



AUSTIN SAMARITANS

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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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 2021 Nicaragua, like all other countries in the world, was in the grips of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, in spite of significant temporary and permanent staff losses, our mission associates continued to provide services with very few interruptions.

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 & Hope, managers of the healthcare clinic, to equip and help fund the operation of a dental care facility at the clinic. High-quality, affordable, compassionate dental care is provided.

For many families in Nejapa, the cost of private dental procedures is out of reach. Those who cannot afford regular checkups and cleaning only seek dental care when they require fillings or extractions. To promote patient awareness of the dental services and to encourage routine check-ups, during October through December of 2021 the clinic offered free dental check-ups to patients that came in for medical consultations.

Extensive COVID-19 prevention measures were put in place during 2021 to protect the health of staff and clients. Even so, the clinic had to close twice, for a two-week period each time, due to the number of staff falling ill and the general prevalence of the virus in Managua.

The clinic has provided dental procedures to over 900 patients since it opened in 2019. In 2021, the clinic provided 119 dental fillings, 112 dental extractions, and 49 dental cleanings.

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

VILLA GUADALUPE CLINIC

A Clinic of AMOS Health & Hope

Villa Guadalupe Clinic serves the impoverished Barrio Villa Guadalupe and adjacent barrios. The clinic meets critical general medical and obstetric/gynecological needs. In addition, it monitors the growth and development of pediatric patients under 5 years of age.

Supplemental to medical services, the clinic offers valuable health education for patients and their families. Special emphasis is placed on care of infants and young children and lifestyle habits to prevent new disease or complications of existing medical conditions.

The clinic provided 3,084 consultations during 2021. The consultations included 755 doctors' visits and growth monitoring sessions for children under the age of 5 years old; 361 gynecological services and 29 prenatal checkups; 223 ultrasounds; and 308 consultations with chronically ill patients. Respiratory disease is a major problem in the community, and it increased in 2021 due to COVID-19. There were 1,055 respiratory disease consultations in 2021.



The pandemic and consecutive years of economic recession in Nicaragua have resulted in many families struggling with long-term unemployment. In recognition of this problem, the clinic offers free follow-up appointments for patients with acute pathologies or chronic diseases. (The normal cost of a medical consultation at the clinic is less than \$1 US.)

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

FUNDACIÓN ORTIZ GURDIÁN CLINIC

A Clinic of the Ortiz Gurdján Foundation



Fundación Ortiz Gurdján Clinic (FOG) provides free screening for, treatment of, and rehabilitation for breast and cervical cancer for women of limited financial means.

Patients of the clinic spend five years in the program, which includes follow-up screening.

In spite of the impact of COVID-19 in 2021, the FOG Clinic was able to provide the following services:

- ♦ 770 screenings for breast cancer
- ♦ 576 PAP smears
- ♦ 222 ambulatory breast cancer procedures
- ♦ 83 chemotherapy or hormone therapy initiations
- ♦ 20 cervical biopsies
- ♦ 1 ovarian ablation
- ♦ 52 breast cancer surgeries

The screenings detected 49 cases of breast cancer and 4 cases of cervical lesions.

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



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.

COVID-19 presented severe challenges for the school in 2021. However, both students and staff persevered, and 375 students completed the school year (up from 326 students at the end of 2020).

The Nicaraguan government required schools to hold in-person classes throughout most of the year. In order to provide better protection against COVID-19, tables and benches were added to the shaded patio so that more classes, eating, and socializing could be done outdoors.

Periods when in-person classes were not held due to the high level of COVID-19 transmission were very challenging for the school. Many students do not have internet in their homes or own their own cell phones; so, to the extent practical, they had to use their parents' cell phones for lessons. In addition, several of the teachers were out with the virus; some were hospitalized.

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



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 students. In addition to providing pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes, it has been adding one elementary grade each year since 2017. In spite of the challenges of the pandemic, it added a 5th grade class in 2021. Older youth receive scholarships to attend high school, and they participate in a youth group.



Club Esperanza provides the students with two meals each school day. It has a lacrosse team that receives support from Lacrosse the Nations. It also supports local churches, one of which meets and operates out of the club campus.

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

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.

During 2021, in spite of losing several members of the Villa Esperanza family to COVID, the mission remained dedicated to those it serves and found ways to get them food, encouragement, help, and hope.

Since its establishment in 2008, over 75 girls have participated in the 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. A quarterly weekend discipleship camp and monthly one-day retreats provide vocational training and recreational activities in a Christian mentoring atmosphere.

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