

The GOD'S CHILD Project SPECIAL REPORT: OCTOBER 2021

Recently I have had so many questions about the children and our programs, I decided to turn October's newsletter into a special report reviewing the last 18 months. Please, use the enclosed envelope to send in a donation for the children. This Special Report replaces our regular newsletter, and we rely completely on your monthly donations to keep the children's bills paid. With you, we can do it! – PJA

SPECIAL REPORT

18-MONTH PROGRAM REVIEW & PROJECT UPDATE

The Children, Mothers, Programs, and the Team

First and foremost, thank you! Your love and concern for the children of The GOD'S CHILD Project help us save children's lives every day.



Children like four-month Gabriela. Her family did not realize the always-tired tiny baby was slowly suffocating to death due to a large tumor that closed her airway.

When Project volunteer Adriana Germain visited Gabriela at home,

Adriana recognized what was happening, scooped the baby into her arms, and rushed baby and mother to the closest hospital where the baby was diagnosed, treated, and made a full recovery.

For the past 30 years – since our founding on April 24, 1991 – your GOD'S CHILD Project has worked unceasingly to reach deep into some of the poorest and most violent parts of our world to bring hope and relief to hundreds of thousands of people.

We focus mostly on:



**STRONG
EDUCATION**

Raising and educating more than 80,000 impoverished, orphaned, and abandoned boys and girls.



**DIGNIFIED
LIVING**

Utilizing international volunteers to build 2,440 homes for extremely poor families.



**GOOD
HEALTH**

Building and operating 7 schools, 6 clinics, and an in-patient hospital for malnourished children, together serving thousands each year.



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

Developing sustainable job training programs for an additional 46,250 teens, women, and men.

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Our Children, Families, & Programs

Next to God and you, our greatest resource for bringing help to the Project's children and families are our professional teams: the national and international individual and group volunteers, and our full-time team.

When, 18 months ago, different governments began to mandate Covid-related program closures, we made

a commitment to the Project's children, mothers, and families that we would continue to protect and help them in every way possible.

Daily we reviewed local and regional health dynamics and changing laws and modified the life-saving services we provide to the Project's 5,000 children and families.

NUTRITION

Just as we have done for years, every week during the past 18 months we continued to seek out and receive donated food items from Guatemalan farmers, stores, and restaurants, and distribute these at no cost to an

average of 1,300 people each week.



Most of the abandoned, single, and widowed mothers who come to The GOD'S CHILD Project have little to no income.

Almost all of the others who had jobs lost them when Guatemalan businesses were ordered closed. We cannot let these women, and their dependent children and grandparents, go hungry. We continued to feed them using every safety practice possible.

OUR FOSTER FAMILIES

Our Foster Family placement program for orphaned, abandoned, or court-protected children continued to provide loving homes for the children in their care. These Foster Families are for boys and girls who cannot live at home, or simply do not have a home.

We pay each Foster Family \$50 per month to cover the child's room and board, and we also pay for the child's medical care, school, and clothing.



We believe God sent us these suffering children. Through our Foster Family program, to care for them as if they were *Hijos Propios*: children of our own flesh and blood.

OUR SCHOOLS



At the end of 2020, we correctly anticipated that physical schools would be ordered to stay closed during 2021 and possibly 2022. Proactively, we cross-enrolled the several hundred children who study in our GOD'S CHILD

Project's schools in community-based public schools near their homes where the students can receive additional help from government teachers.

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We continue to actively support our students, and to provide those with financial need with child sponsorship and general donation-financed scholarships.

We also provide the Project's school children with supplies, clothing, and tutoring as needed.



Family Clinics at the Dreamer Center and Scheel Center.

Our goal was, is, and will always be to not lose a single Project child due to Covid... and we are accomplishing that.

OUR CLINICS

Like all private clinics in Guatemala, our medical, dental, and psychological care clinics at The Dreamer Center and Scheel Center were closed by Covid-related government decrees in March of 2020. After that happened, we have had to continuously develop new ways to get life-saving medical care to the

Project's children, mothers, and families.



Project team members regularly visit our children in their homes in nearby and distant villages. The children's families also know they can call the Project anytime to request extraordinary medical or academic support.

Several of our staff are trained in both basic and intermediate first aid and have provided the needed medical care for mild illnesses, burns, cuts, and minor injuries. Other children who need more advanced medical attention are taken by our staff to open clinics and hospitals, or to our own Casa Jackson Hospital for Malnourished Children.

We anticipate that soon we will be allowed to offer once again our own medical, dental, and psychological care services, through our Atkinson

CASA JACKSON HOSPITAL FOR MALNOURISHED CHILDREN

At the same time the Guatemalan government ordered other private medical facilities to close due to Covid, it declared our Casa Jackson Hospital for Malnourished Children an invaluable national emergency resource.

Our hospital team was given official license to stay out during the military-enforced Covid-related curfews. Judges, Human Rights Officers, and government offices across the nation referred increasing numbers of babies and children for emergency admittance into Casa Jackson.



During the past 18 months, we have faced two opposing dynamics. One is that villagers who did not understand Covid abandoned babies who showed

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SPECIAL REPORT

signs of illness, including the common cold and flu. The other is that many charitable efforts closed so their staffs could return stateside or stay at home in Guatemala.



With the tremendously increased demand for Casa Jackson Hospital bedspace and emergency medical attention, we hired Vecany Sanchez, a professional in the field who has been a very popular and effective volunteer at Casa Jackson Hospital, to be Casa Jackson's full-time director.

OUR PARENT CLUBS

Sonia Paredes was barely a teenager when she was entered The GOD'S CHILD Project. She studied hard, stayed out of trouble, and earned two Masters degrees. Today Sonia is the Project's in-house psychologist and provides crisis care counseling to the Project's children and mothers, in addition to victims of domestic abuse, rape, and natural disasters.



Sonia also leads the Project's Mothers' Clubs which serve 8,700 mothers and their dependents, as well as our Fathers' Clubs, the first of their kind in Central America.

These Clubs provide positive social outlets for single parents, and those with disabled or drug or alcohol-addicted spouses. In addition, they teach mothers and fathers literacy, basic math, and parenting skills, in addition to job training and creating sustainable development job opportunities.

SANTA MADRE HOMELESS SHELTER

After the government ordered our Santa Madre Homeless Shelter closed on March 28, 2020, due to Covid, our psychologist, Sonia Paredes, implemented the strictest of safety measures and used this facility to meet with individuals and groups, and distribute donated food, clothing, and medical supplies to several hundred people each week.

Since our 25-year use-lease on this city-owned land was scheduled to run out in early 2024, we returned this property to the city on June 4, 2021, after being

informed by the Office of the President that we could not reopen it as a homeless shelter until 2023.



SOCIAL WORK OUTREACH

Under the direction of Brendan Dwyer, our national director for Guatemalan programs, the Project has kept its doors open and our life-saving programs operating during these past 18 months.

Even when the Guatemalan government ordered a military enforced national shutdown, Brendan and his team obtained an exception for the Project, given the thousands of people who depend on our programs for their safety, nutrition, and medical care.



Our Social Work Outreach teams have continued to bring family assistance, crisis care intervention, and emergency transportation to Project participants and their families.

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LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND ITEMP ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROGRAMS

Our Legal Assistance and 'Institute for Trafficked, Exploited & Missing Persons' (www.ITEMP.org) programs have continued to operate without a break in the streets, alleys, judicial and human rights offices, and courtrooms across the region.

To the contrary, the closed schools, businesses, and parks, coupled with lost jobs, social fear, and uncertainties surrounding Covid greatly







created a significant spike in social tension, domestic violence, physical and sexual abuse, and alcohol and drug abuse.


Vanessa Rodas, our in-house attorney, Miguel Angel Alvarez, a national director in Guatemala and our director of legal services, and I have worked nonstop these past 18 months assisting hundreds of victims of violence, human trafficking, and abuse.

Our ServiceTeam and Volunteer Programs

Our ServiceTeam Experience groups and individual volunteers are core to the Project's work, including:

-  **building** homes and flood prevention systems
-  installing potable **water**
-  providing **medical and dental** care
-  distributing donated **clothing and food**

The GOD'S CHILD Project is also directly helped by our visiting group and individual volunteers when they:

-  become one-time or monthly **donors**
-  **sponsor** cribs and children
-  **purchase** Project books, clothing, and coffee
-  **share** their positive experiences with friends and through social media

Prior to March of 2020, the Project's programs in the USA, Guatemala, El Salvador, and India received an average of 62 ServiceTeam Experience groups, and 2,350 individual volunteers per year.

When Covid struck, we worked around-the-clock to get our international volunteers home; a feat we accomplished just hours before borders worldwide began to close.

We are excited as they now begin to return, and project that in 2021 we will have 13 ServiceTeam groups and 51 individual volunteers with us again. As always, their health and safety is our first priority.

BEFORE COVID *average per year*

62 GROUPS **2,350**
INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS

THIS YEAR (2021)

13 GROUPS **51** INDIVIDUAL
VOLUNTEERS

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The GOD'S CHILD Project FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Project's Finances

The GOD'S CHILD Project is fully committed to **fiscal simplicity, responsibility, and transparency.**

- 91% of all donated dollars go directly to help the poor that we serve.
- In the United States, The GOD'S CHILD Project is independently audited by Goldman, Clearfield, & Ocampo, CPA.
- The GOD'S CHILD Project's international programs are independently audited by Anderson Trust Company, CPA.

Your GOD'S CHILD Project has been **nationally recognized** for fiscal leadership, transparency, and responsibility, including:

- Guidestar Gold Medal for financial transparency
- Full Approval by the US Combined Federal Campaign (our CFC # is 96341)
- Platinum Rating from Global Giving International after their visitation, inspection, and program and financial reviews.
- Perfect score of 100 from Charity Navigator

Income & Expenses

The GOD'S CHILD Project saw a significant drop in revenue over the past 18 months, which we believe was caused by Covid-related cancellations of:

- ServiceTeam volunteer groups
- Individual volunteers,
- Special events, galas, and fundraisers, and
- Public speaking opportunities (church, university, social groups, etc.) for GOD'S CHILD Project founder and executive director Patrick Atkinson and volunteers.

Each of these activities are core to the Project's efforts to acquire new donors, donations, sale of Project-related product, and child and crib sponsors.

Since many of our programs transitioned from on-site to off-site and in-the-field operations during these past 18 months, our expenses during this same period also dropped, which allowed us to pay the bills.



CHARITY NAVIGATOR
Your Guide To Intelligent Giving

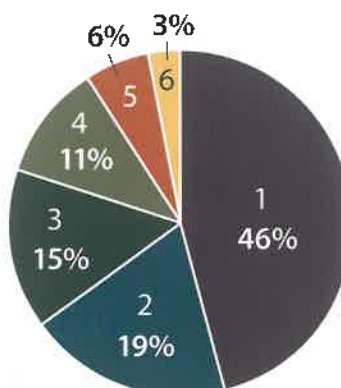
The GOD'S CHILD Project has been awarded a 100% perfect Finance and Accountability score by Charity Navigator, which includes measures of stability, efficiency and sustainability, as well as tracking accountability and transparency policies to ensure the good governance and integrity of the organization.



www.CharityNavigator.org/ein/450422423

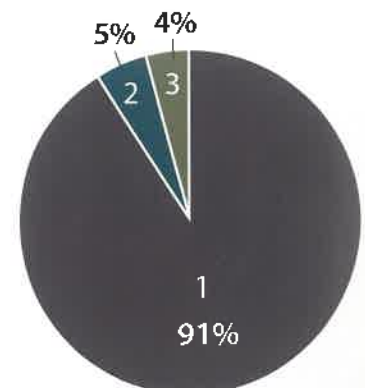
FY20 REVENUE \$2,336,887

1. General Donations
2. Specific Campaigns & Events
3. Child Sponsorship
4. Group & Volunteer Fees
5. Craft & Book Sales
6. Bequests & Memorials



FY20 EXPENSES \$2,434,905

1. Direct Program Services
2. Fundraising
3. Administration



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SPECIAL REPORT: SUMMARY

These Past 18 Months

I wrote this report in lieu of my regular October 2021 newsletter so you could understand what the Project has experienced during these past 18 months, and to show you where we are today.

We are honored, proud, and extremely appreciative that you stayed with the children and Project during these turbulent times.

With you, we have built over the past 30 years a model program that reaches deep into some of the poorest, and most violent parts of our world to bring health, education, and safe housing.

With you, we have survived wars, earthquakes, hurricanes, volcanic explosions, economic collapses, and now a historical pandemic while we raise, educate, and bring hope for the future to orphaned and abandoned children and mothers.

And with you, and **only with you** and God's continued blessing, we will move into the future stronger, braver, and more committed than ever to help those who need you and us the most. We are excited for the future.

Thank you for saying 'yes'. You can't imagine how appreciative we are for you.



Patrick Atkinson
Founder, Executive Director



REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDS

The Project's children, families, and programs lost several very dear friends during these past 18 months, including two board members.

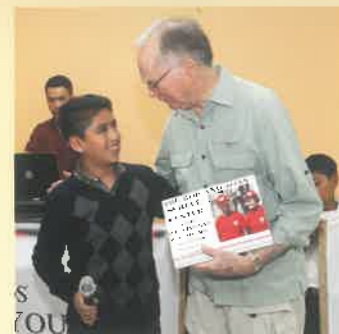


Mattie Rupp (Stillwater, MN) was one of the Project's earliest supporters and benefactors, and over the year she and her husband Bob spent several winters volunteering with the

Project's programs in Guatemala. Mattie was a years-long member of The GOD'S CHILD Project, and frequent speaker about her experiences in churches and social clubs. Her husband Bob continues to serve as a member of the board.

Bob Scheel (Fargo, ND) was a long-time Project supporter as well as the sponsor for six children. Over the years, he was a member and officer of both The GOD'S CHILD Project and GCP Foundation's board of directors, as well as one of Patrick Atkinson's closest advisors.

Bob, Mattie, and all our friends whom we lost during these past 18 months are dearly missed and are remembered in our thoughts and prayers daily.



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THIS MONTH
*A Special 18-Month
Report for You about
Saving Lives, Constantly
Adapting, and Always
Paying the Bills*

WE HAVE EVEN MORE GREAT NEWS FOR YOU!

Melvin, the small boy with potentially fatal eye cancer who was the focus of September's GOD'S CHILD Project monthly newsletter, recently went to an appointment at the Children's Cancer Unit in Guatemala's City Roosevelt Hospital... and was **declared cancer-free!**

A week later, Project team members Robbie Middleton (England) and Rodolfo Toc (Guatemala) accompanied Melvin to an eye art specialist who fitted Melvin with a custom-made prosthetic eye. It looks great.

We can do special work like this only because of you who know you are part of The GOD'S CHILD Project family and shared your prayers and/or made that extra

donation to help cover the not-donated portion of Melvin's medical bills.

From Melvin, his mother, his future wife and children, and us... thank you!



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