

# THE MICAH PROJECT

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS

IMPACT REPORT



For such  
a time  
as this.





The Micah Project has existed for 21 years to help street-connected youth in Honduras find freedom, family and a future in Christ.

**THE MICAH PROJECT EXISTS FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...**





## A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR

The Micah Project entered 2020 with a plan for a year-long celebration of our 20th anniversary, which was to culminate with a huge party in November to which you were going to be invited! Those plans changed overnight last March when the world shut down due to COVID-19. Facing a months-long lockdown here in Honduras, we also saw a growing number of kids and families on the streets, and neighbors who were no longer able to put food on the table due to the shuttered economy.

Even before the world shut down due to COVID-19, two out of three Hondurans were living in poverty\*. 2020 only increased that misery as this impoverished country faced the combined threats of a health crisis, an economic crisis, and a political crisis. One thing became clear to us amidst so much tragedy: God had placed the Micah Project in Honduras for such a time as this.

Thanks to your generous donations to Micah's Love Our Neighbor Fund, we blessed thousands of families with food and basic supplies throughout the lockdown. We also redoubled our street ministry and as a result, eight boys left the streets behind and joined the Micah House. In August 2020, our staff began an intense, six-month process of strategic planning to answer the question: "With all of the recent changes in Honduras, how can the Micah Project continue to glorify God by helping this country and its people to flourish?"

This booklet will begin to answer that question. From rethinking our educational plan to launching a new program called Micah Works, you will see in these pages the many ways that your investment in these young people will continue to transform them through their Father's love. Thank you for being a part of that transformation!

Su hermano en Cristo,

*Michael S. Miller*

Michael Miller

Founder and Executive Director

\*[www.worldbank.org/en/country/Honduras](http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/Honduras)

Eduard Pérez  
 Misael Lopez  
 Brayan Lemos  
 Gabriel Soto  
 Derek Martinez  
 Josué Oliva  
 Jhon Anderson  
 Eddy Amador  
 Pedro Reyes



# Thank you for investing in our lives and in our country!

Junior Hernandez  
 Mario Fugón  
 David Zvaldo Zambrano  
 Walter Cruz  
 Oliveri Isaac  
 Lester Noé





## RETHINKING EDUCATION

Many of our boys have lost years of school while living on the streets. At Micah, we have two seemingly contrary tasks of restoring their lost childhoods while also losing no time in helping them prepare for their future. Our home-schooling program offers K-10 education and the opportunity to attend a Christian high school for the last two years of school.



With all schools shut down, Honduras's September 15 Independence Day parades were cancelled. We decided to form our own marching band and cheer up our locked down neighbors on Independence Day!



After high school, many of our young men transition to our Timothy House in downtown Tegucigalpa to begin their college education.



## TOOLS FOR LIFE

Not all of our young men will opt for college. Our new strategic plan places greater emphasis on technical and vocational training to provide as many tools as possible to become successful adults. We started new programs in the culinary arts, welding, carpentry, and agriculture in 2021, and will soon add others!

Micah grad Arle Mejia was working on a cruise ship in the Mediterranean before the pandemic hit. He moved back to Honduras, took over Micah's kitchen and inaugurated our culinary school! He is currently teaching five of our grads and all the boys in the Micah House.







# MICAH WORKS!



We are thrilled to launch Micah Works after many years of planning and prayer! The idea behind this new program, inspired by Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, is to provide a job to street youth 18-years-old and up, and, as they learn the value of hard work, to teach them the skills and habits they need to permanently step away from the streets. The Micah Project will rent small apartments and assign a navigator for each participant--a mentor to walk with them as they move toward a healthy, God-honoring future. After completing our year-long job training program, we will empower them to take their next step, which could be further vocational training, job placement, or even seed money to start their own microenterprise.

Our pilot project for Micah Works will focus on a scarce resource here in Honduras: water! In our newly built water purification building on Micah's campus, each participant will learn how to purify water, bottle it in five-gallon jugs, market it and deliver it in our community, and recover used bottles for sterilization. Then, rinse and repeat!

We are already planning Phase Two of Micah Works for 2022! As part of the Micah Project's ongoing street ministry, Micah missionary Michelle Corley has helped several street-connected young women take private lessons in hair styling/cutting and other skills related to cosmetology. We may formalize this effort in 2022 as a part of Micah Works!



We are also looking at a small business focused on food preparation

What name would you give to a Micah Project food truck?





## LONIF

in 2020, we established the “Love Our Neighbors Impact Fund” to serve thousands of families that lost their livelihoods during the pandemic and months-long quarantine.

Our boys helped to pack up and deliver thousands of pounds of food and supplies to the neediest of our city. Because this is an ongoing crisis, we are still accepting donations to this special fund!



## HE KNOWS THEIR NAMES

Our Heavenly Father knows each street kid by name, and the mission of our street ministry is to reflect His unconditional love to each of them. Our street team, led by social worker Wendy Varela, visits the plazas, alleyways, and street corners that the street kids call home and establishes an incarnational presence in their lives.



Since the pandemic began in March of 2020, there has been a sharp increase in children and families on the streets and our team has gone the extra mile to love and support this vulnerable population.





Take a look at these two pictures of little David, one living on the streets in 2018 and the other at the Micah House in 2021. Micah is founded on the firm belief that there is no place so dark, no life so broken, that God's love cannot reach in to begin a new work!

## NEW FACES AT MICAH

Most of the boys in this picture have joined the Micah Project in the last year. Please pray for our newest generation—Misael, Walter, David, Josue, Mario, Gabriel, Derek, and Oliver—as they leave the tragedy of their past lives behind and are transformed by His love!



## MICAH GRADS MAKING AN IMPACT

Micah grads are making an impact for God's kingdom in Honduras and around the world! Juan Carlos and his wife Roxy are full-time missionaries with Youth with a Mission in Chile. They dream of opening up a home for abandoned children in Chile! To support them, write Juan Carlos at [ywampichilemu2017@gmail.com](mailto:ywampichilemu2017@gmail.com).

In Honduras, Micah grads are engineers, teachers, social workers, and call center employees, among other careers. Most importantly, they continue to encourage each other to be the men God created them to be. Here, several of our grads support Raul in July 2021 after his older brother was killed.

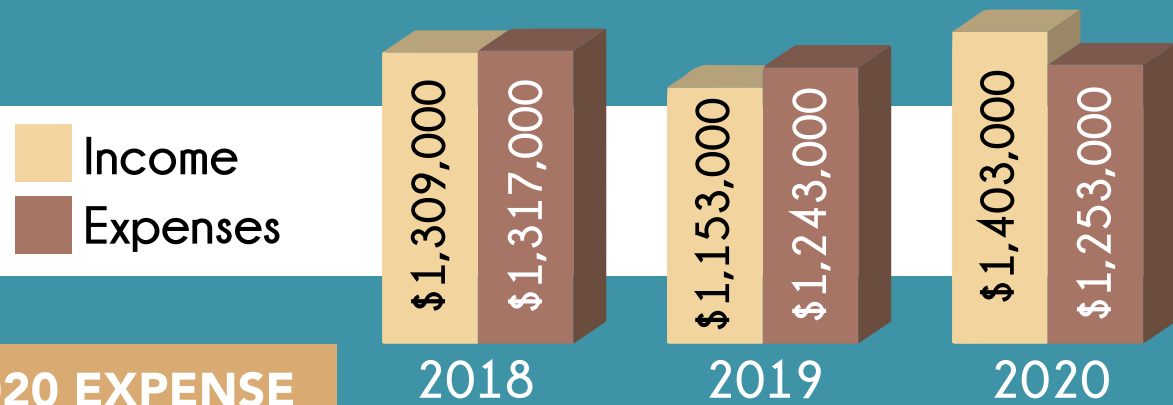
A girl dad! Micah grad Pedro Martinez and his wife Maricela are amazing parents to Dylan and Aytana (pictured). Pedro is a civil engineer working for the city of Tegucigalpa and he comes to the Micah Project several days a week to encourage our current generation of boys. This picture is especially amazing when you consider that Pedro never knew his own father.



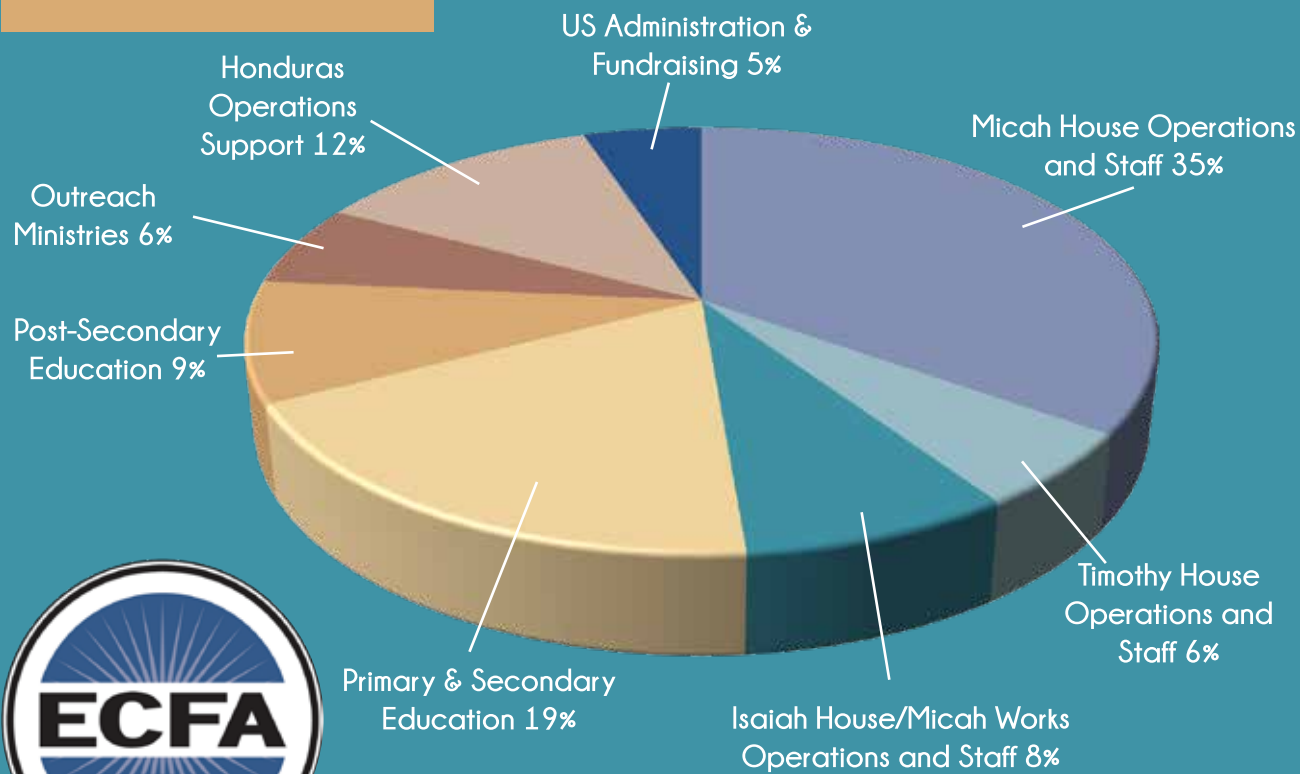


# MICAH AT A GLANCE

## FINANCIALS:



### 2020 EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



We are proud to be accredited by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), which holds Christian non-profit organizations to "high standards of accountability with respect to governance, financial management and stewardship/fundraising practices."

## 2020 GIVING:

**92**  
Monthly donors of \$50+ aka "Friends of the 504"

**26**  
Churches and Organizations that support us

**689**  
Families and individuals who gave in 2020



## MINISTRY STATS:

**36**  
Young men in our programs full-time in 2020

**82**  
Micah guys living in Tegucigalpa or around the world

**1200**  
Families served by our LONIF and other outreach

**270**  
People served through our street ministry in 2020

**37**  
Age of oldest Micah Graduate

**11**  
Youngest boy currently in the Micah House



# YOUR IMPACT

There are so many ways to be a part of what God is doing to change lives through the Micah Project in Honduras. These are just a few:

## GIVE!

We are single-minded in our commitment to invest the funds you donate to help street-connected youth in Honduras find freedom, family, and a future in Christ!

**Check Donations:** Please make out checks to The Micah Project and mail to: The Micah Project, Inc., Dept. 357, P.O. Box 4346, Houston, Texas 77210-4346  
**Online Donations:** [www.micahprojecthonduras.org/donate](http://www.micahprojecthonduras.org/donate)

There are many ways to help spread the word about the Micah Project's work in Honduras. You can schedule a date for us to come speak at your church, school or at a house party in your neighborhood! You can organize a group to run in our virtual Labor of Love event this Labor Day! Or let us know how we can help you organize a fundraiser to bless the Micah Project!

## ADVOCATE!

## PRAY!

Write us at [micahproject12@gmail.com](mailto:micahproject12@gmail.com) if you would ever like to know specific prayer requests about one of the boys or about the Micah Project in general.

There is no better way to encourage our boys and staff and to see what God is doing through the Micah Project in Honduras than by visiting! To plan a visit, write our U.S. directors John and Becca Bell at [micahprojectbells@gmail.com](mailto:micahprojectbells@gmail.com).

## VISIT!

# EN MEMORIAM



Every young person in our programs has suffered from a tragic mixture of abuse, neglect, addiction, violence and trauma before leaving the past behind to pursue a new life through the Micah Project. Sadly, due to the nature of the population we work with, there will always be the possibility of loss. Before 2020, we said goodbye to eight kids who lost their lives to the violence that is a part of everyday life in the streets and barrios of Honduras.

In 2020, we lost Elvin Meraz, a kid whose smile lit up any room he entered. Elvin spent much of his childhood deeply addicted to yellow glue and living on the streets. We were overjoyed when he chose to leave the streets behind in January of 2019. He flourished at the Micah Project, learning to read and write for the first time and becoming a much-loved member of our family. In 2020, the total lockdown imposed by Honduras during the pandemic, in which we were only allowed to leave our homes once every two weeks, was very hard on Elvin. In April, he asked to be reintegrated with his family in one of the most dangerous neighborhoods of Tegucigalpa. In August, he was kidnapped and killed by one of the criminal gangs that runs this city. While we believe in the hope of eternal salvation, Elvin's violent death has been hard on Micah's staff and boys. Please pray as we continue to heal from this profound loss.



Because Elvin's body was never recovered, we are developing a prayer garden on Micah's property in his memory.





## KEEP UP WITH US ONLINE

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