NEPAL: Walking to school through the Himalayas carrying your sister? Sounds like a job for SUPER SISTER!

KENYA: Homemade soccer ball. Who needs Wilson?

HONDURAS: DIY haircuts strike again! Meet our future barbershop entrepreneurs.

INDIA: Masks and social distancing are the new normal for school children in India.

CAMEROON: Girls Against Rape camps are making a big stir in Kumba!

PERU: How do you grow food in the frigid temperatures above 10,000’? Greenhouses = food in the high Andes!

MOROCCO: Traditional artisans and their beautiful trades will outlast the pandemic, thanks to Amal.

GUATEMALA: No more surviving on the streets! Safe homes and an education are here!

CAMBODIA: Educating Cambodia’s poorest is a family affair for Koy.

COVER: IHER students in Honduras constructed a cafeteria for their school. Women from the local community now have an income-generating business selling food in the cafeteria, and students who travel from a distance have a place to buy and eat a hot lunch.
Dear Friends,

This has been a very tough year all over the globe! From a health crisis to dangerous hunger, our project areas have been reeling. But our donors have been so generous in response that we were able to add important relief work to our efforts without impacting our development work. In fact, the crisis opened many doors for new projects, new directions, and new ideas that will have beneficial effects for years to come.

For example, because of the pandemic and our effort to improve core health among our more than 22,000 villagers in India, we learned that 63% were suffering diarrhea and cramping from intestinal worms. As a result, we started a mobile clinic to tackle intestinal health. Also in India, hunger caused by the lockdowns opened a connection with the Kattunayakan Tribals living on the outskirts of Karaikudi, and now we have new after-school centers to support the education of Kattunayakan children.

Emergency food distributions during the pandemic gave us an opportunity to negotiate a truce between gangs in our Honduran neighborhoods; there are probably 60 people alive today who wouldn’t have been otherwise. And after years of despair with little hope for the future, the communities are filled with excited optimism.

Worsening conditions during the pandemic finally drove us to tackle child rape in Cameroon, and, because of our efforts, child rape is being openly discussed at large for the first time! This is a first and crucial step in shifting cultural norms.

The loss of tourist income due to the pandemic forced us to address income diversification amongst our Quechua families in Peru. We are pursuing some very promising ideas, and no tourists means our families have time to develop these new opportunities. In the end, our families are going to be in a far better position as a result.

These are examples of positive developments that emerged out of the Covid-19 crisis. We thank you for being on this journey with us!

Sincerely,

Lisa Robinson-Spader

Lisa Robinson-Spader
President, Global Pearls, Inc.
Gaining the trust of street children is not easy, but Sandra and Carlos (who was himself a street child from the age of six) patiently reached out for years. This year we finally added street children to our scholarship program, and we invite you to learn a little about their lives in this video as they celebrate Christmas for the first time.

And here’s some equally exciting news! Last year we informed you that we “lost” our mining children when the mines were closed, but six months later the gravel mines reopened so our mining children came back!

HILDA – A Child of the Mines

Hilda is a child whose family works in the gravel mines of Guatemala. This is one of the most grueling jobs I’ve seen – using a sledgehammer from dawn to dusk to break rocks into gravel. It is also a dangerous and very low-paid job. Several years ago, the Guatemalan government passed laws making it illegal for women and children to work in the mines, but the pay is so low that families have great difficulty surviving if mothers and children don’t also work. As dangerous as the mines are, it is even more dangerous to leave young children unattended with both parents working outside the home, so mothers and children often work surreptitiously in the mines with the fathers. The government regularly sends people to monitor the mines, and if a woman is caught working, the husband is sent to jail. It is therefore difficult, as you can imagine, to win the trust of these people who treat everyone as a potential spy for the government.

If the government provides the “stick” to keep children out of the mines, we provide the “carrot”. If children want to attend school, we provide the required uniforms, shoes, and textbooks which are all beyond the reach of these mining families. The few, brave children who joined our Estudia Con Amor program the first year jointly wrote us a letter that said, “We were forgotten children, but now we feel important... and loved.” Those children broke the ice, and all the mining families now trust us. Hilda is one of the initial students in the program; she is currently 10 years old.

Unfortunately, last May the police discovered two children (not in our program) working in the mines. They shut the mines down and gave the families three days to evacuate or face arrest. Our mining families scattered. Hilda’s family fled with the others, and they struggled to survive on temporary jobs harvesting the crops in fields that belong to other farmers. Working in the mines, they were able to eat three modest meals a day of beans and tortillas, but during the six months away from the mines they were only able to eat one meal each day. Hilda’s family could no longer afford to pay rent on a dilapidated room that served as their home, so they made a makeshift shelter out of cardboard and rusted, corrugated tin. Hilda and the other mining families suffered terribly during those months.

Finally, after six months, the government reopened the mines and allowed families to come back, so Hilda is once again in our program. She received a warm parka for the upcoming cold, winter months and was anxious to return to school. She and the other children in the program were excited to be back and showered us with
warm embraces. Hilda summed up their feelings well when she said, “My heart is grateful to have your love and your financial help. We feel protected with you. We love you.” For children who are constantly hiding and afraid, distrustful of most everyone, that is the highest of compliments! And we feel so grateful to have them back!

HIGHLIGHTS:
- **Scholarships**: Our mining children returned and street children were added to the program. Altogether we made school possible for 94 children.
- **Street Children**: In addition to education scholarships, we helped these children with weekly supplies of rice and beans so they could attend school M-F without having to work. They also received mattresses, wool blankets, rain boots, socks, towels, soap, and, for the first time in their lives, Christmas gifts wrapped in pretty paper!
- **Parkas**: 96 warm parkas were distributed to children who had nothing warm to wear in the cold winter months.
- **Food Distribution**: Many families live hand-to-mouth, and pandemic shutdowns meant no work = no food. We distributed emergency food baskets to our own families as well as other mining families who would not have survived without our help.
- **A New House**: One of our scholarship girls lost her home when it was washed away in 2019 flooding. For nine months the family rotated among neighbors to keep shelter over their heads. In 2020 we purchased the needed materials so they could rebuild their house, and the family provided the labor. It was finished just in time for the next rainy season! With all our programs, we stress among our beneficiaries that they now are part of a Global Pearls family – they no longer need to struggle alone!

HONDURAS – IHER – SOR MARTA SOTO

IHER is a radio school for children who cannot attend standard school due to poverty, distance, or danger. Apparently, they are also a perfect school for a pandemic! While other schools had to close, IHER just kept on going!

HIGHLIGHTS:
- **Scholarships**: 140 scholarships were given to students who wouldn’t otherwise be able to attend secondary school.

LOWLIGHTS:
- **Regional centers**: Since students were not able to gather once a week as they normally do, they were not able to brainstorm and implement the student-based community projects that are such a beautiful part of this program. Instead, we redirected those funds to help regional IHER centers stay afloat when their revenue plummeted during the pandemic.
Un Futuro Mejor is a gang-intervention program in one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in the world. The changes we’ve seen over the past year have made this one of our most exciting and encouraging projects. What we love best? We’ve never before seen entire communities work together so passionately to make a project succeed – from old men to young children, and from non-gang members to gang leaders themselves! Here are some highlights from the year.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- **Vocational training:** Vocational training was conducted in electricity, computers, hair cutting, sewing, and English. The electrical classes included hands-on work at construction sites, and a nice set of electrical tools was given to everyone who completed the electrical training so they could acquire jobs.

- **Water project:** Jeremias dug a well and community members dug ditches to lay piping. This made clean, running water accessible to 600 families who formerly needed to purchase water from stores.

- **Comedor:** A comedor was built to feed the young children of the community. It was inaugurated with two big celebrations – one in each main gang territory – where 700 children received a meal, participated in games, soccer, bouncy houses, dancing, animal balloons, face painting, piñatas... These children had never before experienced such a fantastic event! Check out this two-minute video to experience the joy our kids felt!

- **Soccer:** 85 youth received soccer coaching and mentorship, participating in weekly games and tournaments prior to the pandemic. One of the older players was selected for a professional team in Colombia, and a girls’ team was added this year (taking total players to 105).

- **Food:** During Covid-19 shutdowns, emergency food distributions for over 1000 families and toilet paper to the rescue for 510 inmates. 75% of our households have a family member in jail, and TP must be provided by friends and family, which was not possible when the country was completely shut down, so inmates were desperate!

- **Solar Panels:** We initiated a solar panel manufacturing pilot to test the idea of building solar panels locally. Our panels have a significant cost advantage over imported panels, and we plan to expand this project in the future to create many jobs in the neighborhood.

- **Gang truce:** In mid-April, Jeremias negotiated a truce between the two largest gangs in the area. Prior to the truce, there were an average of 10 murders per month among our 2,100 families. Since the truce there have been zero gang-related murders as of this writing at the end of September!
This past year has been particularly hard on Peru. They have one of the highest per capita Covid-19 cases in the world, and the complete disappearance of tourism has left many economically shattered. It also means that the people in our project area have unexpected time on their hands, so they have been able to make great progress on the projects. Even Covid-19 has a silver lining.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Warm-weather crops**: Our irrigation project in Santa Rosa was completed, and the families in Marampata can make the 3,000’ descent to cultivate warm-weather crops in addition to the cold-weather crops they grow at higher altitude. Families planted avocados, bananas, pumpkins, onions, tomatoes, garlic, passion fruit, cassava, and peppers. We provided them with the seeds, seedlings, chickens, and tools to expand their agricultural production so they can now feed their families indefinitely until tourism returns.

- **Water system**: The drinking water system that serves Marampata had been neglected, but we provided the needed materials to clean and repaint their reservoir with a waterproof coating that also keeps it from cracking. They replaced broken pipes and re-buried pipes that had become exposed along their 3km of piping. Finally, they built fences around their reservoir to protect it from cows and other animals that graze on the mountain so the water would no longer be contaminated by animal waste. Tourists who pass through Marampata on their way to Choquequirao will appreciate that as much as our villagers!

- **Thatched roofing**: A few years ago, the government replaced the thatched roofing in Marampata with tin roofs. They work well to keep the houses dry, but the heavy rains are deafening as they pound against the tin roofs, and the town lost its traditional look. Villagers used the shutdown to construct thatched roofs on top of the tin roofs in all the villages along the Choquequirao Trail. Villagers are very happy with the quiet roofs, and the villages are now much more picturesque for tourists when they return.

- **New trail and bridge**: During the rainy season last year, the trail and bridge that connect Marampata with Yanama were taken out by a landslide. That left Yanama cut off from their traditional supply route and blocked the tourist trekking trail between Choquequirao and Machu Picchu. The trail was rerouted, and men from Marampata rebuilt the trail on the Marampata side of the Rio Blanco while folks from Yanama rebuilt the other side.

- **Food**: Four months of food rations were given to every family who participated in the work projects noted above.
MOROCCO – AMAL – NORA FITZGERALD BELAHCHEN

Amal trains marginalized women in various aspects of the food industry, and the “champions,” as Nora refers to them, gain hands-on experience running a successful restaurant in the tourist district of Marrakech. They also prepare and deliver lunches to schools and businesses around the city. The women chosen for the program are desperately poor and, sometimes, have physical challenges such as blindness or Downs Syndrome.

Khaoula, with Downs Syndrome, is such an example. She is the sous-chef of service at the Amal Restaurant. Besides being excellent at her job, she is an accomplished tennis player and participated in the US Paralympic Games. After training at Amal Center, the staff was so impressed by Khaoula’s abilities that she was invited to stay on as a part-time sous-chef. She enjoys her job at Amal where she gets to meet people, and she loves sharing her knowledge with the trainees. She says “Being at Amal allowed me to meet people who love me and accept me the way I am and it really encourages me to just live my life and not care what people might say about my condition.”

With so much emphasis on feeding people, it was only natural that Amal would kick into high gear during the pandemic to feed the many desperate families who lost their income when tourists disappeared and businesses and schools shuttered.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Vocational Training:** 30 women graduated from the training program last December and found permanent jobs working in restaurants, hotels, and riads around Marrakech. 30 new women started training over the winter, though their training was put on hold when the restaurant had to close due to Covid-19 shutdowns.
- **Feeding the Hungry:** 2150 families received two weeks of food during the shutdowns. In Nora’s words, “The process was incredibly emotional: to witness people’s joy as they received precious food when they didn’t know where their next meal would come from, as well as the heartbreak of grown men crying in relief because they had been so worried about feeding their children.” Don’t miss this video showing their efforts.
- **Supporting Front-Line Workers:** 2000 large sandwiches were given to health-care workers who were unable to access food because they weren’t allowed to return to their families (for fear of spreading the disease) and stores were closed by the time they got off their shifts.
- **Caring for Artisans:** Traditional artisans of Marrakech were financially devastated by the disappearance of tourists. Nora and friends started a special campaign to help them until the lockdowns are over with food and small stipends to help pay rent and buy medicines.
Etang is passionate about education because he knows firsthand how it can transform lives. Whether it is work in schools, or vocational training, or agricultural instruction, his primary focus is educating vulnerable populations, especially women, to open up opportunities to improve their lives. His second passion is tackling gender-based violence because it is such an intractable problem in Cameroon. Rape is pervasive and unpunished, and men actually believe it is their obligation to beat their wives to show their love. Each of his projects therefore includes a workshop on gender-based violence, human rights, and how to advocate for oneself and others when facing domestic or other violence. When project participants are surveyed, this is overwhelmingly chosen as the most valuable component of the project!

This year there was a twist to these workshops. For the first time, men from the villages were included in the trainings. The reaction of the men was mixed, with a few men voicing opposition to the teachings. But the majority of the men present not only accepted the messages, but also actively countered arguments put forth by the reticent few. In this culture, where gender-based violence is considered not just a man’s right, but an actual duty, this was greatly encouraging. The women, unsurprisingly, uniformly embraced the teachings and were bold in voicing their stand against violence during the workshop. Etang said, “It was a wonderful experience since it was my first time talking to such a group with mixed sexes.”

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Orphanage Gardens**: Etang helped three small orphanages develop agricultural gardens by supplying seeds and tools as well as training. The children gained practical skills in organic farming, ample food was grown to overcome malnutrition, and income was raised for educational materials – benefits that will continue indefinitely. He also helped them with basic needs, such as school materials and sleeping mattresses, as the children were sleeping on the ground.

- **High-Yield Agriculture**: This project provided agricultural inputs, tools, and training to empower single mothers and other vulnerable women in three villages. They also received training in human rights and how to advocate for themselves and others who face gender-based violence. On average, their cassava and maize yields were tripled, and they gained the entrepreneurial skills they needed to generate income and overcome the effects of home violence and poverty.

- **Masks and Washing Stations**: When the pandemic hit, it was illegal for people to leave their houses without a mask. Those who were too poor to afford a mask faced the impossible choice of staying home and going hungry, or leaving the house and risking arrest. Etang and his volunteers went to their rescue by distributing 1,875 masks and 243 hand washing stations to many communities, including by boat!

- **Vocational Training**: Etang offers vocational training – computer literacy and/or catering - to IDPs (refugees) who have relocated to Limbe from war-torn areas in Cameroon. Uprooted from their agricultural lifestyle, they lack the skills needed to survive in a town environment. Without this training, many resort to prostitution and crime. 88% of his graduates say they have been able to obtain jobs as a result of the training.
CAMEROON – REWOCAM – NAKINTI NOFURU

Child Rape Prevention Camp

The pandemic this year has impacted our world in numerous harmful ways, from the disease itself, to economic hardships from shutdowns, to a jump in pregnancies, and, perhaps saddest of all, a dramatic rise in child rape even among very small children. But the discussion around child rape in Kumba, a town at the center of Anglophone Cameroon, is filled with positive excitement.

One of Nakinti’s projects this fall was designed to help prevent child rape – a week-long sports camp for 50 girls in the Kumba area. The girls learned traditional Cameroonian games, were fed nutritious meals, and received child-appropriate teachings about child rape and how to prevent it. Nakinti shared with the girls her own experience of being raped as a child, and this helped break down the stigma of being a victim. One girl, for example, left the group and was found outside sobbing. Privately she told Nakinti about her own experience of being raped by a cousin at age 5. That was the first she had spoken about it! Nakinti counselled her, and with the strength and freedom that comes from releasing an emotional burden, she returned to the camp activities with a genuine smile on her face!

The camp activities were captured by a videographer who is also a news correspondent at a local TV station. Clips from the camp were aired on TV which meant the camp messages reached a much wider audience. I think the greatest testament to the power of this camp was the response Nakinti and her team received from the community. “The program has left the Kumba population in awe,” said Nakinti. “Everyone is talking about it. They have never seen anything like this before.” Nakinti’s team is now being approached by angry parents complaining because their daughters were left out of the program! Our budget forced us to limit attendees to 50 girls, but we can see more sports camps are in order! Nakinti adds, “The surprise we got at the end was that at least ten girls are eager to go back to their respective secondary schools and start Girls-Against-Rape clubs in their schools. I did not see that coming!”

Leadership Symposium

Nakinti ran a leadership symposium for women from across Cameroon. This training equipped women to spearhead change in their communities, from starting businesses to addressing economic and social ills.

“As I build my sphere of influence, volunteering is my preoccupation - giving back to society and being the force of change and hope for a better tomorrow.”

“What we experienced from the start till the end is carved in my heart.”

“What melted my heart was the dynamic leadership styles of our seven female facilitators. Through them I could see myself pursuing my dreams and changing my community.”

“For 5 days, I saw disciplined girls burning with ideas to change themselves and change the world.”

“This training was very significant for the change it stands to create in 50 different communities in the 10 different regions of Cameroon.”

“Thank you REWOCAM for this marvelous, life-changing opportunity.”
Those quotes by attendees were not empty words. The women returned home empowered and have become forces of change in their 50 different communities.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- **IDP (Refugee) Support:** As part of the Urgent Action Fund, Nakinti created a databank of female IDPs needing support and connected them with government resources and NGOs. She also supplied ten IDP women with the capital to start their own small businesses.

- **Christmas:** 25 female-headed IDP families and children – 150 people total – who had no place to live and no food to eat were given basic food supplies and financial support to lift their spirits.

- **Maternal/Infant Mortality:** To receive medical care for deliveries, pregnant women are given a long list of required items to bring to the medical center, like rubbing alcohol, mosquito nets, and even diapers. Before they will be admitted for care, their bag is checked to ensure no items are missing. Poor women, especially pregnant IDPs, simply can’t afford the items, and that is the #1 reason they give birth at home, putting their lives at risk as well as those of their unborn children. Nakinti identifies pregnant IDPs, counsels them, and provides the required items so they can receive proper medical care for the births.

- **Venerreal Disease Clinic:** Women who were stranded in the jungle areas behind rebel lines in the Anglophone crisis have faced numerous hardships, including increased incidence of rape. With Nelson Mboh, we funded a venerreal disease clinic for women behind rebel lines.

- **Capacity Building Workshop:** Nakinti relies on a group of volunteers to help run her projects. To ensure they were adequately trained for the work, she ran a workshop on how to impact communities in this time of war in Cameroon. Volunteers were also instructed on project proposal writing, and the winning project proposal received funding (the Maternal Mortality project above).

- **Leadership Symposium:** With funding from the U.S. Embassy, Nakinti conducted a 5-day program to help develop the leadership skills of 50 passionate young women from across all 10 regions of Cameroon. The women were trained on human rights issues and how to be the driving force against gender-based violence, child marriage and other forms of discrimination against women. They were also trained in entrepreneurship and taking up leadership positions in public and private sectors.

- **Child Rape Prevention Camp:** 50 children in the Kumba area participated in a Child Rape Prevention Camp. Traditional Cameroonian sports formed the backdrop for the camp, while child-appropriate teachings on child rape and protective measures to prevent rape formed the foundation.

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**CAMEROON – SHARED WORLD VISIONS CAMEROON – MULUH GODSON**

MG is combining his entrepreneurial savvy with his philanthropic passion to improve educational results at the University of Bamenda.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- **University Scholarships:** Scholarships were given to 7 impoverished students with troubled backgrounds. They come from homes with severe abuse, have had parents kidnapped and held for ransom by rebels, or have faced severe economic hardships, but all have a deep thirst for education.

- **SchoolFAQs:** MG developed a website that dramatically helps students study for their exams. With help from faculty and administrators, he included study materials for every course in every college at the University. Students who previously struggled to pass their courses are now getting As and Bs.
In very poor communities, people share with one another. A sharing culture helps them all survive. When a community member moves away and achieves some financial success, no matter how limited, that person will share with others in the community. It is thus common, and culturally acceptable, to hold a hand out - not just to former community members, but also to wealthy mzungus (white people) who find their way into the village.

Almost always, those who ask for money are the men. I was therefore surprised, walking through the village of Kipkalwa one day, when a very beautiful young woman asked me for money. Equally surprising was her complete honesty in explaining she wanted the money for alcohol.

Desperately poor communities the world over struggle with the problem of alcohol. Usually it is the men who drink, but women, too, can turn to alcohol to numb their pain. The lack of hope and sense of failure, especially among men who feel the pressure of being the family providers, drives people to escape their pain and sense of shame through the numbing effects of alcohol. Perhaps there is also a universal longing to escape boredom.

I caressed the face of this beautiful young woman and told her alcohol wasn’t good for her. Changing her tactic, she pointed to her shoes and asked for money for new shoes. Her shoes were in terrible condition. The fronts flapped open and the soles had huge holes in them. Those were the only shoes she had to protect her feet from the cold rain and mud at 8,000 feet. It just so happens that Abraham brought four suitcases filled with donated shoes to Matungen on our trip, so I invited her to come the next morning to receive a pair.

She didn’t arrive until about 4:00pm, and she had already been drinking. Almost all the shoes we brought were for children, but we found a pair of running shoes almost in her size. She had to work to squeeze her feet into the shoes, but the giddy joy that overflowed from her made me sad. She jogged in place and hopped and danced with a grin so big her face could hardly hold it! She couldn’t stop hugging me. I was glad I was able to bring some temporary pleasure into her life, but, even more, I wish no one lived a life so difficult that a pair of shoes could cause such overwhelming joy.
Covid-19 definitely threw a wrench in our tourism project! With travel impossible, the start of our running/cultural immersion camp will be delayed by at least one year, if not two, due to pandemic travel restrictions and the crash of tourism. But every monkey wrench is an invitation for creativity and innovation, and we are using this delay to pursue ideas that we think will enhance the camp and make it even more special. In particular, we are working to include the Samburu Tribe, along with the Kalenjin and Njemps, as part of our cultural immersion experience! Camel ride, anyone??

HIGHLIGHTS:
- **Training Trip**: This year we incorporated what we learned from our 2019 “test family” into a (pre-pandemic) training trip for the Kalenjin in Matungen and Njemps at Lake Baringo. We worked out transportation, camp logistics, how to cater to specialty diets, and boat racing procedures, along with many other topics. We also selected accommodations and activities in Naivasha that we think will be outstanding.
- **Shoes**: Almost 200 pairs of shoes were donated by the Rio Grande School in Santa Fe and were distributed in Matungen.

LOWLIGHTS:
- **2020 Team on Hold**: We put together another team that was going to “test” the impact of our training and produce a promotional video, but, sadly, the trip was delayed due to the pandemic.

**NEPAL – 3 SUMMITS FOR NEPAL – JWALANT GURUNG**

The two biggest sources of income for Nepal are remittances from migrant workers and tourism. Both income sources crashed during the pandemic as migrants were forced home and tourists were shut out. Approximately 20% of returning migrant workers, who had lived in very dense quarters in their host countries, tested positive for the coronavirus. As a result, Nepalis in border towns were understandably scared to conduct business with the returning migrants. Having gone without food or water for days, these returning families were desperate, yet no one would even sell them food or water. Seeing this humanitarian crisis developed on the border, Jwalant and friends kicked into gear. Food distributions were the primary focus this past year, but we are now preparing for construction projects that will provide an alternate income for guides and porters while enhancing the education of remote villagers in the Taplejung area.

HIGHLIGHTS:
- **Returning Migrants**: We distributed meals and water to 12,773 people at the Nepaljung Border and to 6,780 people at the Dhangadhi Border.
- **Narainapur**: 439 desperate families received a month of staples in this impoverished village that had the first reported case of Covid-19 in Nepal.
- **Trekking Staff**: 31 trekking staff and their families received 3 months of food rations, and another 30 received one month of rations. The staff will in turn work on our school construction projects this winter.
Covid-19 has upended many aspects of our lives this year, and school shutdowns have had a myriad of negative consequences. The United Nations estimates that 24 million children, many of whom are in India, have joined the ranks of child laborers and will not return to school even if they are reopened. Thankfully, the children in our 50 low-caste villages have an alternative - Martin’s after-school tutoring program. In addition to tutoring and helping the children academically, the program includes creative activities and competitions to engage and encourage the children on many levels. With government schools closed, this is the only educational training our children are receiving, and it is enough to keep our children out of the labor force!

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- **After-School Centers:** 1045 children participated in Martin’s after-school program (up from 658 the year before).
- **Maternal/Infant Health:** For another year, there were no maternal or infant deaths in our 50 villages thanks to our mobile nurses who bring care TO the villages. *This video* will explain how it works.
- **Covid-19 Awareness/Preparedness:** Our nurses visited 200 villages and explained to villagers about the virus, the steps to take to protect against it, how to strengthen core health, and what to do in the event of getting a fever. Our nurses also tested sample groups in each of our core 50 villages to determine underlying health issues, and the two that topped the list were anemia (70%) and intestinal worms (63%). In response, we have initiated a health project to start tackling these issues in the coming year.
- **Emergency Food Relief:** Two months of emergency food assistance was given to Kattunayakan Tribals who live on the outskirts of Karaikudi.
- **Field Trip:** One field trip was conducted for children from a cluster of villages.

**LOWLIGHTS:**

- **Wells:** We constructed two more agricultural bore wells (making five total), but the pandemic and a political crisis hit before the government hooked the fifth one up to electricity. The villagers must now wait indefinitely to benefit from their new well.

**A Field Trip**

When I visit the agricultural villages in our project area in India, we hold gatherings so I can get to know the villagers better. I want to know their hopes and dreams, their sorrows and fears. The conversations typically revolve around their suffering and great need, so my visit to Ayinimanai was a fun twist. During our gathering, as adults took turns sharing what was on their heart, the children of the village stayed respectfully quiet. But when the meeting came to an end and we got up to leave, the children excitedly surrounded us. They were giggling and a little bashful but also very, very excited to tell us that they, too, had a need. Not a want, but a *need*.

They lived in a remote agricultural village and, being extremely poor, had never left their village. But in their schoolbooks, they saw pictures of cities and oceans and other fascinating scenes that seemed unreal to them.
Could we take them on a field trip so they could see some of these things in person? Martin was so moved by their request that he immediately told them Yes! and the children exploded with excitement. They grasped each other with grins so big and conversations so animated that I could tell, even without understanding the words they spoke, they were overflowing with joy!

On the morning of the field trip, the children woke up early to take baths and dress in fresh clothes. After 2 ½ hours of driving they arrived at their first stop - Kallanai - a water dam built by one of the ancient kings of Tamil Nadu, Karikal Cholan. The children saw in person what they had only read about in their history books about Karikal and his efforts to build a dam to benefit farmers. There they had a picnic lunch and, since this is a tourist area, they were able to play on things they had never seen before, like a seesaw and swing, and they even rode a miniature train.

In the afternoon they went to another tourist site called Mukkombu. There the children saw a big water reservoir from which water is divided and sent through various channels to supply water for agriculture, covering seven districts of Tamil Nadu. Coming from agricultural villages, the children were fascinated. On the return trip, the children witnessed the most amazing thing of all. They passed a small airport and saw an Air Asia plane taxi and take off! It was thrilling for them to see such an amazing sight since they come from a remote village where there isn’t even a bus.

When the children finally returned home in the evening, the parents received them “as if they were returning from a different planet.” The parents were overwhelmed with happiness and hugged and kissed the children repeatedly. The children themselves were filled with gratitude for the field trip as they found it hilarious to see so many big vehicles, tall buildings, and, most comical of all, TOURISTS! Martin concluded, “This trip paved the way for a huge exposure to a vast universe for them.”

CAMBODIA – CAMBODIAN CARE – KOY CHHIM & RENY PHOEURK

An education is financially out of reach for most poor children in Cambodia, but children of factory workers in Tuolpongror and rural children in Kratie are some of the lucky children who attend schools run by Koy and Reny for just a token fee. The Ministry of Education periodically evaluates their schools, and they have always received positive reports, but this year Koy and Reny were surprised by the reaction of the officials. The inspectors were SO impressed with their schools, they invited Koy & Reny to share their experiences and techniques with the Ministry of Education. Unlike most schools in developing countries, Koy and Reny utilize the Montessori approach rather than the more typical rote memorization, and the enthusiasm of the students, along with their outstanding exam performances, are making waves!

HIGHLIGHTS:

• Tuolpongror and Kratie Schools: These elementary schools serve the children of garment factory workers (Tuolpongror) and rural children (Kratie).

• Emergency Food Distribution: With factories shut during the lockdown, we provided two-weeks of emergency food rations to 100 families from Tuolpongror, 35 agricultural families, and 30 families who work in brick factories or scavenging garbage.

• Rice: A monthly rice distribution is given to 20 of the poorest families at the Tuolpongror school – those that are in danger of pulling their children out of elementary school and putting them in child labor due to the desperate need to earn money for food.
GLOBAL PEARLS FINANCIAL SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017 ACTUAL</th>
<th>2018 ACTUAL</th>
<th>2019 ACTUAL</th>
<th>2020 TO DATE</th>
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Global Pearls is a 501(c)3 and contributions are tax deductible.
100% of donations are used to fund the projects. Administrative costs are covered by the Board of Directors, and travel costs are funded by those travelling.

NOTES

TRAVEL – What a disappointment that our travel budget this year was $0! Once Covid-19 is under control we will try to make up for lost time!

ADMINISTRATION COSTS – All administrative costs are covered by donations from Global Pearls board members. 95% of our administrative costs are donation processing fees for PayPal, Benevity, and the like.

KENYA – Since our Kenya project revolves around tourism, it is temporarily paused until the world can start travelling again.
THE GLOBAL PEARLS
U.S. TEAM

Lisa Robinson Spader, President
Lisa is a dreamer and visionary who is passionate about making a direct impact. She studied Economic Development at Harvard and thrills to see it take shape in real communities.

LeeMin Chong, Vice-President
LeeMin wants to leverage her MBA and program management experience to come alongside those who strive to break the vicious cycle of poverty, helping them reach their dreams.

Arlene Say Soto, Secretary
Growing up in Manila, Arlene was exposed to the harsh realities of life because she shared the city with many people who lived in extreme poverty. She now uses her education to help others.

Kylie Palacios, Social Media Director
Kylie loves using social media as a tool to help others. After an internship in Guatemala with Global Pearls, she decided to join the Global Pearls team.

Katharina Root, Treasurer
Katharina grew up an Anglo minority on the Navajo and Sioux Reservations, and she still loves and values a diversity of cultures. For the past 25 years she has worked as an accountant specializing in non-profit accounting.

Kerri Cottle, Director of Educational Devt
Kerri is a long-time educator who is passionate about geography, global cultures, and youth development.

Patricia Erdmann, Editor
Patricia teaches Educational Leadership & Management to university students in Malawi each fall. She also runs a Girls Club for Malawian high school students.

Mary Joy, Student Intern, Dartmouth College
Mary has garnered many impressive awards on her path towards law school! She has been helping us with our newsletter and Nepal.

Aarushi Bharti, Student Intern, Barrett Honors College at ASU
Aarushi is studying Technological Entrepreneurship & Mgmt, and she has been helping us both with India and Peru.
GLOBAL PEARLS PARTNERS

Sandra Alonzo Pac - Guatemala

Driven by her passion to help women, children, and those suffering from great poverty in Guatemala, Sandra works tirelessly to help others. She doesn’t just provide scholarships, but creates a true community for participants – teaching them that they are valuable, monitoring their progress, providing emotional support and love, even planning dance lessons and pizza parties to bring joy into their lives. She is greatly loved by project participants.

Sor Marta Soto - Honduras

A woman of great faith and dedication, Sor Marta has developed a country-wide alternative education program for tens of thousands of Honduran youth on little more than love and prayer. Her vision and pure heart attracted countless others, and now she has an amazing network of volunteer staff throughout the country. She never tires of impromptu exchanges with students, and with each one her face brightens with delight.

Jeremias Vobada – Honduras

Jeremias is a humble man with tremendous drive and talent. Abandoned as a baby, he grew up in an orphanage / boarding school run by Catholic nuns who emphasized serving others. He has hundreds of “brothers” throughout Honduras – in business and politics, in construction and in gangs. His outstanding “connections” combined with his passionate desire to end the lure of gangs has created the perfect conditions for change!

Juan Covarrubias Ccaihuari – Peru

This gentle Quechua man with a great love for his community is a born leader with a keen business sense. He values Quechua traditions and the communal nature of his culture, which he is trying to preserve through this project. He is greatly trusted by his community and all those who have trekked with him through his beloved Andes, and that has allowed him to bring people together to dream and achieve a path forward.

Nora Fitzgerald – Morocco

To sum up Nora in one word, I would say “compassionate.” She has a deep and tender love for the marginalized women of Marrakech. When you combine that love with her business acumen and the support of dedicated staff and friends, that compassion creates amazing results. Always seeking new ways to reach more women, she loves to dream forth new entrepreneurial ventures.

Nakinti Nofuru – Cameroon

Bold and fearless, Nakinti is creating a path for other women in Cameroon. Using her love of journalism, she is bringing attention to their plight and fighting for change. She has won numerous awards for her work improving conditions and opportunities for women and girls in Cameroon, and she is extending her impact by training and mentoring others.
Etang Mbeng – Cameroon

Having grown up an orphan in an impoverished forest community of Western Cameroon, Etang knows firsthand the suffering that the people of his project area endure. With help from a distant relative, he was able to pursue an education and escape the poverty of his youth. Now he is using his education to help others. As he says, “Someone needs to sacrifice to help others achieve their dreams. I choose to be that person.”

Muluh Godson (MG) – Cameroon

MG is a brilliant young man with an entrepreneurial spirit and a compassionate heart. The value of an education was instilled in him from a very early age, as his father was the principal of a local high school and his mother was a chemistry teacher. He admires people who do selfless acts and wants to live his life as a philanthropist. He is living out that dream running a university scholarship program.

Abraham Kosgei – Kenya

Abraham is a dreamer with the talent and drive to make his dreams come true. Running earned him a spot on the Kenyan Olympic team, and that is now the vehicle he is using to bring development to the Kalenjin Tribe of Kenya’s Rift Valley. Equally important, he wants to revive and strengthen Kalenjin culture, the strength of a people, that is quickly disappearing with exposure to western media.

Martin Richard Raju - India

An outstanding administrator, Martin makes development success look easy. He pursues his projects with a quiet and measured determination, planning each step with great care. From education to healthcare to economic empowerment, he pursues a holistic approach with a talented team, and everything he touches turns to gold.

Jwalant Gurung – Nepal

Jwalant is an incredibly generous man. He is very community driven, and he expends his time, energy and personal finances to help others in need. He is a strong athlete who is most at home in his majestic Himalayas and among their remote mountain villages. His passion is helping those village children receive an education.

Koy Chhim & Reny Phoeurk – Cambodia

Koy and Reny are a husband and wife team who are as innovative as they are dedicated. Koy expects nothing less than excellence from his students and staff, and Reny is a quiet, but powerful force behind the operations. Their love for the marginalized people of Cambodia is tangible.

Project Directors do not receive a salary from Global Pearls. They work out of love for their communities and earn a living through other means. We are honored to support and empower their efforts.