

Dear Friends,

With your generous support, we ensured life-saving HIV treatment and primary care services at our clinics while expanding care and HIV testing to impoverished neighborhoods and high-risk groups in Honduras.

We began 2017 with a visit to the World Health Organization in Tegucigalpa for a meeting with members of the WHO and Secretary of Health's HIV treatment council. This impressive group of physicians, pharmacists and supply chain managers oversee the country's treatment of people with HIV. The meeting resulted in the government's commitment to provide new drugs for our patients failing on old therapies.

As you will read in this 2017 Annual Report, the year continued with further successes. We completed our three-year 90-90-90



*From right: Pascual Torres, Denise Main and Siempre Unidos staff at the World Health Organization offices in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.*

Major Gifts Campaign, received perfect government scores on our quality of care, and reached high-poverty communities lacking in HIV education and testing.

Thank you for helping to make this all possible.

With great appreciation for your friendship,

**Denise M. Main, MD**  
*Co-founder & President,  
Board of Directors*

## HEALING CARE

"Flora" is a married, 44-year-old mother who became our patient nine years ago. She suffered from poor circulation in her legs leading to the development of large ulcers in her calves. When the staff visited her home, they found Flora in terrible pain with exposed bone and fear of losing a foot.

The Siempre Unidos staff took Flora to a rehabilitation center to treat her ulcers. Over 9 weeks they visited Flora to check on her progress and ease her loneliness and boredom. Slowly the skin healed and Flora finally returned home. The staff continues to closely monitor her through home visits and Flora's monthly appointments at our clinic.



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*U.S. Executive Director*  
**The Rev. Pascual Torres**  
*Honduras Executive Director*

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## CLINIC-BASED SERVICES

### Excellent Health Care is Our Goal

Patients favorably compare our clinics to other healthcare providers. They distinguish us by our provision of self-support groups, individual therapy, food, respectful treatment and by making them “feel like family.”

It was further affirmation of the quality of our services when the Secretary of Health audited our clinics and gave them a perfect score of 100%. The evaluators reviewed numerous patient charts to assess patient outcomes, pharmacy maintenance and mental health case management.

In 2017, our clinics treated **461** HIV-positive patients, received over **1,700** patient visits for primary care, held **383** counseling sessions and **24** support group meetings and served **thousands** of breakfasts and lunches.

We continued the monthly distribution of the “Sustenance Bags” providing **50** HIV-positive patients living in extreme poverty



*San Pedro Sula staff and a banner held by Pascual saying, “We are a CSAI (Center of Integrated Care Services for people with HIV) of 100%.”*

with beans, rice, flour and other items. Without proper nutrition, the antiretroviral medications may not be sufficiently effective. Importantly, we found that the

patients’ average weight gain in 6 months was 6.6 lbs., an indicator of improving patient health.

## ADVOCACY

### Leading and Testing

Siempre Unidos complements its patient care with community organizing, pride parades and pro bono legal representation to affect change at the societal level. We collaborate with

other non-profit organizations serving vulnerable populations such as gay men, transgendered women and commercial sex workers to organize marches through the city center. The aim is to draw attention

to stigma and discrimination and provide solidarity. After the parades, we provide HIV education and free testing.



*Parade participants and bystanders line up to receive free HIV testing.*



*Siempre Unidos staff wearing red shirts lead the LGBT parade.*



## OUTREACH

### Beyond the Clinic Walls: Testing and Education Among High-Risk Groups

Data on HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C in Honduras is scant. Government reports and published studies on HIV collect data from only some cities and regions. There is no information on Hepatitis B and C in Honduras. While our first aim is to educate, test and treat, we were curious to learn more about the prevalence of these diseases so as to ensure we were meeting the needs of the population.

With funding from Gilead, we educated and tested our own HIV-positive patient population (**461** individuals), bisexual and homosexual men (**300**), commercial sex workers (**361**) and prisoners (**300**) for HIV and Hepatitis C. Of the bisexual and gay men tested, we found **3.3%** (10/300 persons) were positive for HIV but none positive for Hepatitis C. We found two cases of Hepatitis C and one case of HIV among the prisoners tested. None of the commercial sex workers tested positive for HIV or Hepatitis C. We immediately referred all positive individuals to treatment and will



*Pascual leads health talks with Roatán community members at the health fair.*

continue to focus on educating and testing bisexual and gay men.

We continue to test for HIV and Hepatitis B at our day-long health fairs among impoverished communities such as the unincorporated slums, high poverty

neighborhoods and peri-urban villages in San Pedro Sula, Siguatepeque and Roatán. In 2017, we conducted **13** such health fairs and found **6** of **456** people tested to be positive for HIV (**1.3%**); only one person was positive for Hepatitis B. All now receive treatment in our clinics.

## 90-90-90 CAMPAIGN

### Together We Can Limit the Spread of AIDS in Honduras

We successfully completed our three-year 90-90-90 Campaign to help stop new HIV infections among high-risk groups and people living on less than \$2/ day. We aligned our campaign with the United Nations global framework to **test 90% of people for HIV, treat 90% of infected individuals with antiretroviral medications, and achieve low viral loads in 90% of those treated.**

Given Honduras has only one viral load testing machine and frequently runs short of reagents, our year's fundraising focused on the purchase of a viral load machine, renovation of the laboratory, and hiring of a lab technician. The

viral load machine results will inform clinicians about whether the patient is infectious and responding well or poorly to treatment. In addition, our laboratory offers testing for other common conditions to general medical patients.

We are immensely grateful to board member Elisabeth Fowler and her family and board member Janet Brown for leading the drive for donations.



*The new HIV testing room, adjacent to the new laboratory.*

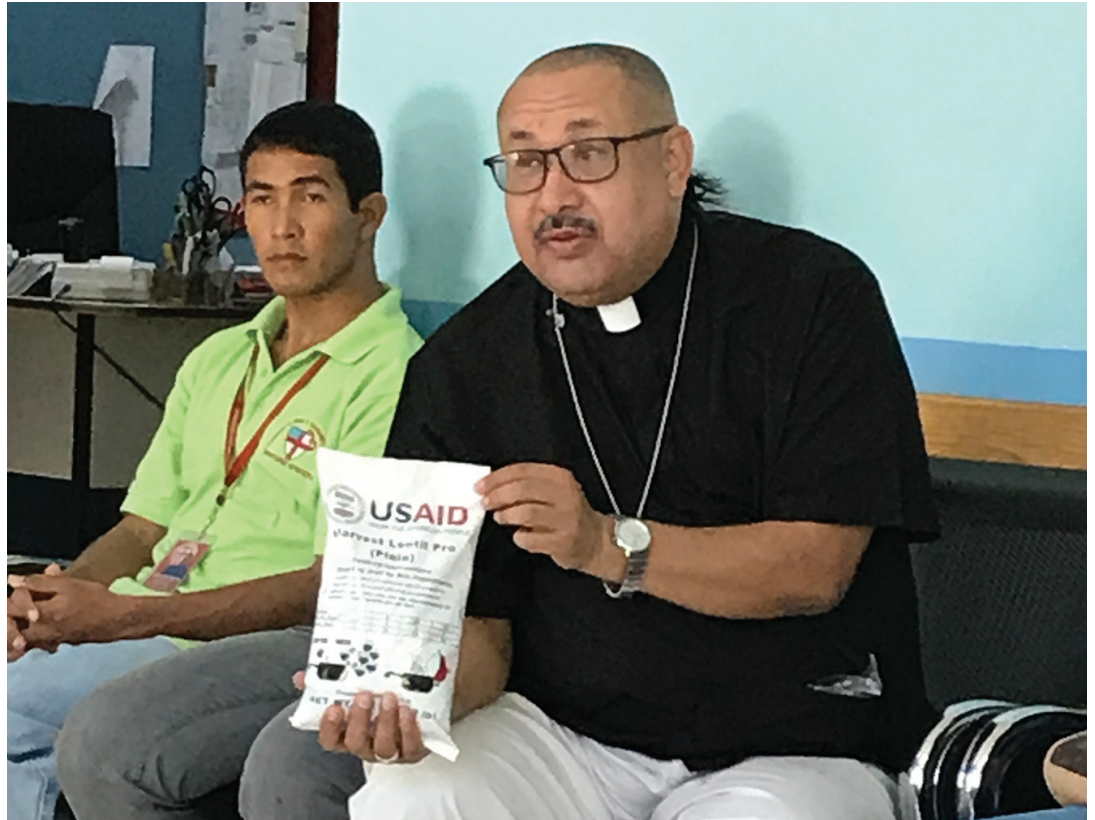




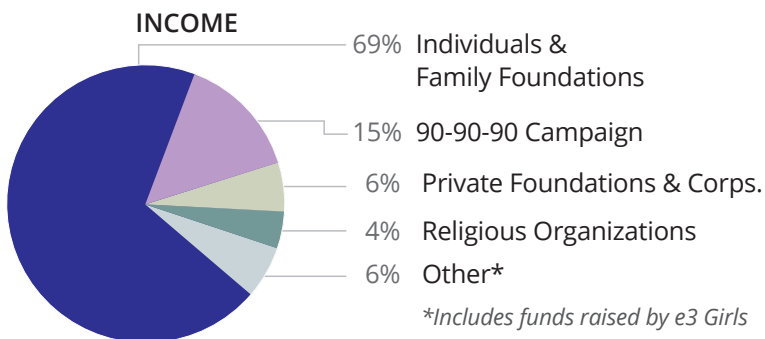
## A Message from El Reverendo

Did you know your government is helping us feed some of my country's poorest people? In the picture I am holding a bag from USAID containing a lentil soup mix that is high in the nutrients our patients need. And the soup is amazing and tasty.

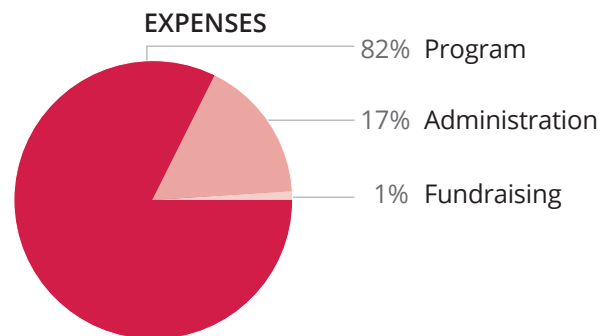
Thank you, my friends, for all that you do to help people you will never know. I tell our patients about you and they always ask me to thank you. So, from the bottom of my heart, I send my deepest gratitude and best wishes.



## FINANCIALS



*\*Includes funds raised by e3 Girls Education Fund, jewelry sales and release of reserved funds.*



*In 2017, Siempre Unidos' cash-basis income totaled \$469,129. Expenses totaled \$451,176.*