



Potter's House  
Association

# ANNUAL REPORT

2018



*We can't stop!*

"As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."  
Acts 4:20 (NIV)

Class of 2018. Two Treasures did not make it to the graduation ceremony because they were already working. Both of them were hired at the companies in which they did an internship.



Dear Potter's House family,

As we finished 2018, we celebrate with gratitude having served the poor and needy in our beautiful Guatemala for 32 years. The Lord allowed us to finish this year with his blessing and witnessing the Treasures channel themselves great changes in the communities we serve.

We saw miracles and wonders among communities living in poverty in our country. We witnessed how the lives of many Treasures were transformed and we had the privilege of walking with them as they developed and became empowered. This now allows them to be agents of change within their own families and communities.

In the following pages, we want to honor the Lord because, in the middle of the challenges and trials that we faced as a ministry, He has always walked before us, guiding our steps.

We witnessed such great deeds that we can only say:

*"As for us, we cannot help  
speaking about what we have  
seen and heard."*

Acts 4:20 (NIV)

Our prayer to the Lord is that in the year ahead of us, like Moses in Exodus 33, we can find grace before His eyes. May God show us His path, may His presence be with us and may we see His glory manifested in the lives of the Treasures throughout Guatemala.

In Christ,

*Héctor Rivas*  
Director



Graduated Treasures from the Class of 2018 passing the baton and encouraging the Class of 2019.



# IMPACT

# Guatemala - Community Centers

In 2018, our focus of work at our Community Centers was the implementation of strategies that would strengthen our DEM work model while reducing the practices of assistentialism and religiosity among our beneficiaries.



## CHRISTIAN LIFE

One of our goals is to fight religiosity so Christian Life worked closely with our five programs with **the main goal of sharing the message of salvation through:**

- Trainings for pastors and leaders.
- Prayer walks.
- Vacation Bible school which served 285 Treasures from 18 different communities.
- School for Parents sessions, covering topics such as finances and salvation in Jesus Christ.
- Devotionals for men, sharing lessons to strengthen their family relationships.
- Devotionals for the staff, taught by Bible teachers from the Central American Theological Seminary (SETECA) as well as other local leaders.
- Mothers' Academy, teaching topics on personal growth and family relationships.
- Prayer time with patients.
- Devotionals and Bible reading with the Treasures.



## FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

We worked to help family members to improve their relationships. Also, **families were reached through God's word and the salvation plan was shared with them.**

### Some of the goals achieved are:

- Eight "School for Parents" meetings were held with an attendance of 142 parents.
- One-hundred Treasures received psychological support.
- 752 prayer walks which blessed 2,303 Treasures.
- 38 women participated in the "Mothers' Academy". They received practical (bakery and crafts) and theoretical (spiritual and family topics as well as emotional intelligence) training.
- 140 elderly adults participated in devotionals and crafts workshops.
- 70 Treasures participated in the "Taking care of my home" workshops to learn about personal, family and community stewardship.



## EDUCATION

The Professional Development Program (PRODEP) which **serves secondary school students, worked to strengthen the Treasures' abilities and help them develop the strategies and tools they need to grow academically** and demonstrate an attitude of service. They received workshops about: a) Emotional intelligence. b) Critical thinking. c) Professional perspective.

The Tutoring and Emotional Guidance Program (TOE) **works to promote learning mechanisms and procedures so that Treasures can develop intellectually, psychologically, emotionally and spiritually.**

### Some of the goals achieved are:

- 250 Treasures served through tutoring and workshops.
- 10 Treasures that graduated in 2018 got their first job.
- 12 Treasures are in the process of applying to enter university.
- 90% of the Treasures passed their grade.



# Guatemala - Community Centers



## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

PHA has been working in alignment with the country's health strategy called "1000 Days Window" and thus provided family planning methods, pap-smears and mother-child medical attention. We also provided anti-parasite treatments, medical check-ups, fluoride treatments, vaccination, and awareness campaigns for the Treasures in the Education Program and members of the community.

### Results achieved:

- 5,520 patients (1,955 children) served through PHA clinic, short-term medical clinics and awareness campaigns.
- 29,500 lunches and 22,176 nutritious meals served.
- 58% of the Treasures in the Education Program are within normal weight standards, 1% are underweight and 41% present overweight risk or obesity.
- 2,889 Treasures benefited with training and awareness talks on topics such as: dental hygiene, personal hygiene, diabetic care, sexuality, healthy diet, etc.



## MICRO ENTERPRISE

In 2018, **seven women graduated from our Beauty School** after completing a two-year program. **Also, 12 women participated in the "Oso Project"** which was created to provide spiritual and economic support to women that suffer from poverty in all of its forms.

The micro-entrepreneurs have now more access to technology each time and they use it to send their payment deposit slips. This reduces the time needed to receive and enter these in our system.

### Results achieved:

- Training was provided to 11 micro entrepreneurs in partnership with Partners Worldwide®. Three business workshops were also held with other attendees.
- 203 loans granted (126 re-loans).
- 174 loans were paid-off (22 were home construction loans).
- There are 237 active clients in the loan portfolio.
- 79 families were benefited through loans (151 children and 161 adults).



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

We worked along **18 leaders from 11 communities to encourage them to pursue their own development while depending on God.**

We worked together to promote the participation of individuals in finding solutions to their communities' problems with a focus on avoiding assistentialism and religiosity.

### Results achieved:

- 14,877 Treasures were benefited through community, infrastructure and equipping projects.
- 1,643 bags of groceries were delivered.
- 14,487 individuals received in-kind donations.
- 134 Treasures volunteered to serve other communities.
- 26 bunk-beds were provided to families.
- 28 cinder-block homes were built and 12 homes were renovated, which blessed 187 Treasures.
- Two community painting projects were carried out as well as a renovation of the Health Center located in zone 3 of Guatemala City.



# Guatemala - Community Centers



Alison Ajubish is 10 years-old and she lives with her mother, Marleny, and two brothers in a community called San Juan. Marleny is a single mother. She does domestic work at people's homes so it is difficult for her to have a steady income and support her children.

**Alison has been part of PHA's Education Program for four years. She has received the benefits of tutoring, workshops, medical attention, and nutritious lunches, among others.** Also, her family has been blessed with a house renovation, prayer visits, psychological support and the opportunity to attend School for Parents sessions.

During the time that Alison has been part of the Education Program, her growth has been tracked. This has allowed her to stay healthy and this is evidenced in her normal nutritional status, which is appropriate to her age and height.

A few months ago, Alison suffered from abdominal pains that resembled the symptoms of acute appendicitis. She went to a public hospital where she was told that she had a urinary infection.

However, the discomfort continued so it was followed-up with at PHA's medical clinic. There, Alison was diagnosed with an early-stage case of nephritis glomerulus (a kidney disease that can cause severe renal failure if it is not addressed promptly).

**Her condition was diagnosed in time and she was successfully referred to the Pediatric Nephrology Unit of the San Juan de Dios Public Hospital, as the Guatemalan health protocols establish.**

If diagnosis of her condition would have taken longer, Alison could have developed the chronic form of the disease and thus, she would be in need of permanent treatment.

While Alison is still undergoing specialized treatment, PHA is supporting this treatment by providing her with vitamin supplementation and regular follow-up checkups.

Alison has almost fully recovered from this medical scare and now, she dreams of being a doctor herself so she can help her family and community.



**"Potter's House has been a blessing for our family, as well as for Alison. They have been instrumental to help her overcome the divorce between her father and me through psychological and spiritual support. I appreciate the benefit of the nutritious food and medical attention she receives as it helps our family economy. May God bless you and multiply you for all the work you do!"**

Marleny

# North-Eastern Region – Regional Office

In 2018, the office took on a regional approach to cover the whole North East area of the country. However, most of the work still focused in Chiquimula in order to strengthen the first year of operations of the community center in this place.

## 1. ALLIANCES WITH OTHER MINISTERIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Through different strategies and intentional work to build relationships, the regional office represented PHA and established alliances with:

- Health centers in three villages called El Ingeniero, Shororagua, and Sabana Grande.
- Local churches from the “Amigos” denomination.
- Eight churches from different denominations.
- Local police department.
- 39th company of the local fire department.
- Copanch’orti’ community.
- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food.
- Grand Caporal Hotel (also an in-kind donor).

## 2. WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY

The regional office worked to build a relationship with:

- 16 public schools.
- Community Development Committees (COCODES) from three communities.
- Seven pastors from three communities and seven local church leaders.

## 3. EXPLORING OTHER COMMUNITIES IN THE NORTH-EAST

During 2018 we were able to:

- Visit five new communities in Chiquimula.
- Carry out pilot projects in new communities which blessed 18 adults, 5 children and 20 police officers with physiotherapy sessions.
- Visit two communities from the San Juan Ermita township and establish a relationship with a local church.
- Carry out a follow-up visit to the El Guayabo village in the township of Olopa.
- Go on an exploratory visit to two communities in Baja Verapaz, during which we established a relationship with the pastor of a local church in Salama.
- Bless an average of 4,320 people (1,640 adults; 2,680 children, and 1,336 families).

Note: The number of beneficiaries grew significantly in the last quarter of the year because of a large in-kind donation of bananas which allowed us to reach communities, churches, institutions and new schools in the area.



# Chiquimula - Community Center



## CHRISTIAN LIFE

During our second year of operations in Chiquimula, we witnessed God's love and faithfulness. **We held two vacation Bible schools in two different locations and thus served 422 children and 30 mothers.** We also had the support of 32 local servants, six Treasures from our community centers in Guatemala City and five PHA staff members.

The local church "Odre Nuevo" purchased our VBS materials and carried out a vacation Bible school for 55 children. For God's glory, **40 children accepted Jesus in their hearts and two reconciled with Him.**



## FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

**We were able to bless a total of 817 people,** including children and adults, through:

- Four birthday celebrations for children in Amisrael and Planes de San Jose schools.
- Seven vacation Bible camps for 314 children from three churches.
- 89 prayer walks.
- Three "School for Parents" meetings, which served an average of 34 parents.
- One soccer clinic, which served an average of 80 children for three days.



## EDUCATION

**Through our "Business School", we served 18 young men and women.** Twelve of them finished the first stage of the program. They learned about three main concepts: a) manufacture, b) retailing and, c) animal breeding.

We held trainings for 70 teachers from four local public schools and one private school. Also, we participated in the graduation of seven Treasures from elementary school by sharing words of encouragement with them and their parents and delivering groceries to each family.



## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

During the year, **we were able to bless an average of 545 children and 207 adults** through:

- Delivery of in-kind donations to support the nutrition of children in three elementary schools.
- Nine short-term medical clinics with five different specialties which served 258 children and 406 adults from seven communities.
- Delivery of 55 water filters to families in two communities.
- 2,300 meals served during the November vacation Bible schools.



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**We were able to bless 750 Treasures, both children and adults, through:**

- An in-kind donation of bananas from Chiquita® which reached families from four different communities as well as several public schools.
- Two "Taking Care of my Home" meetings for 13 families who have received integrated hygiene services combos.
- Two classrooms renovations and one major renovation at the Planes de San Jose Elementary School.
- Delivery of 10 integrated hygiene services combos.
- Construction of 490 feet of perimeter wall and cleaning of 60,278 square feet of terrain at PHA's new facility.



# Chiquimula - Community Center



Jose Perez is 24 years-old and he lives with His father and six brothers in Altamira, a community in Chiquimula. His mother sadly passed away in 2018. Jose was only able to finish 7th grade. He dropped out of school because his family was going through financial struggles and he was not interested in school.

**“I work as a mason’s helper and a part-time farmer, growing corn, peanuts or beans. As a mason’s helper I make around \$8 per day and, as a farmer, I make around \$5. Unfortunately, I do not work every day of the month; sometimes, I only work three or four days per week. What I make is not enough to help my father and siblings.”**

Jose joined PHA’s Business School and in 2018, he was a constant student and showed great interest in learning, which earned him a special recognition for his hard work.



**“I remember that I have dreamed of having my own business one day. I just haven’t figured out how. Now, with what I have learned at the Business School, I know what I really want and how I can achieve it.”**

**“I must accept I was very scared with the practical exercises I had to make. We had to cook food to sell. At first, I did not want to try doing it so, I convinced one of my sisters to help me and I promised to pay her back. She did and at the end, it was a win-win for us. That was a great lesson for both of us. What I liked learning most was setting fix and variable expenses and how to buy to resell. I also learned a lot about the Bible. The story that impacted me most was Joseph’s and how God helped him to be a good steward in times of crisis.”**

Jose is interested in selling clothes and applying what he has learned at the Business School. He shares he wants to avoid paying rent for a place so, he plans to sell from door to door:



**“The fixed costs of my business would skyrocket if I pay rent so, I hope I can soon start selling from door to door or setting up my store at different places so that I can grow gradually.”**

Additionally, Joseph and his family were blessed with an integrated hygiene services combo. Jose actively helped building it.

# Results

## Guatemala

  
**26,074**  
Treasures  
benefitted

through our holistic  
programs.

  
**14,487**  
benefitted  
through in-kind  
donations

such as: shoes, sugar,  
cereal and staple foods.

  
**51,676**  
lunches and  
nutritious  
snacks served

thanks to these, 58% of the  
Treasures in the Education  
Program are no longer at risk  
of malnourishment.

  
**5,520**  
Treasures served  
by the Health  
Program

through health clinics and  
awareness campaigns.

  
**252**  
Treasures participating  
in the Education  
Program

160 in Elementary School  
and 92 in Secondary School.

  
**752**  
Prayer walks

that impacted the lives of  
2,303 Treasures and 1,643  
bags of staple foods  
delivered.

## North-East

  
**7,062**  
Treasures  
benefitted

4,320 through the Regional  
Office and 2,742 through the  
Community Center in  
Chiquimula.

  
**664**  
Treasures served  
by the Health  
Program

through medical clinics (443  
children and 221 adults  
benefitted).

  
**89**  
Prayer  
Walks

in 3 communities  
(307 children and 217 adults  
benefitted).