

FromHouses toHomes  
De Casas a Hogares • Guatemala

# From Houses To Homes

# IMPACT REPORT



**2020**

**2021**

"From Houses to Homes aims to create pathways out of poverty by providing safe housing, education and healthcare."

# A FEW WORDS FROM US

“

Dear Friends,

The pandemic was the greatest challenge many of us faced in 2020 and 2021. The rules changed abruptly and we had to change with them. Most importantly we needed to assure the families we work with that we would not abandon them. As many of them were not working, fear of what the future held troubled them.

First and foremost we identified the need for food. Thanks to the incredible support we received from all of you during the pandemic we were able to provide groceries for many of the families that live in our homes and attend our school. It was our job to remind them to never give up hope. Our staff was able to organize and quickly deliver hundreds of bags of food.

Escuela Kemna'oj was forced to become creative and develop a home study program to keep some consistency for our students. Our student's mothers were willing to join forces with our staff to make this as successful as possible under the circumstances. In this impact report, you will learn about two Escuela Kemna'oj students that have a great success story to tell.

St. Joseph's Clinic remained closed until the government allowed health care facilities to reopen. During this time, we as an organization discussed what was the best plan for the clinic to continue to deliver quality healthcare to the population they served. After much discussion and discernment, we transferred the clinic management to another organization. They had long supported and maintained an interest in the clinic. We are confident that the families that we build for and attend our school will receive excellent care as promised.

We have much to celebrate as we are still thriving after all the challenges the pandemic presented us with. We plan to continue to change the lives of many through home construction and education. We as a community, and that includes all of you, came together to assure the future of From Houses to Homes.

”



*Judy Baker*

Executive Director



# HOUSING



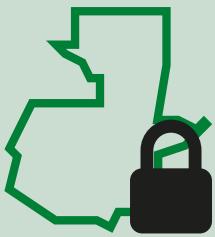
# 2020



**58 Houses**



**127 volunteers**



**5 months  
of inactivity**



**+ 1,400 bags of  
groceries distributed**



**# Salaries Paid**

Our activity was strongly impacted by the pandemic in 2020. Between January and March, we were able to build 56 houses in collaboration with approximately 127 volunteers.

When the lockdown started in early March, all construction projects were halted for 5 months. They resumed timidly in August, with a lot of precautions. However, we were only able to build two (2) houses due to a range of factors including government restrictions on travel, continued high infection rates, lack of funding and volunteers. Instead, we shifted our focus and started helping the school families and families we had built houses for by delivering bags of groceries to them.

Although we faced many uncertainties about our financial situation, we were able to continue to pay salaries for our employees and support many families thanks to the continued support of our sponsors.



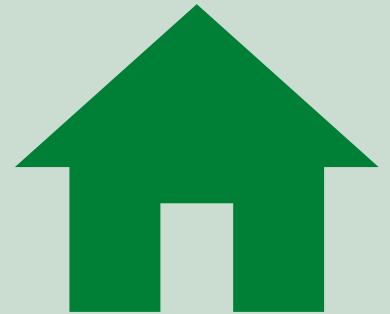
# 2021



Fortunately, From Houses to Homes was able to continue to count on a large part of our donors who had not stopped providing financial support through the pandemic. We also received a substantial donation of 90 houses from a partner organization, Home for a Home, based in the United States. These houses were built with an extremely limited number of volunteers (around 60 throughout the year, compared to an average of 400 at pre-pandemic levels).

Although these figures are modest, the organization is proud of its work, carried out under conditions of great uncertainty and with limited financial and human resources.

In 2021, From Houses to Homes attempted to resume operations as normal. Despite the persistence of regulations, the organization took the necessary steps to continue building homes in communities that really needed them. In fact, this need had been further increased by the adverse consequences of the pandemic. So we had to start over, while taking into account the safety of our employees and volunteers.



**129 Houses**



**60 volunteers**



# EDUCATION



# 2020 - 2021



**153** Kemna'oJ  
Students

**128**  
Sponsored

**25**  
Un-sponsored



**26** High School  
Students

**19**  
Sponsored

**7**  
Un-sponsored

# Education Report

## 2020- 2021

### **Inactivity**

At the start of the pandemic in 2020, Escuela Kemna'oj had to close in order to comply with government regulations and protect our students. High levels of uncertainty kept the school from operating for the first five months of the pandemic. Then the teaching and administrative staff coordinated huge efforts to resume educational activities later in 2020.

### **Adjustments**

Our teachers prepared packets for the students; their mothers picked them Mondays, returning the work on Thursday. Students were required to complete and submit assignments regularly to track their progress and comprehension. This asynchronous system continued throughout the 2021 academic year.

### **Incentives**

The school organized the regular distribution of grocery bags to parents to supplement their nutritional resources and to reward the efforts that parents and students put into the revised system. It also supported parents who had lost their jobs during the pandemic.





# Education Report 2020- 2021



## Challenges and Successes

- Student dropout increased due to demotivation of both parents and students. Some parents did not agree with or value the asynchronous system and preferred to send students to work in the fields. Some students preferred to focus on making an income when economic activities slowly resumed rather than coming to school.
- The material was not learned adequately (at the expected level) due to lack of capacity for additional support of students by teachers.
- Despite this, in 2021, 8 students graduated 9th grade. We were able to sponsor 7 who wanted to pursue further education to attend public area high schools. Nine of our sponsored high school students graduated from different schools.

# Success Stories

## Kevin Anderson and José Julian

*Graduated in 2021*



Kevin and Jose are cousins who both studied at Escuela Kemna'oj and graduated from high school in 2021.

For the past 8 months, Kevin (*left*) has worked as a machine operator in a factory that produces bags. Through his work, he has been able to gain experience in the professional world while reflecting on what he might want to do next. Kevin is looking forward to enrolling in college for studies in architecture – a field he is absolutely passionate about! In various instances, he has found himself reminiscing about his time at Kemna'oj and the lessons he learned during his years as a student there. In addition to the excursions that marked his memory and the friendships he made, Kevin says that he still remembers how his teachers instilled in him the practice of gratitude and appreciation for the things in life, both material and immaterial.

Julian (*right*), on his side, works for a construction company called Nabil. As part of his work, he draws house plans and regularly has the opportunity to visit construction sites where, he says, the magic happens: he sees the product of his imagination take shape! Julian's short-term goal is to climb the ladder in the company where he works and obtain an official title. On a more personal level, he would like to continue working on improving himself and help his parents to cover part of the costs related to the maintenance of the household and the education of his brothers and sisters. Like his cousin Kevin, Julian also values the friendships he made during his time at Kemna'oj. He also clings to certain values he learned from his teachers, one being the importance of devoting himself fully to whatever he does.

Both Kevin and Julian represent From Houses to Homes' hopes of creating pathways out of poverty through education. Their journey, in many ways, matches what we aspire to accomplish in Santa María de Jesús and beyond!



**CLINIC**



# Clinic Report

## 2020-2021

In March 2020, the Guatemalan government required all health clinics to close as a result of the pandemic and the growing number of COVID-19 infections in the country. During this time the clinic was transferred to the Order of Malta.

Under their management, the clinic resumed work in August 2021 providing medical, pediatric, psychological, and dental consultations. Every patient is entitled to receive the corresponding medication for a speedy recovery free of charge. Families who have been diagnosed with malnutrition enter a program where they receive food and supplements.

Of the 100% of patients who attended Saint Joseph's Clinic, 90% have found relief for their ailments.

# 650

patients in 2020



# 808

patients in 2021



# 69%

Female patients



# 31%

Male patients

# 32%

Children patients

# 68%

Adult patients



# MAKE AN IMPACT!

# BUILD A HOME TODAY!



*Individuals, families, and groups who are interested in a life changing experience are welcome to join us!*

*You can also donate a home for \$3,000 with or without volunteering!*

**5 DAYS**

**+**

**\$500**

**fee per volunteer**

**=**

**HOME**

**YOU CAN MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE!**

**BE A SPONSOR  
TODAY!**



*When you become a sponsor, you help us provide access to quality education, free healthcare services, psychological support and access to reliable learning resources!*

**60 USD/month**

**OR**

**720 USD/year**

# HOW TO DONATE?

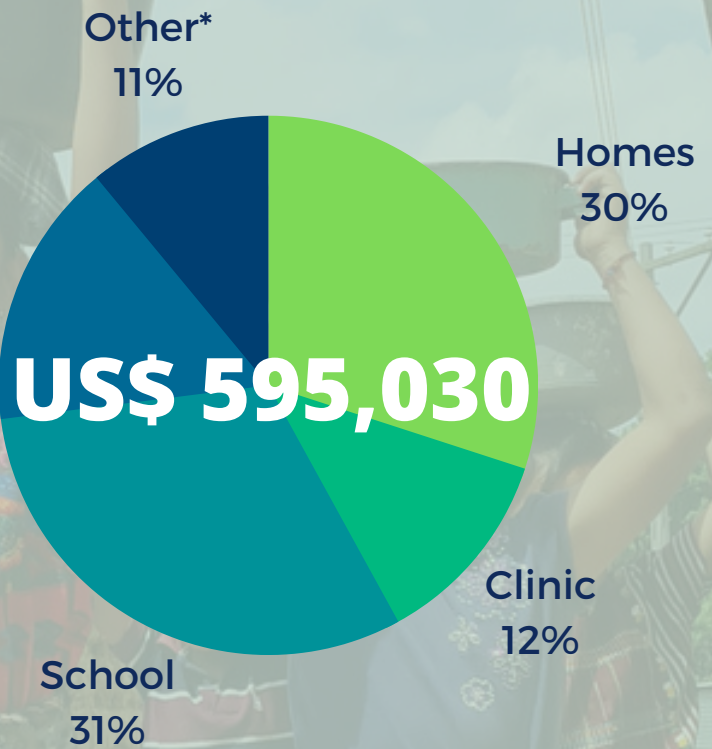


- Online on our [website](#)
- By check
- Coporate matching funds
- Gift of stock
- Amazon Smile
- Planned giving

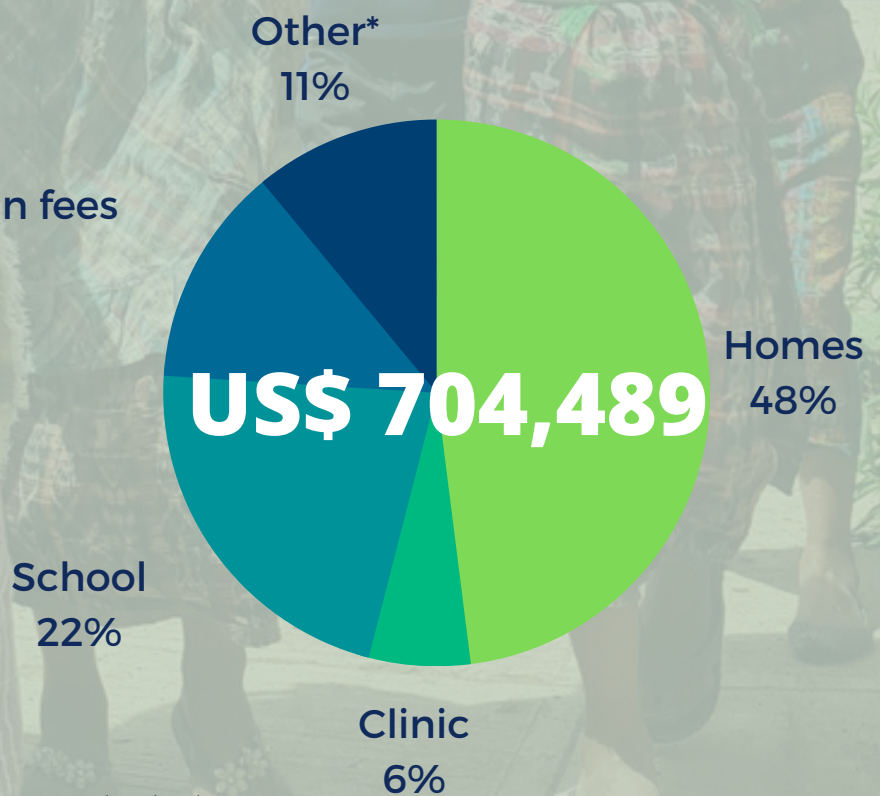
See how we use the money you donate

# TOTAL EXPENSES

**2020**

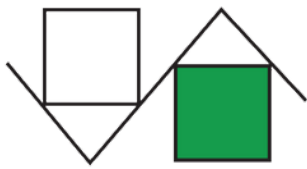


**2021**



\*Groceries for families in need. Donations/gifts to individuals.





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# THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!



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