Our mission is to empower local changemakers in developing countries to reduce suffering and foster hope among marginalized populations.

**HONDURAS**
Can’t let the boys get all the trophies!

**MOROCCO**
Life is good when you love your job. An artisan at work.

**GUATEMALA**
Everything is better with my brother.

**CAMEROON**
Etuge is everyone’s favorite uncle.

**PERU**
New school supplies. Is it Christmas?

**KENYA**
Honoring Kalenjin culture

**INDIA**
Letters from America? Wow!

**NEPAL**
Modeling our new PPE...

**INDIA**
Drought? What drought??

Front cover: Child rape prevention camps in Cameroon create lasting connections.
Dear Friends,

Five years ago, when we started Global Pearls, we never imagined we could achieve the scope and impact that we have today. Imagine sending medical supplies across an entire country to fight a global pandemic (Nepal). Imagine all but eliminating intestinal worms, anemia, and maternal mortality among 22,000 low-caste villagers (India). Imagine negotiating truces between rival gangs and creating jobs to give youth opportunities apart from the gangs (Honduras). Imagine sparking a cultural movement that is changing the story of child rape in an entire region (Cameroon).

The key to the amazing results we’re seeing is our partners. We select partners who are passionate about helping their communities and have the resourcefulness to achieve their goals. They are self-sacrificing and hard-working. They are loving and inspirational. They are leaders in their communities and, with a little help from us, are fighting successfully for a better world. Empowering local changemakers is what we’re all about!

Each page in this report highlights the work of one of our amazing partners and shows what they accomplished over the past twelve months. Each page will educate and inspire you. None of these accomplishments could have happened without your support, so this report also serves as a great big THANK YOU to our donors.

Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Lisa Robinson-Spader

Lisa Robinson-Spader
President, Global Pearls, Inc.
Our programs address the very tangible needs in communities where we work. Whether the focus is on education, healthcare, agriculture, job creation, or other needs, we work hard to reduce suffering and provide opportunities. But one very important lesson we’ve gained over the years is that intangible benefits can be even more powerful than the tangible help.

The impact that love, hope, and joy can have on the lives of the families we work with is huge. So, with each of our projects, we try to think of ways to bring joy and hope into people’s lives. During the hurricanes in Honduras last November, for example, we relocated dozens of families to an elementary school. Hearing the deafening rain continue for two weeks created a lot of stress as parents worried what they would find when they were finally able to return home. Parents’ fears can be psychologically damaging for children. So, in the middle of the hurricanes, we threw a party! We had music and cake, and one of our vocational training students dressed up as Santa and distributed candy and small gifts to the children and elderly. There were also craft activities for the children. The laughter that this event elicited from both children and adults calmed everyone’s nerves and reassured the children that the storms would pass and they would be okay.

We also took clowns to visit street children in Guatemala and our partner in Cameroon held a party for displaced children who were living in the bush. Since child rape is a difficult topic to address, we added traditional sports and games to the program to help the children relax, have fun, and feel more open to learning and sharing.

Heavy doses of love accompany all of our projects as well, from the care received by abused mothers in Guatemala to encouragement given to low caste students in India. For example, Arizona State University students have been writing encouraging letters to tribal children in India who are normally treated very badly. The children’s responses are heartwarming. “Your words encourage us very much” or “You encourage me by saying that even I can achieve something”. For children who routinely get discouraged and drop out of school, such a letter can be life changing. Twenty years from now, those children will still have and treasure those letters.
Hurricanes Eta and Iota Take a Toll

This was a particularly devastating year in the San Pedro Sula area of Honduras, as Hondurans experienced back-to-back hurricanes that flooded or washed away their homes and destroyed their belongings. They no longer had mattresses to sleep on, no stoves to cook with or plates to eat on, no clothes besides those on their backs, and, perhaps worst of all, no income-earning tools to help rebuild their lives. Farmers lost their harvests, trades people lost their tools, and roadside vendors lost their inventory. As one girl wrote, “We struggled for 8 years to accumulate some things, and it was all lost in an hour.” The ensuing hopelessness was intense.

The immensity of needs dwarfed our resources, so we had to be very strategic in our response. Fortunately our partner Jeremias is shrewd, incredibly hard-working, and is deft at mobilizing the community. The most immediate need was to keep people alive, so he relocated people to temporary shelters, and for a month he provided meals to 400 stranded people per day who were living under tarps, bridges, and even huddled beneath the little roofs over gas station pumps. Once flood waters receded, the next step was to restore basic infrastructure. Jeremias replaced well pumps to restore water, put in a new transformer to bring back electricity, and, with local youth providing the labor, cleared roads so bus service could resume. Rival gang members worked side-by-side to clean buildings and clear debris from the neighborhoods.

The next step was to replace income-earning tools for the poorest families and create jobs by establishing small businesses so community members could start rebuilding their lives. One of our most successful initiatives was to establish cinder block manufacturing operations in two different communities that now provide income to 80 people. We also expanded the solar panel manufacturing operation which now employs 45 youths. A water bottling/distribution business employs 30, repair work like masonry/plumbing/welding created 15 jobs, and a car wash has yielded 6 jobs.

These businesses not only provide income to workers, the profits are being plowed back into other projects, like rebuilding houses for families that lost their homes in the flooding. So far Jeremias has rebuilt 2 houses, and a third is under construction. And the personal connections Jeremias made while providing relief opened the doors to expand the program to a new community north of San Pedro Sula, which includes another gang truce agreement.

- Hurricane relief was extended to numerous communities impacted by back-to-back hurricanes.
- 176 permanent jobs were created through various small businesses initiatives.
- Vocational training was expanded to cover 85 electrical, 16 tailoring, and 15 barber students.
- The soccer teams continued to excel with many trophies and 7 players invited to try out for professional teams.
- A second comedor (dining hall) was built in a new community. Between the two comedors, 330 young children are now receiving a nutritious meal three times per week – funded by our business profits and local donations.
- We installed Wifi in 10 mountain villages so 500 children can now access lessons in this Covid era.
- Gangs have continued to honor the truces in the communities where we work.
Child Rape Has Met its Match

Child rape has been an issue in Cameroon for years, but with hundreds of thousands of people displaced by war (IDPs) flooding into towns outside the rebel-controlled areas, unrelated families are crowded together and children are often left vulnerable as parents scavenge for work and food. Child rape has been skyrocketing under these conditions. Our partner Nakinti, traumatically raped herself as a child, has become passionately involved in changing this culture of rape.

After our successful pilot last year of a Child Rape Prevention Camp for 50 children, we put on four more camps this year – and reserved one for boys to teach about the harmful effects of rape. The camps combined age-appropriate teachings with traditional Cameroonian sports and games to help the children relax, have fun, and feel open to learning and sharing. Registration for all of the camps filled early, and, unfortunately, we had to turn many children away. For those who attended it was a powerful experience. On the fourth day of each camp, Nakinti shared her own child rape story, and that’s the day that many children chose to share their own painful stories. There was much crying and hugging and healing.

Nakinti and her team also created a wide-reaching media campaign to cover each event. This included 20-minute segments on several radio stations, hour-long segments on local TV, and much social media coverage. This has allowed them to reach a much larger audience with their message, and people from across the region are starting to reach out to their team with reports about rape. Among many such reports, there was a 3-year-old girl whose entire reproductive tract was ruptured, a 9-year-old raped by a 65-year-old man with much damage to her vagina, another 3-year-old who was raped by her 14-year-old brother and was afraid to tell her parents despite extensive injuries that eventually sent her to the hospital, a 4-year-old child raped by a 40-year-old man, and, when the mother disclosed it to the father (who was not the rapist) he kicked the mother and child out of the house for bringing shame to the family.

But it’s not all bad news. Thanks to the work Nakinti’s team is doing and the messages they are spreading, people are talking about child rape for the first time. Community members are standing up for rape victims and against perpetrators for the first time. The police are taking rape cases seriously for the first time. It feels like we are at the edge of a tidal wave of change. This October, Nakinti wrote us, "Thank you! You are changing lives. You are changing me as a person. You are changing Cameroon."

- A rape conference was held for thirty women from across Cameroon, from which 3 teams started their own child rape prevention projects which we also funded.
- Four child rape prevention camps were held where a total of 200 children were taught how to protect themselves and what to do if raped.
- Training sessions were held with parents to reinforce lessons given to the children. Parenting techniques were also addressed, and parents were encouraged to be less punitive so children would not be afraid to tell their parents when raped.
No drop-outs and child laborers for us!
The past year and a half have been academically devastating to poor children in India. Since March 2020, lessons have only been accessible online and poor children don’t have the technology needed to access their lessons. As a result, an estimated 30 million children in India have dropped out of school, and many of them have become child laborers. But this is NOT the story in our communities. With schools closed, our after-school centers have become the only source of education for our 50 agricultural villages and the Kattunayakan slum. Children, eager to continue their educations, have flocked to our program (held outdoors with masks). India is now preparing to restart in-person classes, and our children will be returning without missing a beat. Hooray for our awesome teachers!

An egg a day keeps the doctor away
Government schools in India supply one egg a day to every child in school to curb protein deficiencies among low-caste children. But with schools shut down for a year and a half, that not only meant no books, but no eggs as well. When our children started developing nutritional issues, we decided to jump in to help. Our partner Martin has been providing three eggs a week to our 1,010 children.

Combatting Covid was a Herculean task
Our Covid team began work in the summer of 2020, educating 200 villages on methods to protect against Covid. When Covid cases soared across India in April and May of 2021, our team, plus 20 volunteers from our after-school centers, worked insane hours distributing masks, testing villagers who had symptoms, transporting those who were Covid-positive to regional Covid centers to keep them from spreading the disease to others, and running vaccination camps. As a result, no one in our 200 villages (approximately 75,000 people) died from Covid.

Goodbye to intestinal worms, and anemia too!
In the summer of 2020, our nursing team tested 5% of our villagers to evaluate their core health needs. The top two concerns were anemia (80% tested anemic) and intestinal worms (63% suffered intestinal cramping and diarrhea from the worms). We addressed anemia by educating villagers about high-iron plants they could include in their diets; treating intestinal worms became an ongoing focus for our mobile nursing team. We hoped eliminating the worms would also help with anemia, since worms compete for the few nutrients the villagers get and also cause diarrhea which eliminates nutrients before they can be fully absorbed. The nurses are in the process of retesting the original sample group to determine the impact of the program. With 60% retested, they have found 0% now has intestinal worms and only 1% has tested positive for anemia.

- We funded 27 after-school centers serving 1010 students, including 3 eggs per week.
- Our mobile medical team kept 200 villages safe from Covid (approximately 75,000 people) and all but eliminated intestinal worms and anemia in our 50 core villages (22,000 people).
- The maternal and child health program kept going through the pandemic, continuing its stellar record of no maternal or infant deaths in our 50 villages.
- We funded the building of a vocational training center to teach employable skills to unemployed youth.
They came for food, and they left with love and hope as well

Our partner Sandra runs an educational scholarship program, Estudia Con Amor, for children who otherwise would have no chance for an education. Those included in the program are street children, children from impoverished mining families, and children of single mothers who have typically been abandoned by abusive, alcoholic husbands.

One such single mother is Juana, a poor woman who cannot read or write. Her mother died of cancer when she was a child, and her father soon started abusing her sexually. To escape this abuse, she fled to the streets at the age of 8. For a decade Juana lived on the streets, getting food thanks to the charity of people she helped in small ways, such as carrying their groceries home. Sometimes families would let her sleep in their courtyards to escape the dangers of the street, but at the age of 16 she was raped and became pregnant with her son, Ronaldo Mauricio. No one would give her a job once she had an infant, so life became even more difficult until she met a kind woman who invited Juana and her son into her home for shelter from the cold.

But that woman, who had a one-year-old son and was pregnant with a second son, was married to a very abusive, alcoholic husband. She was beaten so often and severely that she died in childbirth. Her husband planned to throw his two children into a garbage dump where they would likely be eaten by dogs. When Juana learned of this, she took the woman’s two sons and her own son and fled. Juana knew if she told the authorities, the children would end up in an orphanage (notoriously abusive in this region) so she cared for the three boys herself.

With no place to live, Juana and the boys slept in caves so they wouldn’t freeze, and she worked in agricultural fields to earn a meager living. When Ronaldo was 11, he started working on the streets shining shoes and learned about Estudia Con Amor from another street child in our program. During the pandemic, no one would give odd jobs to people living on the streets because everyone was afraid of catching Covid. Juana and the boys became terribly hungry, which finally pushed them to seek out the organization Ronaldo had heard about. Juana first arrived at Sandra’s house in June of 2020 in hopes of getting a little food because none of them had eaten in days.

Not only did they receive food from Estudia Con Amor, but Sandra helped them find a place to live in the town of Xela and she helped the three children enroll in school for the first time. We covered the cost of their books and school materials and made sure they could survive by selling sweets, masks, and other small items on the street. They came for food. They left not only with food but with hope that an education would give them a different and much better future. When they first met Sandra they were forlorn, but now they smile and know they are not alone. They have the confidence that comes from love and a faithful partner who will help them through life’s struggles. Juana has a very grateful heart for the help our donors have given.

• The educations of 111 students are supported by Estudia Con Amor.
• Dozens of our families who were struggling with hunger received regular food aid throughout the year.
• Several program participants received life-saving medical care.
Our partner, Etuge, started an elementary school to serve the many orphans and children displaced by war who have flooded into his community. They are often without parents, without food, and without a safety net of any kind, but they have one thing in common – they are so eager for an education that they are willing to suffer and risk their safety to obtain one. Their passion for learning shows. Only about 40% of the students at most schools in this region pass the national end-of-year exams. At Etuge’s school 100% passed the exam this past year! There were 110 students in his school last year and, since that was just their first year in existence, we expect enrollment to grow significantly in coming years.

Choosing Between Food and an Education

Three and a half years ago, government troops began systematically burning down villages in the jungles of western Cameroon and families had to flee into the bush in the middle of the night to escape the gunfire and flames. Queenivette is one such displaced child. It was nighttime when her village was attacked and she was 9 years old. In her words, "We only heard shouting, shooting and crying with people running outside saying that everybody should run. We immediately left the village and ran to the bush, leaving behind all our belongings. Our parents were separated because we ran in different directions. My mother and I ran in the same direction, but we were told that the military took our father. It was the rainy season, so we covered ourselves with plantain leaves so the rain wouldn’t fall too much on us." They lived for two years in the bush, finding food in abandoned fields.

Eager for a better future, Queenivette begged her mother to let her move away so she could return to school. At 11 years old, leaving her mother behind, she moved to a slum outside the rebel-controlled areas so she could again attend elementary school. Countless children have made this same decision, facing the dangers of rape, abuse, and extreme hunger in the hopes of getting an education. Queenivette continues, "Since I came to Tiko, life has not been easy. Many times, I went to school without food and with no hope of having food when I returned. That was enough reason to give up education to fend for myself. Yet, I value education more than anything else because I know it is through education that my life can be better. I continue to feel grateful for the daily feeding program and the assistance now given to me."

Fortunately, now that Global Pearls is partnering with Etuge, the children no longer need to choose between food and an education.

- Teacher salaries were funded along with textbooks and desks for the children.
- One nutritious meal per day was given to every child at the school.
- A dance program focusing on traditional Cameroonian dances was initiated to bring psychosocial healing to these traumatized children.
- Construction began to add secondary school classrooms.
- A water tank was installed to provide safe drinking water for the school children.
- A regenerative agriculture project using Inga-alley cropping improved incomes of impoverished women in the community.
Girls Too!
Elementary schools exist in most villages, even in the remote mountains, but secondary schools are few and are located in large towns and cities. Children from remote mountain villages who want to continue their education past 5th grade must relocate away from their families. Boys are allowed to do this, but it is too dangerous for a young girl to live on her own in an unfamiliar place. Thus, unless a parent has enough money for a boarding school in Kathmandu, rural girls end their schooling after the 5th grade. Many girls are probably satisfied with a 5th grade education, but there are some who long to continue their studies. We spent this past year constructing two girls' hostels next to regional secondary schools to give this chance to ambitious girls. An added benefit is that we employed 12 men from our partner Jwalant’s trekking staff to do the construction, so they and their families earned income despite the collapse of tourism.

Nepalis Supporting Nepalis
Starting in May of 2021, Covid skyrocketed in Nepal. Unlike neighboring India, Nepal has a very undeveloped health care system. The world news covered terrible scenes of overwhelming death in India, yet Nepal, per capita, had twice as many deaths. To make matters worse, as Covid raged, Nepal’s Parliament was dissolved, and the Prime Minister failed to receive a vote of confidence, effectively ending his term. The country struggled to respond to the crisis in the absence of a functioning government, and local heroes like Jwalant stepped in to take action.

Global Pearls supplied ICU beds and monitors to help open a Covid wing at the Chhatrapati Clinic, which serves the poor of Kathmandu. We supplied oxygen tanks, concentrators, and PPE to 16 districts across Nepal – particularly to districts hit hardest by Covid. Once the medical supplies were distributed, Jwalant’s team turned their focus to food distribution to help those suffering from extreme hunger. They distributed a month of food supplies to families living in the slums of Kathmandu, and bags of rice to families in the Annapurna region (500 families), and Everest region (500 families). The distributions were timed just before the Dashain festival so all these families would have rations during the festival. A journalist, impressed with the local efforts he witnessed, created a short video highlighting and honoring heroic local efforts to respond to Covid, and Jwalant was featured in the video.

https://youtu.be/AmYpYsyv3BQ

- Two girls’ hostels were constructed next to secondary schools.
- We helped establish a Covid ward at the Chhatrapati Clinic.
- Medical supplies were distributed across Nepal.
- Emergency food relief was given in Kathmandu, Annapurna, and Everest regions – regions hit particularly hard with the loss of tourism.
Our partner Juan works with Quechua communities to help them reap more economic gains from their cultural heritage. He is simultaneously working to diversify their incomes to lessen their dependence on tourism.

From Runaway to Village Leader

Justina, a program beneficiary, is a delightful Quechua woman who lives high in the Peruvian Andes (>12,000 ft) where the growing season is short and life is very difficult. She ran away from an abusive home when she was 12 years old, making her way to Lima where she got a job as a house servant. For the next 5 years she worked long hours cleaning the house and clothes, cooking for the family and caring for the children. She was given a place to sleep and a little food to eat, but not a single day off and absolutely no pay. One day she fell and broke her arm, but she had no money to pay for a doctor. She had to endure the pain while her arm healed on its own – still keeping up with her chores. To this day her crooked arm is a reminder of that difficult time.

After 5 years Justina returned to her home village of Willoq Alto, but life continued to be very hard. Only potatoes and grains can grow at that high altitude, so to earn money for additional food, medical care, education for the children, and other basic needs, the men of the village often work as porters on the Inca Trail and the women create beautiful weavings for sale, usually through intermediaries, to tourists. When tourism plummeted during the Covid pandemic, Peruvian families faced hunger and fear in addition to the world’s highest per capita Covid death rate.

Fortunately for the other families in Willoq Alto, Justina and her husband, Santos, have become compassionate leaders in the community. Our partner Juan worked with them to organize families to build greenhouses, with materials funded by our donors. The greenhouses have allowed them to grow many important crops that previously they had to buy in markets around Urubamba. Justina wept as she spoke of the fear they faced a year and a half ago, and expressed her deep gratitude for the greenhouses that kept them from starving this past year.

- 30 greenhouses were built in Willoq Alto that allow the families of Willoq Alto, who live above 12,000 ft, to grow the food they need.
- A fruit tree business was initiated in Santa Rosa with a capacity for adding 1,000 tropical fruit trees each year. The tropical fruits will provide an income source for families along the Choquequirao Trail that does not depend on tourism.
- 11 hostels were completed (and more in the works) along the Choquequirao Trail that families can rent to trekkers. When tourism returns to the area, these hostels will be a fantastic new income source as beds are rented and meals are served.
- A promotional video was created for Juan’s trekking company to attract more business to these communities.

Link for the video: https://drive.google.com/file/d/18opDeu3N_2isBdMsBe6o8ibR__hytUHR/view
Due to the ongoing pandemic, this has been another hard year for poor families in Morocco. The scarcity of tourists has hit many industries very hard, including restaurants and traditional artisans. With restaurants closed, Amal temporarily disbanded the heart of their program – training impoverished and marginalized women in food industry skills and placing them in permanent jobs. Amal used to have over a hundred customers every day, but, when they were finally able to re-open their doors, they often had fewer than 10 customers a day. That was certainly discouraging, but things are finally picking up and they are making plans to re-start the training program in late November.

Meanwhile, they have made many wonderful connections with suffering families over the past year and a half, and they continue to nurture those relationships with food and medical assistance. One day, when our partner Nora was distributing food baskets for Ramadan, she saw a man with a donkey and cart looking through a dumpster for anything he could recycle. She gave him one of the food baskets, and it was an incredibly sweet moment experiencing his deep surprise and gratitude. Also, the families who received a sheep for Eid felt a bit more equal and not left out of the celebration.

Particularly dear to them has been the artisan program which has allowed them to develop beautiful connections with traditional artisans. These crafts people have been deeply hurt by the pandemic, and Amal has fostered ongoing relationships with many of them, like Mbarek. He has been a jeweler for 40 years, and it takes him days to create just one pair of earrings. Mbarek’s philosophy is, “God helps those who help others,” so he gives his love generously to those around him. In Morocco they say that a saint is a person who when you see them, you remember God. All the ladies who work with the Artisan program agree that Mbarek must indeed be a saint!

- We funded the distribution of 470 food baskets to hungry families for Ramadan and the gift of sheep to 30 impoverished families for Eid.
- 130 artisans received monthly help for six months and 260 received food baskets for Ramadan (those are in addition to the baskets above).
- With our help, Amal installed a better well pump and ventilation for the kitchen in their Targa location, as well as shade structures for their cooking classes and a large garden to grow vegetables and herbs for the restaurant.
- The restaurant and catering businesses have been sustained with our subsidies for rent and staff until they can once again become self-sufficient. They used this slow time to boost the skills of the training staff.
Beading, Circumcision, and Child Marriage

Although technically these practices are now illegal, traditional tribes in remote areas of Kenya, like the Samburu and Turkana, still practice many customs that are harmful to girls. They face “beading” (where pre-pubescent girls are forced to drop out of school and become temporary sexual slaves for young men), circumcision (also known as female genital mutilation), and forced child marriage to elders.

Regional boarding schools, like the AIC Moi Girls Samburu Secondary School that serves the Samburu and Turkana tribes, provide safe havens for these girls. About 20% of the students at Moi Girls Samburu School have experienced beading and were rescued. About 65% have been circumcised. Many, if they can’t keep up with their school fees, are in danger of being taken from school by their uncles, who serve as the marriage brokers, and being forcefully married to old men. We have stepped in to help pay delinquent fees to keep the uncles at bay.

Rostella is one such girl. Her father died when she was young, and when we were introduced to her, her mother was dying of cancer. Since her mother was too sick to work and could no longer afford Rostella’s school fees, her uncle was arranging a marriage for her to an old man. Rostella was desperate to stay in school and avoid this fate.

We decided to partner with Alice, the principal of AIC Moi Girls Samburu Secondary School, to sponsor not just Rostella, but also other girls who were in the greatest danger of child marriage. We are also offering university sponsorship to a handful of graduating girls with the highest academic scores. We believe this will encourage the younger girls to work hard at their studies, and the possibility of university support can be used as leverage against the uncles.

When the girls learned they were selected for the program, they gave moving testimonies at their church services (most of the girls are Christian and some are Muslim). They wrote notes like, “When I heard the great news I was overwhelmed with joy. I am certain that I will commit my best to my studies and bring out the best in myself. I will not let your gesture go in vain. My happiness is beyond any form of expression.”

- 57 secondary school girls received tuition assistance.
- 6 of those girls were chosen for university assistance and are now studying psychology, education, and medicine.
A New Scholarship is Born

2021 is the year our partner, Sister Marta Eugenia Soto, lost the battle with cancer. Sor Marta, a Salesian nun serving the poor of Tegucigalpa, felt the keen need to provide an alternative form of education for marginalized youth who couldn’t attend school due to poverty, distance, or issues of safety. In 1989, with the blessing of the elderly priest she served under but no financial help, she founded the Instituto Hondureño de Educación por Radio (IHER). Students received instruction by radio during the week and attended class in person just once each weekend. A woman of great faith and dedication, Sor Marta developed this 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 she developed an amazing network of volunteer staff throughout the country. With the help of Global Pearls, she also established the Semillas de Esperanza program to support students who can’t afford textbooks to attend IHER. In keeping with her devotion to serving the poor, students are chosen for the program based on their desire to serve their communities. Sor Marta never tired of impromptu exchanges with students and with each one her face brightened with delight. The entire country mourned when she passed.

Fortunately for the program, Javier has been at Sor Marta’s side for the past 30 years helping to establish and run the program, so IHER will continue with capable leadership for years to come. To honor Sor Marta and her devotion to helping the youth of Honduras, we have instituted a new scholarship program for university studies – the Sor Marta University Fund for Humanitarian Hearts. Each year, one IHER student will be chosen who most embodies Sor Marta’s qualities: a heart to serve others, a dream of positive change they want to bring to their community/Honduras, a plan for how they will do so, and the tenacity to pursue the dream in the face of obstacles. The first student chosen for this honor is John.

John’s passion, his life purpose, is to become a doctor and serve those who can’t afford medical care. As a child, he watched as family members and neighbors suffered and died from preventable diseases simply because they couldn’t afford care. As a result of his intelligence, hard work, and passion, he was accepted to medical school even though only 1 in 5 students who took the exam made it into the program. The first-year courses were really tough, but John passed his exams when half his fellow students failed. “There are nights when I already feel tired, but then I remember that I must give my best effort, and out of nowhere I feel energized to continue. It is something inexplicable. Just thinking that one day I will be able to help many sick people gives me back energy when I feel I have none left.”

We are excited to follow John through his medical studies and career. And we are excited to add equally promising students each year. They are our “Seeds of Hope” for a better Honduras.

- 140 educational scholarships for secondary school were given to IHER students who are motivated to use their educations to help their communities.
- An emergency fund was created to respond to students in crisis.
- Four school-based projects were funded to help students gain project management and leadership experience as they work to address a community issue.
- The first university scholarship recipient was chosen as part of the “Sor Marta” scholarship fund.
Textbooks are Unsung Heroes
Textbooks are not provided at schools in Cameroon – they must be purchased by the students. Poor students don’t have the resources to pay for textbooks, so few if any students have books to learn from. Even teachers often lack books to teach from. As a result, pass rates on the national end-of-year competency exams typically are quite low. Before our project started, the elementary school we chose for a pilot textbook project had pass rates of 47% in English and 34% in Math. After one year with the textbooks, pass rates for English were 93% and for Math they were 97%.

Empowering Girls with Clubs
Two secondary schools, one in a forest community and one in a coastal community, were chosen to test the impact of girls’ clubs on the educational achievement of secondary school girls in the Limbe area of Cameroon. The program combined three components: textbooks to help with academic classes, instruction on menstrual management and human rights to bolster the confidence of the girls, and entrepreneurial training to create marketable foods to generate income for school fees. Our goal was to stem the drop-out rates for girls and improve their academic performance. The results were good, but not as good as we want them to be. The school administrators were impressed that girls had steady attendance and sat for the end-of-year exams, which didn’t often happen previously. Enrollment increased, pregnancy rates dropped, and test scores improved, but not nearly to the same degree as our elementary school project. We have decided to spend the next year developing a greater academic focus to the program and the following year we will try the girls’ clubs again.

From Agriculture to Computers
Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced by the war in western Cameroon, and many have flooded into the coastal city of Limbe. With only agricultural skills, these Internally Displaced Peoples (or IDPs) struggle to survive in a town environment. Three years ago, we started funding vocational training for IDPs – focusing on computer skills and food industry skills that are both in high demand. 88% of our graduates found work as a result of the program, but our training space was tiny so we had to limit the number of people we served. This year we constructed a Vocational Training Center so we can expand the program.

- Textbooks were given to an elementary school in Limbe.
- Girls’ clubs were initiated at two secondary schools.
- A vocational training center was constructed.
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.

### Global Pearls Financial Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018 Actual</th>
<th>2019 Actual</th>
<th>2020 Actual</th>
<th>2021 Thru SEP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td>$175,616</td>
<td>$345,127</td>
<td>$690,962</td>
<td>$780,968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program Total</strong></td>
<td>$172,739</td>
<td>$343,103</td>
<td>$683,411</td>
<td>$768,423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Latin America</strong></td>
<td>$91,283</td>
<td>$77,292</td>
<td>$224,862</td>
<td>$173,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guatemala</strong></td>
<td>$30,607</td>
<td>$34,896</td>
<td>$41,458</td>
<td>$26,796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Honduras</strong></td>
<td>$9,976</td>
<td>$30,613</td>
<td>$135,362</td>
<td>$103,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Peru</strong></td>
<td>$50,700</td>
<td>$11,782</td>
<td>$48,043</td>
<td>$43,948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Africa</strong></td>
<td>$66,358</td>
<td>$203,633</td>
<td>$311,384</td>
<td>$297,273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Morocco</strong></td>
<td>$5,049</td>
<td>$29,327</td>
<td>$197,647</td>
<td>$132,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cameroon</strong></td>
<td>$52,839</td>
<td>$131,031</td>
<td>$113,736</td>
<td>$156,572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kenya</strong></td>
<td>$8,471</td>
<td>$43,275</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$8,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Asia</strong></td>
<td>$15,097</td>
<td>$62,179</td>
<td>$147,165</td>
<td>$297,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>India</strong></td>
<td>$15,097</td>
<td>$53,831</td>
<td>$61,446</td>
<td>$111,697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nepal</strong></td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$63,476</td>
<td>$184,652</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cambodia</strong></td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$7,299</td>
<td>$16,196</td>
<td>$1,049</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Malaysia</strong></td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,049</td>
<td>$6,049</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Administration Total</strong></td>
<td>$2,133</td>
<td>$1,509</td>
<td>$7,551</td>
<td>$12,545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fundraising Total</strong></td>
<td>$745</td>
<td>$515</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenditure Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>98.4%</td>
<td>99.4%</td>
<td>98.9%</td>
<td>98.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Notes

**Administration Costs** – All administrative costs are covered by donations from Global Pearls board members. This year our administrative costs increased because, due to our size, we were legally required to obtain a financial audit by an independent CPA. The remaining administrative costs were PayPal processing fees.
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. LeeMin grew up in Malaysia.

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.

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.

Lynda Myers, Board Member
With a PhD in Philosophy, Lynda taught at St. John’s College for 39 years fostering critical thinking skills and shared problem-solving. Her career took her to China where she taught as a senior visiting scholar.

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.

Christina Palastanga Gardiner, Board Member
Christina was born and raised in Europe, started and ran a successful business, and has worked in various capacities with non-profits for 3 decades.

Aarushi Bharti, Student Intern, Barrett Honors College at ASU
Aarushi is studying Technological Entrepreneurship & Mgmt. and helps with our projects in India & Peru.

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.
MEET OUR LOCAL CHANGEMAKERS

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.

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 passion to end gang violence in Honduras have created the perfect conditions for change!

Javier Diaz - Honduras
Javier worked by Sor Marta’s side for over 30 years to build IHER into a world-class alternative education system for tens of thousands of students across Honduras. He is constantly working to bring innovative changes to their program, and he loves to motivate the many impoverished students they serve to work hard and achieve their goals. He considers the work both a blessing and a great responsibility, and he pursues it with passion.

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.

Changemaker: A person who wants to bring positive change to the world and is capable of turning innovative ideas into action
Etang Mbeng – Cameroon

Having grown up an orphan in an impoverished forest community of Western Cameroon, Etang knows first-hand 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.”

Etuge Sumbede Elvis – Cameroon

Etuge was born to a mother who was forced as a child to marry an old man. Due to poverty, 3 of his 6 siblings died. Fortunately, Etuge was sponsored for school and university studies. Having experienced both the suffering of abject poverty as well as the great benefits resulting from educational sponsorship, he has committed his life to helping others as a tangible demonstration of his gratitude.

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.

Alice Gituru – Kenya

Girls are not valued in the communities where Alice lives and works, and that has given her a soft spot for girls. She devotes her life to counseling, encouraging, teaching life-skills, and providing a formal education to girls because that empowers them, which, in turn, inspires others. She loves to see them happy and confident and is filled with joy when she sees them succeed in life.

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.

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.

Our partners 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.