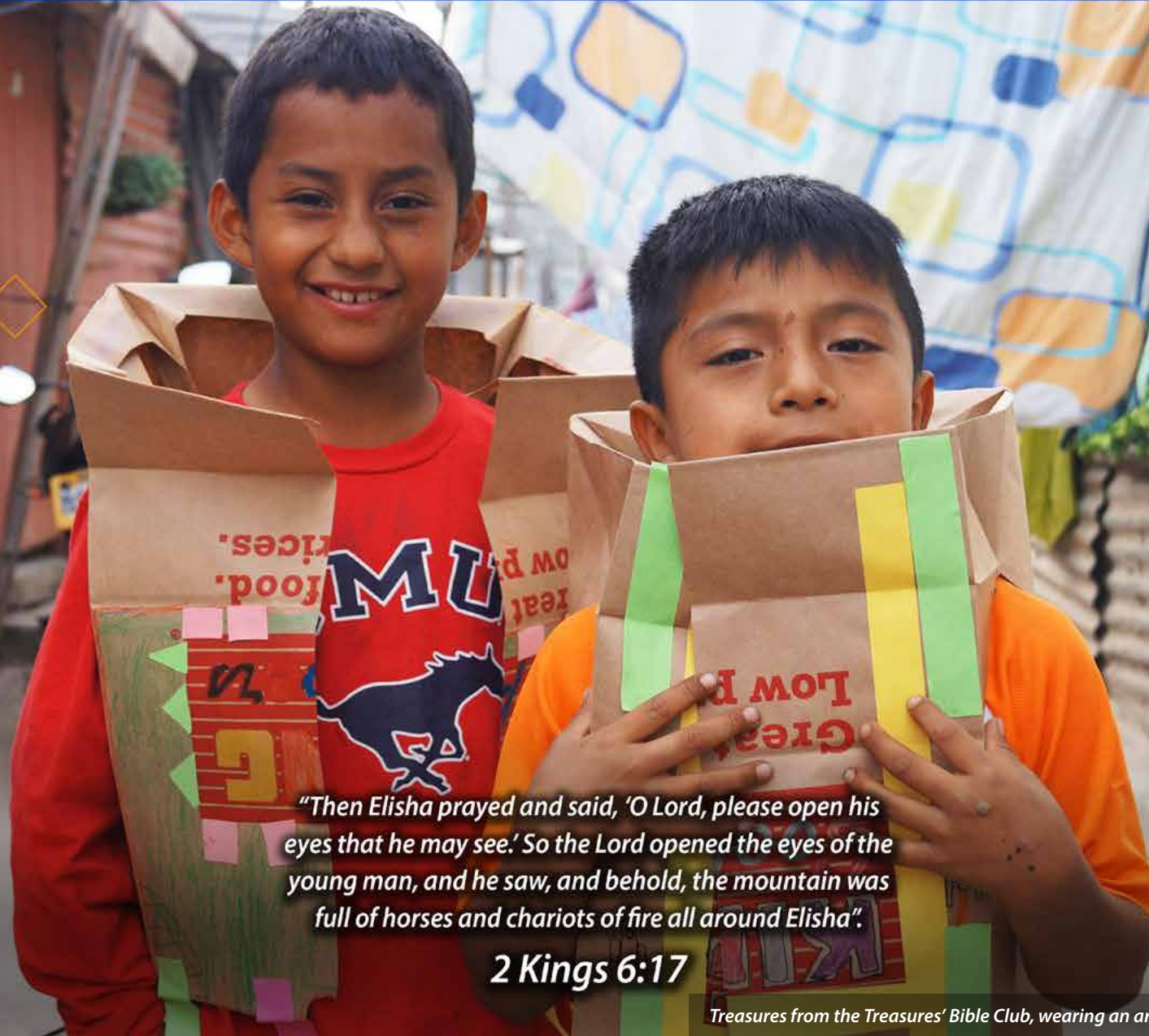




ANNUAL REPORT 2017



"Then Elisha prayed and said, 'O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.' So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha".

2 Kings 6:17



Potter's House
Association International

"When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold an army with horses and chariots was all around the city.

And the servant said, 'Alas, my master! What shall we do?'

He said, 'Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.'

Then Elisha prayed and said, 'O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.'

So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

2 Kings 6:15-17 (ESV)

Dear Potter's House family,

We have culminated 31 years of continued service to God and communities living in poverty in Guatemala. During this time, we have learned that by serving, we are fighting a battle. We have encountered many challenges, difficulties and have even made some mistakes; these situations have been beyond our control and have gone beyond our capacity. Not once but many times we have exclaimed like Elisha did:

Now what shall we do?

These situations have made us bend our knees to pray and cry out to God for His intervention and He has certainly opened our eyes so we could see beyond the difficulty and realize that many stand alongside us, you our partners, are people on horses and chariots of fire who also fight to overcome poverty in Guatemala.

It is thanks to your support and God's favor that we have finished 2017 successfully. We invite you to read the following report and see all that we were able to do together on behalf of the Treasures.

With gratitude,

Héctor Rivas
Director



IMPACT

Football Soccer clinic conducted by international servants in Chiquimula.

COMMUNITY CENTERS - PROGRESS

CHRISTIAN LIFE

- We hosted our annual Vacation Bible School in which our High School Treasures participated as teachers and supporting staff.
- We finished with the lessons from the **Super Book** and the **CRECE** methodology in the **Treasures Bible Club** and with our education students. In addition to these devotionals, we have a training program for High School youth- by uniting these programs the teenagers are able to practice serving the children and improve in their knowledge of the Word while they teach the younger kids.
- We hosted a closing activity for the Treasures Bible Club in which we showed the parents everything their children learned throughout the year. The children were able to demonstrate songs, dramas and even teach a Bible lesson.
- We had an **evangelistic activity in the El Recuerdo community** for a total of 100 participants- children, parents and teens. The theme was **Do you know who Jesus is? based on Matthew 16:13-18**. This was done in partnership with an international team of servants (volunteers) from Israel.
- We had a closing evangelistic activity for 150 children; this was with the support of local servants. We encouraged kids to continue to pursue their relationship with God during their vacation time; we shared a Biblical message, a snack, and some entertainment with clowns.
- We have devotionals with high schoolers throughout the whole year, during these times we focused on: **Relationships and Feelings that please the Lord**.



- **We supported and advised leaders from one community** in a project to equip their community with surveillance cameras. The community leaders managed the project; we only provided support - this shows us that this community is developing.
- We held the third and fourth sessions of **"Taking Care of my Home"**, these were **focused on taking care of my family and taking care of my hygiene**.
- **Children and their families were blessed with in kind donations**. Some were delivered along with the Message of Salvation, others through educational talks that focused on changing habits and trusting in the Lord.
- Community Leaders were trained through our Leadership Training sessions where they learned about relationships with others, **"Envisioning and inventiveness", "Balancing our 4 Capacities", and Self Evaluation**.



- We worked on alliances with organizations such as the **Guatemalan Chamber of Commerce**. Throughout the year, they provided us with training sessions with active clients. **Partners Worldwide** gave basic training to staff and servants (volunteers) in order to be prepared to provide personalized consulting services for our micro enterprise clients.
- **Loan Performer Program** is now used as the only control program for loan portfolio.
- 10 women were trained in our Beauty School.
- A local organization called **Princesas del Reino** (Princesses of the Kingdom) partnered with us in training 12 community women in jewelry making.
- Clients' businesses have grown 35%; evidence of this is found in their sales reports and utilities reports.
- A total of **88 families** have been supported through new loan allocations. This way we are serving **133 children and 146 adults**.

Guatemala



Education Program, Community Center #1, Guatemala.



EDUCATION

- Amongst the high schoolers this year we were able to implement a program to track grades, volunteer hours, behavior and interests. Because of this, we were able to support these Treasures as they made plans **according to their efforts, interests and level of dedication.**
- Students participated in different **field trips, celebrations and recreational activities** in which they were able to interact with their classmates and receive special gifts and donations. These activities helped boost their self-esteem and learning.
- Parents were trained in subjects such as **healthy eating** in order to reduce malnourishment and issues with overweight students.
- We hosted an Educational Congress for teachers in which we taught them about **discipline techniques, multiple intelligences, reading and math tools.** This also helped us strengthen our relationship with participating schools.
- We continued with the mobilization effort called **“Treasures serving Treasures”.** High School students hosted a celebration for children in a poor community in the rural area. The students were able to share the Word of God, play games with the kids and share a snack with them
- Treasures in the Education Program were served through different **health clinics** (eye clinic, hearing clinic, general medicine and dental clinics). They also received lessons on personal hygiene.
- The Treasures continue to develop through learning new abilities. They participated in extracurricular lessons about **Leadership I, Professional Formation, Vocational Orientation, Artistic Expression, Entrepreneurship and English lessons.**
- We provided **psychological therapy, education and family counseling** in order to improve academic performance.

Guatemala



- Provided **medical attention** for the Treasures through 3 medical clinics.
- Supported **short term medical clinics** with various specializations throughout the year. In addition we hosted **vaccination and de-worming efforts**.
- Served Treasures who were part of the Education Program when they were sick.
- We hosted **eye clinics** for the elderly and Treasures in the Education Program, they received an eye exam and glasses in case they were needed.
- We finished the **construction of the medical clinics** in our largest community center. This has allowed us to better serve the population surrounding the garbage dump as well as other areas in the city.
- **The lunches** served to those in our program **were supervised** by nutritionists and a physician. We also monitored the kids' intake of junk food in the community centers.
- With the support of the **Ministry of Culture and Sports** we were able to work on the physical conditioning of the students once a week.
- Through each of the **three clinics we were able to teach on and provide family planning methods for women**.
- We held trainings with the intention of improving women's lifestyles- with a special focus on pregnant women, community leaders, diabetic patients and Treasures in the Education Program.



- The Family Development plan for 2017 was focused on providing general information and training for each family member's role in the family as well as sharing tools that would help communication in order to improve family relationships. This was done through the **School for Parents, family counseling, prayer and retreats**.
- We celebrated a family day with the theme **"Investing Time in our Family"**. The Treasures from our programs and their parents were invited to an afternoon filled with activities, a special snack and a Biblical message. We celebrated Father's Day with the intention of having fellowship with them through sports activities.
- We continued **to serve the elderly Treasures** through breakfast meetings and times for prayer.
- We hosted **retreats for community women and community leaders** who are focused on supporting their community development.
- We celebrated the lives of young ladies through a **"Quinceañera"** or Sweet 15 celebration. We met with these girls to learn about **identity, boundaries in relationship and writing their own story**.



Treasures from the Education Program eating a nutritious lunch, Community Center #1.



"School for parents", Community Center #1, Guatemala.

Guatemala

2017 RESULTS


1,172
Prayer
Visits

Visiting families at their homes, sharing the Gospel and praying for them. 4,176 people impacted.


58,573
Nutricious
Meals

55% of children and young people, in the nutrition program, have the ideal size and weight.


8,117
Disciplined and
evangelized
people.

Through different activities such as VBS, Kids Camp, men and women's retreat and weekly devotionals


5,358
Received
medical
attention

Through the clinics that operate in our community centers. Also medicine and medical training was provided.


18,013
Benefited with
in-kind
Donations.

People received clothes, shoes, school supplies, hygiene supplies, and food


252
Students in
tutoring
classes

Students from first grade to university receive support with tutoring classes, materials, and extracurricular activities.


209
Micro
Loans
Given

There are 245 active clients.


24
Workshops.

371 people participated in parenting and leadership workshops.


91
Construction
projects and
renovations.

Between cinder block house construction, renovations and beds, 622 people benefited.



Jeremías Ordoñez



Jeremías Ordoñez

Although Jeremías' father works three jobs and sleeps very little, he is determined to send his children to school to learn. In 2017, his 3 youngest children were enrolled in PHA's Education Program in which they receive tutoring, and are being developed holistically.

Jeremías is 11 years-old and is one of 6 siblings. Jeremías and his family live in one of the communities surrounding the garbage dump in Guatemala City. Jeremias lost his mother when he was very young as she died during childbirth. His father recalls that difficult time seven years ago and says: **"When my wife died, we went through a very difficult time. My older children had to stay home to take care of the baby because I had to work to provide for the family."**

When Jeremías was younger, he did his homework at home with his older sisters and many times was unable to turn in his work because he did not buy all the supplies he needed to finish his assignments.

Jeremías is very responsible and is a good student; his grade point average for the year was 81 points and in 2018, he will be in 6th grade. When he grows up, he would like to be a firefighter because he wants to help people.

Jeremias' father dreams of seeing all his children graduate from university and we think Jeremías is on the right path!



Ordoñez family

"I love coming to Potter's House because they have helped me and my family. I like the tutoring program because I can play with my friends, get help with my homework and receive the materials I need to finish my work."

Jeremías Ordoñez



FIELD OFFICE - PROGRESS

1. Work with the Community

- We held several activities to celebrate children's birthdays, we were able to share a snack, piñata, games and also share a brief Bible lesson.
- Through School for Parents meetings parents were able to learn strategies to help them take care of their families as well as improve their relationship with their children.
- We held four training sessions for teachers from public and private schools (both Elementary and Secondary schools) in the state of Chiquimula.
- One of the most outstanding events was the VBS program at the Amisrael School in Altamira, Chiquimula. A local church in the City of Chiquimula obtained our VBS materials and hosted a VBS for their children there.

2. Strategic alliances with community leaders and organizations:

Throughout the year and thanks to the Lord's favor we were able to approach other organizations, institutions and churches in the state of Chiquimula. We were able to begin strategic partnerships with:

- The Chiquimula Municipal office
- Local Churches
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health
- Olopa Municipal office
- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Security

3. Exploring New Areas - Expansion

Throughout the year, we explored other counties and towns in the State of Chiquimula- six in total. We were also able to being to explore another two states and six townships.



Treasure from the Education Program serving at VBS, Chiquimula.

Chiquimula

2017 RESULTS


2,210
Beneficiaries

1,496 kids and 578 Families


Exploratory Visits

214 servants - 28 groups distributed in:
10 vision trips, 4 family mission trips,
7 short term missions y
7 youth mission experiences.


9
Infrastructure and equipment projects

Perimeter wall, renovation and equipment of 2 classrooms, and painting days.


550
Discipled and evangelized people

500 children and 50 mothers.


71
In-kind Donations

People benefited with 22 wood-saving stoves, 5 beds, 3 Integrated Hygiene Combos and 41 ecofilters


9
Work Meetings

With organizations, pastors, community leaders and local teachers, to analyze how we can work together.


38
Days of summer VBS

Carried out in 10 sessions.


66
Prayer Visits

Visiting families to share the gospel and pray for them.


4,570
Nutricious Meals

Food served at Amisrael Altamira School from August to October and at the two VBS in November.



Chiquimula

Obed Castillo



Obed Castillo

“Thank you for giving me the opportunity to see that I’m able to do things, that I can talk and share with others. Your words of encouragement, your advice and teachings of the word of God helped me to change the way I think about myself”.

Obed

Obed is 19 years old. He has lived in Chiquimula his entire life. His parents are pastors at the Amigos Church in Altamira. He lives with them and his brother Eric and his sister Evelyn. Obed was raised the same way his parents did with his siblings, in a home with Christian principles and values. He respects his parents, but unfortunately, he has not made his personal decision for Jesus. We know that he has a purpose, a plan and a call for God but he is still in the process of discovering and finding it.

This year PHA started regular operations in Chiquimula and especially in the Altamira Community. This gave us the opportunity to know Obed and his family in a deeper way. In January when we met Obed for the very first time, he was a very shy young man, he didn’t like to talk or share with others besides his close family and friends. He wasn’t working, he was just doing nothing at home without dreams, desires and hopes. During the year, God put in our hearts a strong desire to help him. We started looking for him and had intentional conversations. We invited him to go out to eat and also to be part and support the different PHA activities. Little by little, we started seeing a change of attitude.

In the month of July, PHA offered him the opportunity to actively participate in our different activities with the community and with our international servants. We gave him a schedule with specific attributions and responsibilities. All these intentional actions and

interaction with international servants, staff and other Treasures in Chiquimula gave him a strong impulse and motivation to dream again of returning to study, having a job and to build a bedroom for himself on his own. With the small financial support that we gave to him for his work, he was able to buy some construction materials and started building his bedroom.

Now at the end of the year we see a half-built room. Obed is working as a mason in a construction where what he receives as pay, he uses to continue buying construction materials and building his bedroom. Now he contributes to his own expenses and some expenses at home but, above all, we see a young man who has again the desire to study and learn the trade of blacksmithing.

“The truth is that before I didn’t have any interest and desire to study. I believed that I wasn’t able to do that. This year my sister graduated as a teacher and seeing her, made me think about the possibility to continue studying. **Just seeing how PHA gave me the opportunity to help, share with international servants and other PHA staff members, how they trusted in me and feel that I can be useful, made me realize that I belong to a place and that I’m able to do many different things.** I want to learn the trade of blacksmithing and someday, work doing that. Now I’m working as a mason and with that I can continue building my bedroom”.



Potter's House
Association International

Potter's House Association International **Revenues and Expenses**

January to December 2017

Audited by Capin Crouse, LLP Wheaton, IL.



**Complete financial reports are available upon
request. E-mail us to**

info@pottershouse.org.gt

**We are committed to being good stewards of
God's grace and your gifts.**





Potter's House
Association International

