT STATISTICS

**45,120**

Meals provided through our Community Relief program in connection with LifeLine.

**162**

Children enrolled at the Centros de Alcance.

**111**

Children received estrenos (pants, shoes and shirts) for Christmas through Centros de Alcance.



**51**

Teachers, psychologists, cooks and staff serving in Guatemala.

**9**

Service Learning and Vision Trips.

**21,000**

Vitamins provided for teachers, children and staff.

**5**

New handwashing sinks at the El Carmen Center reducing the number of respiratory and stomach viruses affecting the children and staff.

# GANG DISPLACEMENT

## What We Can Learn from Haiti

As Lemonade pursues our vision of Acts 1:8 and reaches more of the poorest neighborhoods in Guatemala City, we have found that there is both more need and more hope than we initially realized. In meeting with new and potential partners on the ground we have seen that poverty and gang violence are growing, yet a new generation of leaders is rising to meet the challenge.

Gangs take root in vulnerable communities. When one community is transformed through a church or nonprofit program, much like water moving to find a level place, gangs may move to new communities that lack this support. One term for this is gang displacement.

We have a tremendous opportunity if we take this seriously now, but sadly, we can also see the consequences if we don't. An American couple serving as missionaries in Haiti recently made the news when they were ambushed by gangs and killed. The UN estimates that more than 2,500 people have been killed or injured in Haiti in just the first three months of this year, and that disrupting the roughly 300 gangs in Haiti may prove to be a more difficult challenge than anticipated because an estimated 80 percent of the capital city Port au Prince is now under gang control.





While we have witnessed effective community transformation in La Limonada through academic formation, gang prevention, and community relief, despite more than fifteen years of concentrated work, gangs, poverty, and malnutrition throughout Guatemala City have grown. But rather than sending more missionaries from the U.S. or tackling countrywide poverty without a network, we are now working toward effective community transformation and redemption through long-term partnerships with a variety of indigenous-led organizations and international NGOs serving in multiple locations in Guatemala City.

Lemonade International's approach – strategically supporting several nonprofit organizations led by Guatemala City leaders focused together on urban poverty – is stronger and more effective than other models.

Only by working together in unity can we see the needs of the city as a whole and have lasting impact. Deep, city-wide transformation at a generational pace may be slow but it is so much more effective, and frankly, biblical.



# A CONVERSATION WITH WILLIAM AND HEIDI WITH ASOCIACION COMUNITARIA ALCANCE





## Sit down with Lemonade's Executive Director Chal Knox as he unpacks community transformation with our newest partners.



**William**

I always ask God to place me where His heart is, and it is working with kids. By supporting and providing for the most vulnerable and to be a voice of hope.



**Chal**

Can you talk about gangs? We know that gang involvement influences these communities. What kind of impact do gangs have on families, children, and youth?



**William**

The gangs take advantage of the physical, emotional, and material deficiencies that these children have in their families. The lack of identity that the children don't have at home are being offered by the gangs.



**Chal**

I imagine that's a big temptation for young men and women growing up in vulnerable neighborhoods. What is the impact whenever you work with these families? What kind of impact have you seen from the center's programs, and could you share a story of impact, too?



**Heidi**

In the nutritional program, we have seen nutritional improvements in our children. Better hygiene habits not only at the Alcance Center but at home with their families. You can also notice that the children are less aggressive due to better nourishment.

Academically, we have seen how the children connected to the Alcance Center, who are not currently enrolled in school, return and are less likely to drop out because they have support and someone to accompany them. These students tend to be more adaptable and better adjusted to their peers and teachers, lowering their aggression.

We have also observed that in their free time the students aren't hanging out on the street, which makes them less vulnerable to gangs and violent activities.

In the area of spiritual morality, we notice how teaching students about God helps transform the lives of these children and their families.



### Heidi

The most significant impact is that the children have a safe place in their community to learn and help their friends.

One story comes to mind. There was this child, named Sergio, who is now a young adult. He arrived at the center when he was 8 years old. He was responsible for taking care of his siblings because his mother was an alcoholic who often abandoned the family regularly for 2 or 3 days at a time. He suffered from a lot of pain and rejection, but with the support of the Alcance Center, we helped him gain identification to go to school, and we supported him by taking care of his siblings. Later, he and his siblings went to church, and God continued transforming his life. He graduated, is 22 years old, works, is married, has a beautiful child, and has many life goals. God is good and allowed us to be a part of that transformation.



### Chal

It's amazing to see how so much is going against these young men and women: gangs, alcoholism, abuse, abject poverty, and hunger. But your work is that of education, community relief, and gang prevention, and it is bringing transformation in their lives. We are glad to stand with you guys in solidarity.



# COMMUNITY STORIES


"Sponsoring children through Lemonade International has been a JOY! Our entire family is involved in writing letters and praying for our sponsored children. We love how sponsorship provides for our sponsored childrens' physical needs as well as their spiritual needs as they learn about God's great love for them from the teachers and staff."

**Andrea Boulware**




"Because of sponsoring our child in Guatemala, we are connected to a world outside of our own! Our sponsored child is not just a refrigerator magnet but rather a precious soul who we pray over each day. Corresponding with our child brings us great joy when we receive a beautiful response back with pictures. Understanding her culture and struggles makes us sensitive to situations outside of our own and being able to somehow "touch" her through the sponsorship program brings us joy to impact her in small ways through our support of Lemonade International. We know that we are impacting a life with the love of Jesus and that the staff of Lemonade International is doing that on the ground in Guatemala."

**Patty and Taylor-Anne Wade**



“Lemonade International is a credible mission making a big difference in a part of the world that really needs a lot of help. We have chosen to partner and come alongside what God is doing in Guatemala. This investment has become a blessing to both those we are helping and to us. As we serve Lemonade, we are also learning new and better ways to reach our own community right here in Manchester.”

**Greg Vaccaro, Pastor, Shiloh Community Church**

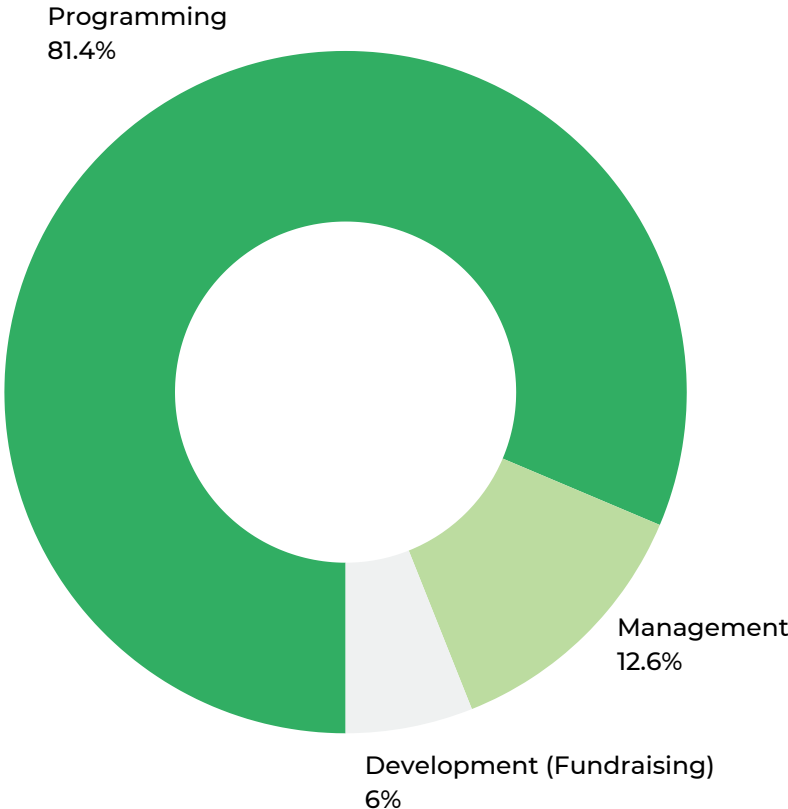


“By the most simple measure, partnering with Lemonade has helped us continue to cast a vision for the Great Commission, and to practically have the opportunity to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Not only has our partnership given us awareness for God’s people in Guatemala, but it has empowered our church community to pray for them, care about the challenges they are facing, and respond by sponsoring children. We are excited to send a team to “go and serve” God’s people in Guatemala in 2025 and further deepen our partnership together, where eyes will continue to be opened and hearts will continue to be changed.”

**Eric Rice, Discipleship and Missions Pastor, Journey Church**

# 2023-2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

## 2023 Revenue Distribution



\$310,000.00

\$48,000.00

\$23,000.00

**TOTAL: \$381,000.00**

We are committed to financial stewardship of every dollar we receive for maximum investment in the vulnerable children and families of Guatemala City. \$9,246,608.59 has been generously contributed by donors since 2008.



### **2023 - 2024 STAFF**

Isaac Archer  
Chal Knox  
Jacqueline Brewer  
Jose Diaz  
Christa Heinzelman  
Meroe Lastrella  
Lizza Majus  
Lucia Martinez  
Stacey Martin  
Dulce Perez

### **BOARD**

Charlie Heinzelman  
Chal Knox  
Jenny Schmitt  
Bill Voth  
Erik Morsehead

919.792.8076

[info@lemonadeinternational.org](mailto:info@lemonadeinternational.org)

11845 Retail Drive #1017  
Wake Forest, NC 27587

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