



AUSTIN SAMARITANS

2020

## ANNUAL REPORT

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AUSTIN SAMARITANS

**WHAT WE DO:** Austin Samaritans seeks to show God's love to people in need in Nicaragua by assisting church-related and non-profit organizations with their programs in the areas of health, education, dental care, and rescue. By coordinating efforts and pooling resources for maximum impact, we connect resources and talent to needs.

Nicaragua continues to be challenged. During 2020 Nicaragua, like all other countries in the world, was in the grips of the COVID-19 pandemic. Unlike in many other countries, the government denied the widespread existence of the virus and did not encourage measures such as masks and social distancing. To date there are no government-approved COVID vaccines available in Nicaragua.



**EL SAMARITANO  
DENTAL CLINIC**  
A Clinic of AMOS  
Health and Hope

**El Samaritano Clinic** has provided health care to the poor in **Nejapa**, a community on the outskirts of Managua, for many years. In 2019, Austin Samaritans worked with AMOS Health and Hope, managers of the clinic, to equip and help fund the operation of a dental care facility at the clinic. High-quality, affordable, and compassionate dental care is provided. Extensive COVID-19 prevention measures were put in place during 2020 to protect the health of staff and clients. Consequently, the dental clinic closed temporarily on only two occasions in 2020.

During 2020 the clinic provided 365 individual dental procedures, including fillings, extractions, abscess drainage, and cleanings, to the low-income families in **Nejapa**.

Austin Samaritans is a major financial supporter of the dental clinic.

### VILLA GUADALUPE CLINIC

A Clinic of AMOS Health and Hope



General Medicine | Gynecological Services | Laboratory Tests  
Ultrasounds | Child Growth Monitoring | Free Medicines

**Villa Guadalupe Clinic** serves the impoverished Barrio Villa Guadalupe and adjacent barrios. The clinic meets critical health needs by providing general medical and OB/gynecology services, laboratory tests, ultrasounds, and medications. In addition, they monitor the growth and development of all pediatric patients under 5 years of age.

The clinic closed due to COVID-19 for only two weeks in 2020. In addition to implementing extensive COVID-19 prevention measures at the clinic, the clinic staff worked with its patient population to raise awareness about the importance of safety measures such as proper hand washing and the use of facial masks.

The clinic was serving 5,987 registered patients at the end of 2020 and provided over 3000 consultations during the year.

Austin Samaritans is the primary source of support for the clinic, which would close if not for that support.

### FUNDACIÓN ORTIZ GURDIAN CLINIC

A Clinic of the Ortiz Gurdian Foundation

**Fundación Ortiz Gurdian Clinic** provides free screening for, and treatment of, breast and cervical cancer for women of limited financial means.

Due to COVID-19, the clinic cancelled new patient screening for almost six months. However, it continued treatments for patients who were already in the program. They also continued the two-year follow-up screening for patients who had been through treatment.

In spite of the impact of COVID-19, it was able to provide the following services:

490 patients screened for breast cancer | 323 PAP smears  
59 patients initiated chemotherapy or hormone therapy  
14 cervical biopsies | 149 ambulatory breast cancer procedures  
2 cervical surgeries | 41 breast cancer surgeries

Austin Samaritans facilitated the addition of cervical cancer screening and treatment at the clinic and continues to provide significant financial support.



### CLUB CRISTIANO LA ESPERANZA

An Educational Center of Open Hearts

**Club Cristiano la Esperanza** serves children from the impoverished Barrio Villa Guadalupe by providing educational opportunities to over 300 pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and primary classes, as well as tutoring for elementary school students. Older youth receive scholarships to attend high school, and they participate in a youth group. It also provides sports activities and meals to over 300 students.

During 2020 the school suspended in-person classes temporarily because of the pandemic. Remote learning was a challenge because it is so hard for its students to access the internet. Paper packets were used to transmit lessons when in-person learning was not possible.

The program typically provides breakfast and lunch each school day. For a while the breakfast program was discontinued, and the lunch program became a take-out. They also provided meals for some of the sick and elderly in the neighborhood during the pandemic. In mid-August, they began serving breakfast again.

In spite of the challenges of the pandemic, they were able to add a fourth-grade class in 2020. They plan to add an additional class each year until education through the sixth grade can be provided.

Austin Samaritans provides financial support. Austin Samaritans mission teams have provided projects at Club Esperanza including building a computer classroom, installing a water tower, landscaping and construction.



### COLEGIO CRISTIANO PRESBITERIANO

A School of the Mission of the Presbyterian Church of South Korea in Nicaragua

**Colegio Cristiano Presbiteriano (CCP)** provides pre-kindergarten through high school classes for students from Barrio Hialeah, a neighborhood of families with very low income, and neighboring communities. The school offers a better education than that provided by the Nicaraguan public schools and does so in a Christian setting.



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the school had to use take-home paper packets for lessons rather than in-person classes for part of the year. It also had to suspend the free lunch program for pre-school and elementary students for part of the year. It was able to provide lunches again beginning in October.

Because of the economic impact of the pandemic, several students had to drop out of school. However, 325 students successfully completed the school year.

Austin Samaritans provides essential financial support for the school, without which it would close.

### VILLA ESPERANZA

A Mission of Forward Edge International

**Villa Esperanza** is a residency program for vulnerable, at-risk girls from impoverished communities. The girls receive educational support, health care, Bible study, and training in vocational and life skills.

Since its establishment in 2008, over 70 girls have participated in the residential program transitioning into independent young women with an education that enables them to provide a secure living and life skills to lead a productive life. In 2018, Villa Esperanza began offering a program for boys on the weekends.

In response to the pandemic, staff at Villa Esperanza handed out food packs to its ministry community. In addition, the girls at Villa Esperanza made facemasks to hand out to the most vulnerable.

Austin Samaritans provides financial support to assist with medical expenses of the girls.