

2020 Annual Impact Report



*Feeding the mind, body
and spirit within
the community of the
La Mosquitia region
through
unwavering
compassion since 2010.*



REACH OUT HONDURAS

Academic and Spiritual Outreach



A Message from our Co-Founders

ALEX AND LAURA WAITS

Welcome Friends!

2020 MARKS THE 10TH YEAR OF REACH OUT HONDURAS.

10 years of God's love and faithfulness poured out in the La Mosquitia region of Honduras.

Within this *Annual Impact Report*, you will see numbers. Each and every number is a name, a face, a story. **We each have a God-story**; the story for which we were designed and the unique contribution our story makes in this world. At Reach Out Honduras, we have the honor to help our students discover their God-story in a safe environment. We also have the joy of seeing their stories lived out in color, day-after-day, on the campus of Abundant Life Institute.

Within these pages, you will read the individual stories of four students. As you read about Jalmar, Maria, Duwaith and Katy, we pray you will listen for God's voice within their stories. **He is at work in these lives and many others** on the remote La Mosquitia region of Honduras.

As you discover the hope of our students, we pray that your own hope is renewed to share your God-story without fear.

Ever onward and upward toward the Father,

Alex and Laura Waits

Co-Founders, Reach Out Honduras



Alex and Laura, circa 2010



Core Values:

- Living like Christ
- Others first
- Virtue
- Excellence



The number of people touched through the ministry is over:

2,500

What are our former graduates doing in 2020?

40%
Studying

30%
Working

21%
Preparing to Study

9%
No Contact

Not including Adult Education program.



What We Do...

We Educate

At Abundant Life Institute, we currently educate 500 students. Our school model is recognized and respected by the Honduran Education system.

Propelled and motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, our on-the-ground team works to help our students grow in their faith. Through Bible studies, weekly worship and counseling, our students are encouraged in their spiritual walk.

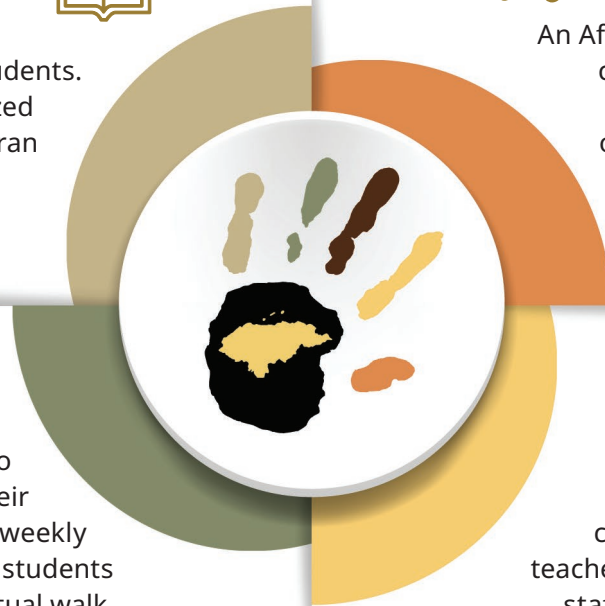
We Disciple

We Nourish

An African proverb says, "A hungry child has no ears to hear." Our daily Feeding Program feeds over 180,000 meals each year, allowing our students to remain focused and attentive in class each day.

Abundant Life Institute is one of the largest private employers in the region. Through stable employment, competitive benefits and a full teacher development program, our staff feels valued and important.

We Employ



Abundant Life Institute Program



Abundant Life Institute is a Christian middle and high school for grades 7-12

located in the remote La Mosquitia region of Honduras. Our students come from economically-challenged backgrounds. Middle and high school are financially out of reach for most, even the public school which charges for uniforms, books, school supplies and exams.

74.5% 
GRADUATE

74.5% of students who start at Abundant Life Institute graduate.

Compared to 25.6% graduation rate in other parts of the region.

Duwaith



This is Duwaith, an Abundant Life Institute (ALI) senior who will graduate in December 2020 with a degree in Accounting and Finance.

Duwaith often talks about how ALI has impacted him: "When I entered ALI, I thought I was a bad student. ALI has taught me to appreciate who God created me to be. My self-esteem is high." Today, Duwaith is an Honor Roll student.

One of Duwaith's dreams is to study psychology: "Since I have entered Abundant Life Institute, I have seen the need for psychological help among our students. When I finish my studies, I want to return to the school and teach future students what I have lived and learned. I want to set future students on the path to happiness and success."

Also, he has been tremendously impacted by the ALI Feeding Program: "Without food, we cannot live. It is basic. Some of us do not eat at home. Every day, the school gives us breakfast and lunch. One of the most important things ALI has provided me is the ability to eat regularly. Thank you!"



Jalmar

This is Jalmar, a husband and father of three, who studies in our Saturday adult education program. Jalmar will graduate with a high school degree in 2020.

Jalmar speaks to the impact of the Adult Education program in his life: "I started working as a boy and I continue to work hard so that my family can live well. I was not able to reach high school graduation because my parents did not have the resources. I started working as a driver's assistant and then I learned to be a mechanic which is how I support my family today. Abundant Life Institute's Adult Education program motivated me to continue my schooling to reach my objective and complete my dream of a high school education and to be a professional."

And to ALI's impact in the community: "Many youth have been able to reach their dreams. For many years in the past, we did not have this opportunity to study in our region. Many thanks to Abundant Life Institute for the new opportunities that you have brought to the Miskito people to improve the welfare of all. God rain down thousands of abundant blessings to everyone who has given their grain of sand to be able to help young people, single moms, orphans and fathers reach their dreams."

Adult Education Program



Every Saturday morning at 6:00 a.m., adults from around Puerto Lempira arrive on the school campus to begin their one-year program to receive their high school education. It inspires the soul to watch these moms and dads sacrificing their Saturdays to reach the **goal of receiving a diploma.**

4.8 Honduran adults have an average of 4.8 years of education.



90 As of 2020, we will have over 90 graduates of the Adult Education Program.

Maria



This is Maria. She graduated from Abundant Life Institute in December 2018 and scored high on her university admission exam. Maria is one of the Reach Out Honduras Dream Big! College scholarship recipients. Thanks to the Dream Big! Program, in January, Maria started university to be a Nurse.

Maria speaks of her time at ALI with fondness and appreciation: "Being at Abundant Life was one of the most beautiful experiences that I have had. I learned many things: love for my neighbor, humility, unity, how to help those that need help and how to make a difference. I learned that with God nothing is impossible and that dreams can become reality."

Maria also thanks everyone involved to get her where she is today: "I want to thank God and everyone who made this scholarship possible. I want to take full advantage of this opportunity and realize my dream of becoming a nurse. I want to come back to my community and help my people. I want to be an agent of change and make a difference."

College Scholarship Program

The College Scholarship Program was born in 2018. With these funds, we provide as many college scholarships to Abundant Life graduates as possible.

Currently, we have students studying computer engineering, architecture, English, nursing, etc. under the College Scholarship Program. Any donation to this program is appreciated. For \$250 per month, you, your church or small group can sponsor a scholarship for one student.

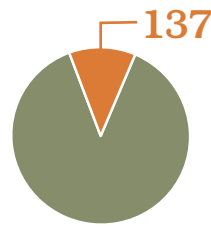


< 10%

Under 10% of Honduran high school graduates attend and then graduate from university.

New Life Project

Teen pregnancy in Central America often brings an end to a young woman's education. Cultural pressures, responsibilities with children, lack of commitment by fathers and many other difficulties prevent teen moms from continuing their education.



Honduras has the highest adolescent birthrate in Central America, at 137 births for every 1,000 15-19-year-olds.



This is Katy. She is 19 years old, a wife and mom to two energetic boys. Katy studied in the Reach Out Honduras New Life Program as a young mom and will graduate from high school in 2020.

In early 2016, 16-year-old Katy arrived in Puerto Lempira from Nicaragua. She had a three-year-old son named Jesus and wanted to continue her studies beyond 6th grade but was without the funds or support to continue her education. At this same time, Reach Out Honduras made a decision to begin an accelerated education program for teen moms (and now, dads). Project New Life was born due to the high number of teen pregnancies in the region and

the challenges of young moms in continuing their education. Katy was part of the inaugural class of 7th graders in 2016. She is now in 10th grade in our Adult Education program and will reach her goal of high school graduation.

Katy shows appreciation for the programs at Abundant Life Institute: "I feel so proud to have studied in the New Life Project and now in the Adult Education on Saturdays. These projects changed my life. If it were not for the New Life Project, I would not have been able to continue my studies. I say thank you to everyone who worked hard to make this project happen. We are so proud of our school."

A special thank you to attorney Michelle Vickery who believed in the dream of the New Life Project and provided the seed funds and prayers to make the project happen.

Katy



A Message from the Board Chair

JEFF GOULD



Born from hearts of the deepest Christ-like love, Reach Out Honduras, through the calling and vision of our co-founders, Alex and Laura Waits, saw a great educational chasm in the lives of the kids in the very impoverished La Mosquitia region of Honduras. The gap so great that many of the kids we encounter come to us with few dreams about their future and very little hope in how to attain any they might have.

We believe that God sees our kids as Kings and Queens with huge hearts, thriving through new found spiritual and physical nourishment and we thank Him at every moment for allowing each of us to play a small part.

In a small village called Puerto Lempira, Abundant Life Institute (John 10:10) opened its gates in February 2014 with around 60 students and handful of staff. Since then, we have striven, first and foremost, to become a source of LOVE, unconditional Christ-like LOVE, through which we teach love and give hope, feeding both spiritual and physical hunger.

We are providing high-quality education as well as feeding nearly 500 students and 48 staff in 2020. What we have learned through God's infinite grace and wisdom, is that He was already there preparing the way and we are merely His hands and feet.

In this report, what you have heard from our students gives a small window into the many stories and successes that are taking place daily through the ministry. Together with your partnership, we have seen Abundant Life Institute grow to one of the largest private employers in the region. The reach of the school goes far beyond the dreams we imagined in the beginning, thanks to God's great mercy and His ever-present wisdom. Thank you for partnering with Reach Out Honduras to bring hope to kids and adults. They come to our gates from the despair of poverty into an opportunity for education, bringing light to their hopes and dreams.

With a humbled heart of gratitude, I finish with a few lyrics of the song, *Kings and Queens* by Audio Adrenaline that resonate deeply with me:

These could be our daughters and our sons

And just like a drum I can hear their hearts beating

I know my God won't let them be defeated

Every child has a dream to belong and be loved

Boys become kings, girls will be queens

REACH OUT HONDURAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeff Gould - Board Chair

James Templer - Treasurer

Kristin Kidd - Secretary

Bethany Gray - Missionary Care and Volunteer Coordinator

Gary Cochran - Spiritual Director

Charlie James - Co-fundraising Director

Russell Hall - Co-fundraising Director

Alex Waits - Co-founder

Laura Waits - Co-founder

Natalie Salazar - At-large Member

Heidi Lawrence - At-large Member

Glenda Collins - At-large Member



REACH OUT HONDURAS

Academic and Spiritual Outreach

ReachOutHonduras.org

EMAIL:
laura@reachouthonduras.org

INSTAGRAM:
reachouthonduras

P.O. Box 2993
McKinney, TX 75070