

Dear Friends,

In 2020, Honduras endured the same fears and loss wrought by the COVID pandemic as the rest of the world. Additionally, two hurricanes in November decimated the fragile safety net and economy plunging millions into deeper poverty.

Despite this past year's challenges, your tremendous friendship and generosity ensured we kept our doors open to continue the same level of high-quality HIV and primary care. We hosted patient appointments while safeguarding everyone's health with the use of PPE and strict safety protocols.

When hurricanes Eta and Iota devastated the Sula Valley, where our headquarters and larger clinic reside, you generously donated \$120,000 to provide hundreds

of our patients and their families with food aid, cookstoves, mattresses, and roofing materials.

We are grateful for your commitment to people living with HIV and are honored

to be a part of a global community that helps one another in times of great need.

*Denise M. Main*

Denise M. Main, MD

*Co-founder & President, Board of Directors*



*A patient and her sister carry a new mattress to their home.*

## A MESSAGE FROM EL REVERENDO

This report shares the stories of the most vulnerable people, the patients and their families, and the opportunity to thank you for support without which our mission could not be achieved.

**ANNUS HORRIBILIS!** For all humanity, the year 2020, and even into 2021, has been a year marked by pain, the loss of precious lives, confinement, social distancing, and economic bankruptcy caused by the appearance of COVID-19. None of our patients was left without medications and the employees behaved heroically!

As if that were not enough, in the month of November not one, but two, hurricanes hit our country. Again, our doors were not shut and our patients were not left without their treatment, not even one of them!

Thank you! Thank you to our U.S. supporters with whom we have a moral and human



*Pascual celebrates the holidays with patients and their children.*

debt for all your dedication and solidarity with the suffering of this country.



The Rev. Pascual Torres

*Co-founder & Honduras Executive Director*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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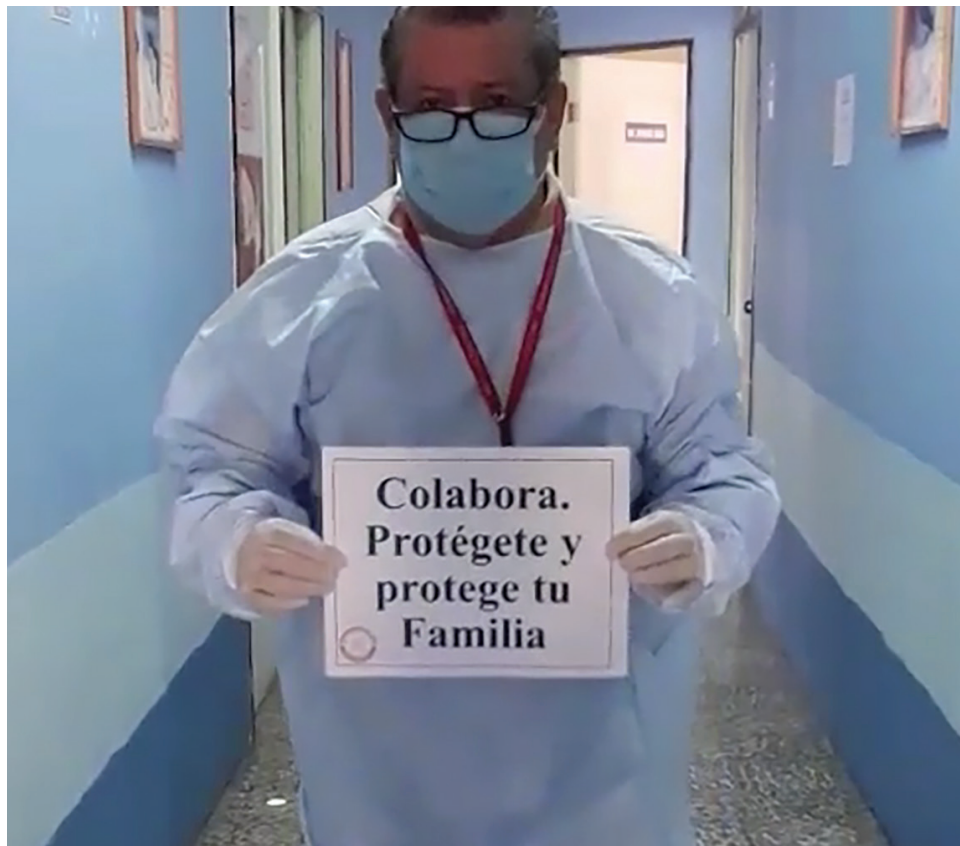
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## CLINIC-BASED SERVICES

### COVID and Hurricanes Cannot Disrupt Care



*"Collaborate. Protect yourself and your family," reads a sign held by Dr. Diaz for an educational video.*

Two months before the pandemic arrived in Honduras, Pascual and the Siempre Unidos clinicians prepared a COVID-19 protocol for the safety and treatment of people living with HIV. The government's health department adopted it for use in the country's remaining 52 HIV treatment clinics.

The Siempre Unidos team continued its preparations with the purchase of personal protective equipment, creation of informational videos and signs, and re-design of clinical flow. As a result, the San Pedro Sula and Siguatepeque clinics maintained continued care of the 482 HIV-positive patients as well as services for 1,500 family and community members seen during more than 5,000 appointments.

All of these challenges "taught us to unlearn what we took for granted, reinvent ourselves, and be creative," Pascual writes. Despite COVID and the hurricanes, he continues, "we found flexibility in schedules and created strategies to reach each and every one of our patients."

## ADVOCACY

### Beauty

Siempre Unidos advocates for the people who live at society's margins due to their sexual orientation, ethnicity, incarceration, and employment as sex workers. In 2020, Siempre Unidos staff, in partnership with Episcopal Relief and Development, expanded their focus to youth and women who live in the city's garbage dumps.

Stateless due to their lack of formal registration as city residents, the women and their families live in dwellings made from recycled materials like tarps and boards. They scour the dumps looking for anything for themselves or to sell like food, clothing, and building materials.

Siempre Unidos visited the dumps regularly to educate about sexual health, HIV, COVID-19 and to provide supplies

and teach the women income-generating skills like making headbands and other

handicrafts. They then sold the items at our clinics.



*Two customers who purchased headbands.*



## OUTREACH

### Restoration after Destructive Hurricanes

"What sadness," writes Pascual Torres in describing his visits to patients left homeless by Hurricanes Eta and Iota, two devastating storms that flooded cities, towns, and fields in November. "There are so many stories of people without shelter, without food... the air is almost too heavy to breathe, the water covers everything. It pains my heart. It truly appears that the apocalypse has arrived."

Within a month of the destruction, Siempre Unidos supporters generously heeded the call to help our patients and their families rebuild their homes and livelihoods. For example, \$260 provided Carolina and her eight-year old son with a 3 month's supply of food and a bed frame, mattress and bedding. Isabel, a patient for 11 years, received roofing supplies. When our work is complete, over 500 HIV-positive and primary care patients and their families will have received food, cookstoves, beds, and roofing materials, all paid for by your gifts and the donated time of Pascual and the Siempre Unidos staff.



*Isabel stands under her new roofing supplies with Pascual and Dr. Diaz.*

## SPECIAL FEATURE

### Sharing Educational Opportunities

The February beginning of the new Honduran school year is a sign of hope and opportunity for the five girls and their families who receive tuition support, uniforms, backpacks, and school supplies from Siempre Unidos to attend primary and high school. The Siempre Unidos staff selected them because of their academic standing, their parents' HIV status, and low household income.

The girls aim to achieve the stability that their parents cannot enjoy due to a lack of education and job insecurity. HIV-related stigma denies work at the largest employers, factories, where random and non-consensual HIV testing is administered.

A seventh-grader in Santa Barbara, California began the fundraising over 10 years ago to support five

students. Another girl took over and continues the vital donation drive. We are inspired by and grateful to the Honduran and U.S. girls who so greatly value each other and the opportunity for an education.

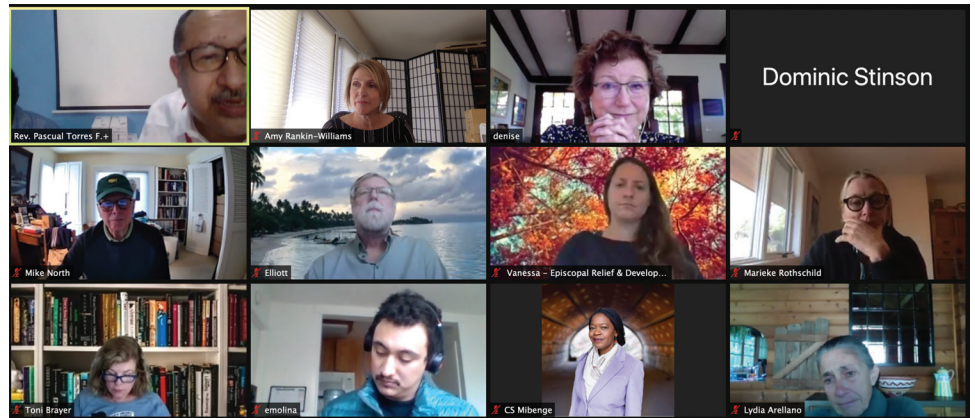


## The Silver Lining

The pandemic waylaid our ability to gather you to report on our achievements and share our deep gratitude for your friendship and generous support. A silver lining was found during our Zoom virtual events allowing people to join from Honduras, New York, and California.

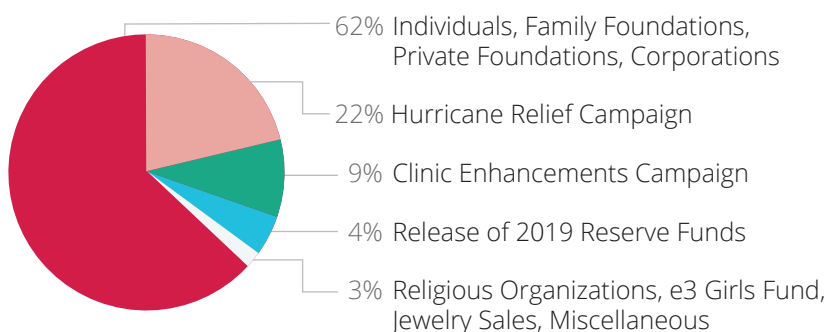
The screenshots seen here include board members, individual donors, and friends who have traveled to Honduras to help build our clinics. We wish to call out representatives from long-time and leadership donors, namely, the G.A. Fowler Family Foundation, Jeff and Marieke Rothschild Foundation, High Tide Foundation, Episcopal Relief & Development, and Direct Relief.

Thank you for abiding by Siempre Unidos during this annus horribilis. Through the fear and unpredictability, death and destruction, you brought grace and support that means the world to us.

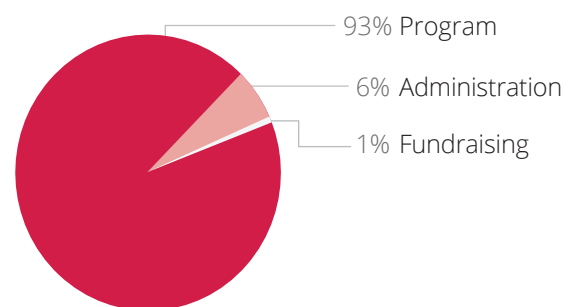


## FINANCIALS

### INCOME



### EXPENSES



*In 2020, Siempre Unidos' cash-basis income totaled \$541,349. Expenses totaled \$419,752. The difference is reserved for 2021 hurricane and COVID relief and building repairs.*