

Impact Update



REACH OUT  HONDURAS

Academic and Spiritual Outreach

A Message from the Board Chair

RUSSELL HALL

Navigating Change, Embracing Hope, Moving Forward Together

As we have wrapped up 2020 and moved into 2021, we want to look back and reflect as we also move forward. When we do look back, what do we see?

We see a world that is torn apart. We see in our own country strife and discord. We see a worldwide pandemic that is wreaking havoc and completely disrupting life for so many. We see at our own Abundant Life Institute, the inability to meet in person for the daily instruction and interaction that our students need. This all seems so heavy and negative. But if we look closer, we see something amazing. We see the faculty and staff of Abundant Life Institute serving as the hands and feet of Jesus. The food that would have normally been used for the daily feeding program for our students became a lifeline of food for the community. When the people in Puerto

Lempira were hungry and unable to even leave their homes to secure food, we had permission from the local government to deliver food packs. When two hurricanes ravaged the region, our school served as a centralized hub for the supply of materials and the repairing of homes in the community. We helped local partners purchase food for distribution in the surrounding villages, helped source building supplies, and provided manpower to help rebuild the damaged structures. So, in retrospect, it seems to me like 2020 was one massive opportunity for our ministry to excel and truly make a difference in the lives of the community that we serve. I believe we rose to that challenge.

We have moved into 2021 with excitement and anticipation.

The challenges of this past year have helped us to grow and to become stronger. The desire for education in the La Mosquitia region is as strong as ever. The commitment from the faculty and staff is apparent and the results are visible. As we strive for EXCELLENCE in all we do, we thank God for the opportunity to serve.

Thank you for partnering with us!
Russell Hall



2020 Wins!



During a time of extensive unemployment and economic stagnation due to the shutdown in Honduras, we are so thankful to have been able to continue paying our 46 staff members so they could continue caring for their own families while working so hard to care for our students and their families as well.

Despite classes ceasing for the majority of the year, we were able to get our 85 graduating students in towards the end of the semester to finish their credits and examinations.



80% of our finance/ accounting and tourism graduates had job offers upon graduation.

We were ecstatic to see local businesses seeking out our students to join their operations.

BY THE NUMBERS

46

Staff Members
and Teachers
SUSTAINABLY
EMPLOYED



85

GRADUATES



80%

JOB OFFERS
for finance / accounting
and tourism graduates

Teacher Development



Hard Work Paying Off

At Abundant Life Institute, we have both staff and teachers working together to make it all happen!

We are passionate about paying ALL of our full-time employees a living wage and believe that by doing so we invest not only into the health, wellbeing, and future of their families but also empower them to invest in themselves. Two of our long-time staff members Loren and Jonatan did just that, and in 2020 officially graduated with their teaching degrees! Here are their stories:

Loren



Loren is an absolute joy to have on our team. This is her 5th year with us at Abundant Life Institute. As of 2020, she officially obtained her Primary Education Teaching Degree. Loren has worked as our Office Administrator and Assistant in our New Life Project for teen moms and dads over the years, and we are excited to see her career journey continue to develop. We are passionate about seeing individuals like Loren working in their passions and growing as professionals to take on new positions as our programs continue to grow and expand. Thank you for investing in our staff and creating doors of opportunity!

Jonatan started at Abundant Life Institute in 2014 when he came to our front gate and asked if he could help us start a school band. What started as a few students and donated instruments grew into a school band of hundreds of students over the years. We were even asked to participate in a nationally televised celebration last year! Jonatan has also worked with us as our Art Teacher for several years. In 2020 Jonatan received his Bachelor's degree in Bilingual Intercultural Basic Education. He will be starting on his next degree for teaching Higher Education soon through our Teacher Development Program! Jonatan is a passionate and committed advocate for his students and we are so thankful to have him with us. We are excited to see how our Music and Art programs continue to grow under his leadership.

Jonatan



Teacher of the Year 2020

CRISTIAN TALAVERA

Meet Teacher and Engineer
Cristian Talavera, our teacher
of the year for 2020!



Cristian

Profe Cristian started with us in 2017 as our IT high school teacher and has grown to be a critical part of Abundant Life Institute! In 2019, he took on the role of Secretary as well as Coordinator of 9th grade and Coordinator of our GED Accelerated program for adults. He has since joined our Executive Leadership team on the ground with our Director Eustaquio and Assistant Director Kenny where he helps oversee and lead our various programs. Always content to work and serve in the background, we affectionately call him our Hard Drive as he makes sure everything is running as efficiently and smoothly as possible and is always on the lookout for innovative ways to better execute our mission.

College Scholarship Program

Our hope is for our students to dream big about their futures and to equip them to grow into future leaders and changemakers in their community. We believe part of our role in making that hope a reality is supporting them through the critical transition after graduation in whatever ways we can. While not every one of our students dream of college, many do, and we desire to prevent financial barriers from hindering their education and development after they leave Abundant Life Institute.

Elsa Jimena graduated from the Abundant Life Institute in 2020 with her concentration in Tourism. Our vocational tracks provide two years of practical learning designed to develop the skills needed to enter the workforce immediately upon graduation or to give our students a preparatory edge before continuing their studies elsewhere. As one of our College Scholarship recipients, Elsa Jimena is now studying Tourism at University in Roatan where she is living and studying near family. We are so proud of Jimena and her hard work and are so excited to see where her career takes her!

Elsa



Our Covid Response

Our Covid Response

While the changes and challenges from the pandemic have been seen and felt globally, the implications of the shutdown in Honduras for remote regions like ours have been drastic.

With the majority of our student's parents being day laborers, the shutdown meant significantly fewer work opportunities this past year during a time in which all our students were home and not receiving our normal two meals a day after schools were closed. The compounding effect of these two factors created an emergency situation for many of our student's families.

PHASE 1

With class out of session, we immediately shifted our focus to providing critical nutritional support to as many of our families as we could to help offset their food expenses. Throughout 2020, our teachers executed three rounds of food distribution of basic and long-lasting staples.

244 food bags distributed (focus on families needing urgent assistance)

PHASE 2

The second phase of our response was developing and distributing supplemental curriculum packets to help keep students busy at home (and staying refreshed with materials.) Our teachers developed three rounds of packets for their respective grades, delivered them to their student's homes (which for some involved several hour trips out into surrounding villages), and followed up to grade and answer questions upon completion.



Our Covid Response

PHASE 3

The third phase of our response was making the necessary preparations and updates around the school to ensure we could open back up when possible. This involved the construction and installation of a hand-washing station and making enough masks for all our staff and students. We partnered with Dr. Marianne Serkland and a group of our students in her neighborhood to get 500 masks made and provide payment for their work as well.

PHASE 4

Additionally, we are so thankful and proud to say we were able to continue paying all of our staff's salaries at 100% throughout 2020. This meant they were able to continue providing for their families during a time of widespread unemployment and scarcity in the region.



Hurricane Relief

Generous Help

After an already difficult year, October and November brought two back-to-back category 4 and 5 hurricanes that both directly hit the Mosquito coast and only two weeks apart from each other. Homes were damaged, crops depended on by thousands flooded, and many from the surrounding rural villages were displaced due to flooding and evacuations into Puerto Lempira.

Thanks to our amazing community who gave generously to quickly help our staff respond to needs on the ground, we were able to:

- Donate food to evacuation shelters as Iota moved in: 12,000 lemps (\$500)
- Repair roofs and homes in our area (fixing seven of our student's families homes): 36,000 lemps (\$1,500)
- Distribute more food support to 40 families
- Partner with Pastor Bertín, one of our student's fathers and Pastor of our local Church of God where many of our staff and students attend, to fund the purchase of food and supplies for village distribution after the hurricanes: 20,000 lemps (\$833)



Vision and Goals for 2021

Our Vision for 2021

While we are thankful to have been able to return to face to face classes, this has had to happen with a modified schedule of shorter and fewer days. Recovering from the year off is going to take time, and the reality is that the implications of the Pandemic are still yet to be fully seen on the ground in Honduras since the situation continues to evolve.

This reality makes your involvement and contribution all the more critical as we work to support our students and the community of La Mosquitia in every way that we can.



Our Goals for 2021



- Resettling our students back into their studies after a year of disruption.
- Planning for a new Vocational Track to possibly launch in 2022 for 11th and 12th graders; adding Agricultural Engineering to our current program options of Tourism and Accounting / Finance.

100%

**FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES
make at or above
a living wage**

100% of our full-time employees make at or above a living wage (\$277 per month according to The Anker Living Wage Reference Value)



Our Programs



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 school and high school are financially out of reach for most, even the public school which charges for uniforms, books, school supplies and exams.



Adult Education Program

Every Saturday morning at 6:00 a.m., adults from around Puerto Lempira arrive on the school campus for a 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.



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 this program. Any donation to this program is greatly appreciated. For \$250 per month, you, your church or small group can sponsor a scholarship for one student.



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.



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

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.

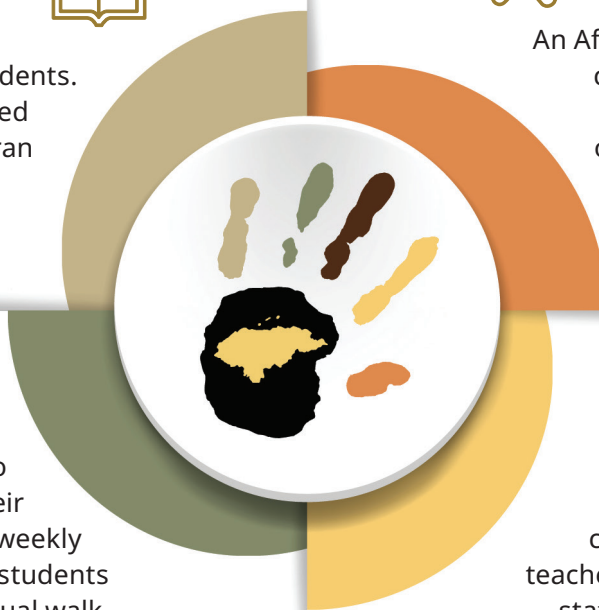
We Disciple

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



Become a Hope Builder



Hope Builders is our dedicated family of over 100 monthly donors who are committed to seeing youth and adults alike reach their fullest potential in the remote region of La Mosquitia, Honduras.

These supporters are the champions of Reach Out Honduras, making our mission to provide accessible and holistic education both possible and sustainable.

Today we serve around 500 students alongside our team of Honduran leaders. At 46 current staff members, Reach Out Honduras has become one of the largest private employers in the region.

Finances can vary, and while some years may come with amazing and substantial gifts, the careful stewardship of Reach Out Honduras by our monthly donors is the key to making our work sustainable over time and allowing us to plan for the long term.

Join us in educating, employing, feeding, discipling, and building a more beautiful world together.



MONTHLY GIVING OPTIONS

- \$5** FEED a student for 2 weeks
- \$10** FEED a student monthly
- \$25** SUPPORT a teen mom's education
- \$50** SPONSOR a student
- \$100** SPONSOR 2 students
- \$250** SPONSOR a college student



REACH OUT HONDURAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Alex Waits – *Co-founder*
- Bethany Gray – *Mission Care & Volunteer Coordinator*
- Gary Cochran – *Spiritual Advisor*
- Glenda Collins – *Advisory*
- Heidi Lawrence – *Advisory*
- James Templer – *Treasurer*
- Kristin Kidd – *Secretary*
- Laura Waits – *Co-founder and Honduras Staff Liaison*
- Natalie Salazar – *Advisory*
- Russell Hall – *Board Chairman*



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