

Dear Friends,

In 2022, our clinical and advocacy programs for people living with HIV and their families and communities in Honduras continued in full force. We expanded our HIV education and outreach to girls and women living in extreme poverty and the Garifuna population, groups who are at higher risk of contracting HIV than the general population.

In addition to describing our highly rated programs, this Annual Report highlights two women who overcame extreme poverty and/or HIV with the help of Siempre Unidos. In return, they worked for us to educate

about HIV and provide HIV and primary care treatment to communities they know first-hand.

The Board and I are grateful for your unwavering support ensuring excellent HIV care and innovative and equity-based services designed for the unique needs of our communities.

With many, many thanks,



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



The Board of Directors, Executive Director, Pascual Torres, and Gina Meza gather for strategic planning (not present: Janet Brown).

A MESSAGE FROM EL REVERENDO

This past year we saw so many positive developments! A young woman who grew up in great poverty volunteered as a doctor in our clinic. A single mother at death's door due to AIDS graduated from high school and became one of our health educators. An 83-year-old man living with HIV is ... living with HIV!

All of these people make up the family that is Siempre Unidos. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.



The Rev. Pascual Torres
Co-founder & Honduras Executive Director



Pascual visits with the nurse and psychologist at the Roatán clinic.

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CLINIC-BASED SERVICES

High Ratings



Siempr Unidos Garifuna nurse checks the blood pressure of a community member.

Siempr Unidos has a reputation for excellent clinical HIV care in Honduras. Patients travel up to 9 hours from the country's border with Nicaragua to visit our clinics in San Pedro Sula, Siguatepeque, and Roatán. New clients search us out due to our advocacy for the rights of people who are gay and transgender. Other individuals remain our patients for over 20 years.

We also have the data to back up our claim to excellence:

- ✦ **100% score on patient care** from the Honduras Secretary of Health
- ✦ **State-of-the-art laboratory** that includes 1 of only 2 viral load machines in Honduras to ensure patients maintain strong immune systems and health
- ✦ Creation of the only **culturally appropriate and linguistically relevant** Garifuna language services and educational materials
- ✦ **Only provider of social, mental health, and nutritional services** like individual counseling, support groups, meals, food baskets, and home visits
- ✦ **100% score (four star) charity rating from Charity Navigator**, the largest independent charity evaluator in the U.S.

ADVOCACY

Health Equity for Garifuna People

The Garifuna, descendants of Africans who escaped slavery in the 18th century, live with discrimination, poverty, and higher rates of HIV than most other Honduran groups. Approximately 9% of our patients are Garifuna.

To respond to these inequities, we innovated to address the concerns of people like Areida, who commented upon seeing our Spanish-language materials, "These people do not look like me and they do not speak like me." We now have educational brochures and posters in the Garifuna language, the first of their kind in Honduras.

To better advocate for the needs of Garifuna patients, we hired a Garifuna psychologist and nurse to work at our part-time Roatán clinic and a Garifuna health educator to serve in San Pedro Sula. As members of this minority group, they ensure our programs are culturally, linguistically, and medically appropriate and effective.

Seeing a lack of materials for Garifuna-speaking people, Siempr Unidos developed informational booklets on HIV and sexually transmitted infections.



OUTREACH

Services for Girls and Women Who Live at the Dump

The site of industrial refuse and commercial and residential garbage, the San Pedro Sula municipal dump provides a living for over 100 families who live nearby. Mennonite social workers reached out to Siempre Unidos to seek our help to provide HIV and primary care and related health education to this community.

We quickly learned that girls and women were particularly vulnerable to HIV infections and early pregnancy. Together with community leaders, we designed health education and income-generating workshops to improve their knowledge and provide them with skills to support themselves.

Funded by Gilead Sciences and St. Margaret's Church, Annapolis, Siempre Unidos has provided 8 day-long health fairs and 23 workshops at the dump, to families living along riverbanks and lacking basic public services, and Garifuna communities. These funders will support this program through 2023.



Siempre Unidos health educator speaks to girls and women about HIV and how it is contracted.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Giving Back

Five years ago, Pascual read about a young woman who had grown up in extreme poverty in the bordos. The newspaper article described how Gina Meza was supporting herself through medical school by waking at 4:30AM to bake and sell pastries and wash and sell recycled plastic bags in the afternoon. She borrowed classmates' textbooks to study and completed homework without a computer.

With support from Siempre Unidos, Gina was able to cover her school fees and concentrate on her studies. In 2022, she completed her classroom education and elected to intern at Siempre Unidos. She brought compassionate care informed by her own life experiences to our patients. Gina plans to provide street-based medicine to unhoused children.



Dr. Gina Meza consults with a mother whose daughter has a skin infection.



Putting Health and Community First

When we met Reynalda (a pseudonym) 7 years ago, she was on death's door. Her immune system was barely functioning as seen by a CD4 count of four and she weighed 75 pounds. Board member Dr. Jay Lalezari evaluated

and assigned her different antiretroviral medications. Six months later she was a healthy weight and working to support her two daughters. In 2022, Reynalda graduated from high school with a certificate in Community

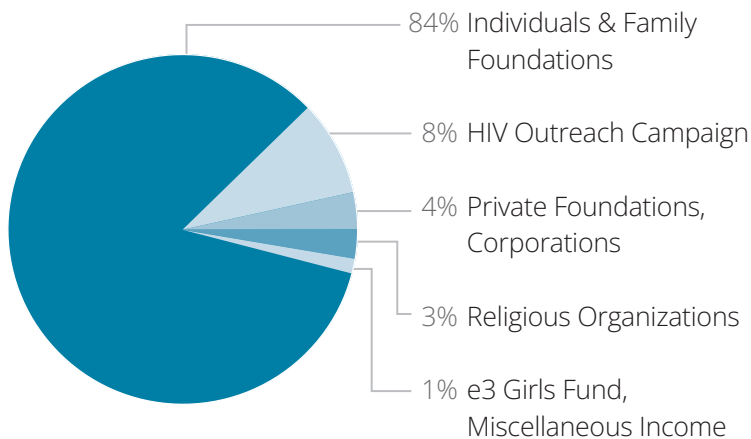
Health. She now works as one of our health educators and is especially qualified given her HIV status and identity as a Garifuna woman. We are so proud of our dear colleague.



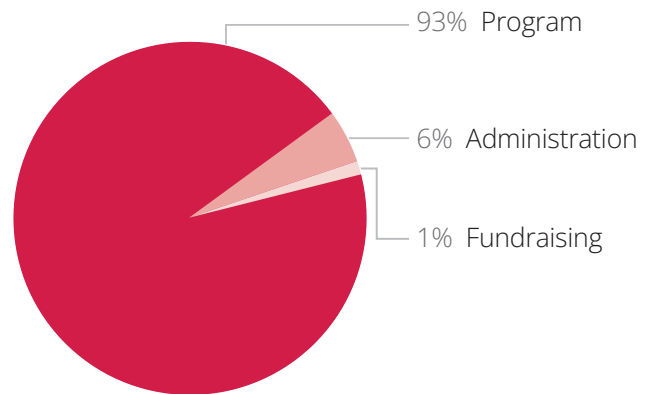
Reynalda signs the commencement book at her graduation ceremony.

FINANCIALS

INCOME



EXPENSES



In 2022, Siempre Unidos's cash-basis income totaled \$433,502. Expenses totaled \$429,980.

