



OUR WORK IN LA LIMONADA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH VIDAS PLENAS

“And if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.” – Isaiah 58:10

Academies:

The children are La Limonada’s future. Vidas Plenas’s efforts over the past 17 years have revolved largely around gang prevention – providing the children of La Limonada a safe place to learn and grow.

Since the year 2000, the team of teachers and staff members at the academies has provided hope for the children of La Limonada. These academies are not recognized as formal schools by the Guatemalan government, but are places where children ages 4-15 are taught the way of Jesus and so much more. They are loved, valued, fed, clothed, educated, taught proper hygiene, and provided with scholarships to attend formal junior high and high school.

The Limón Academy (formerly known as La Escuelita) was the first school established in La Limonada in 2001 with a small group of young children. By 2008 it had grown to serve more than 60 children – growing more and more each year. That year, the Mandarin Academy was established in a neighboring barrio and today almost 150 children attend school there as well. The Lima Academy opened in 2013, and currently has more than 100 children enrolled. The Toronja Academy is currently under construction, and is tentatively scheduled to open in July 2017.

The academies serve as beacons of light and hope in the midst of the darkness of La Limonada. The buildings provide much more than a space for the academies. They provide a place for parenting classes and a launchpad for relationally-based ministry among the children, individuals, and families in the community.

More than 40 local Guatemalans – a majority of whom are from La Limonada – are employed by the academies as teachers, assistant teachers, cooks, and custodians. All of them have devoted their lives to unconditionally loving the children entrusted to their care.

Through our Child Sponsorship program, individuals, families, businesses, and churches can support the work of the academies and make a difference for the children whose lives are impacted at the academies. Through Teacher Sponsorship, the Vidas Plenas staff are provided with a fair wage – empowering them to give their lives to serve the children of La Limonada.

Community Relief:

The Community Relief program provides relief for the most vulnerable in La Limonada. For years, the team in Guatemala has been providing relief for the urgent, unexpected needs of those who are most vulnerable in the community.

The Community Relief Fund responds with compassion to extreme needs, including:

- Medical services (surgeries, cancer treatment, prescriptions, etc)
- Nutrition supplements for the elderly and children
- Adult diapers and other medical supplies for the bedridden
- Mercy bags (essential items which offer relief to those in greatest need)
- Home repairs after storms and mudslides or when children are at high risk
- Funeral expenses to assist families to bury their loved ones with dignity

Rescue:

The work of “rescue” happens through staff members who spend time together – in homes, alleys, parks, and wherever else they hang out – lifting weights, creating necklaces and bracelets or positive graffiti art projects with a message for the community, and simply spending time talking about life’s concerns, sharing prayer requests, or studying the Bible together. These staff members have helped the youth access homeschooling opportunities; some are working on finishing the second or third grade!

Core Values:

- *Dignity:* We believe all people have inherent worth, with unique gifts given by God to share with others.
- *Solidarity:* We stand with the marginalized people of La Limonada and with the committed staff of Vidas Plenas.
- *Deep Relationships:* We believe in listening, knowing, and honoring the stories of community members, staff, donors, and partners.
- *Authenticity:* We seek accountability at all levels to ensure honesty, transparency, and effectiveness in everything we do.
- *Partnership:* We partner with one community, acting as a conduit for generosity and love.

Lemonade International/Vidas Plenas Partnership:

FUNDRAISING: Securing, sustaining, and expanding financial support for the work of Vidas Plenas.

- Lemonade International’s primary function is to fundraise through building relationships with US and international donors to support the work of Vidas Plenas in La Limonada. Our fundraising efforts include:
 - Child sponsorship, teacher sponsorship, scholar sponsorship, Community Relief Fund, TEN2END, and other targeted fundraising efforts to support the monthly Vidas Plenas budget (for the purpose of sustaining and growing the academies and ongoing community relief efforts)
 - Funding to sustain and expand VP expenses (and special one-time year expenses such as shoes, school supplies, and scholarships) through our annual year-end campaign, Give Christmas
 - Funding for urgent and unanticipated projects
 - Funding to support construction of new academies and renovation projects to expand the enrollment capacity of existing academies

COMMUNICATIONS: *Sharing stories and providing updates to partners and supporters.*

- Lemonade International employs a communications director who is in contact with VP staff on a regular basis for the purpose of maintaining and further developing collaboration, unity, and solidarity between the organizations
- The communications director shares with our network and donors appropriate stories and updates about what God is doing in La Limonada
- The primary purposes of this communication are:
 - To call people to pray for VP and the people of La Limonada
 - Building and strengthening meaningful relationships between people in the US and the people of La Limonada
 - Providing people with the specific opportunities to offer their love, time, talents, and resources for the people of La Limonada
- The Lemonade International Child Sponsorship Team works with the Vidas Plenas team to facilitate communication between sponsors and the children they sponsor.

SERVICE-LEARNING TRIPS: *Deepening relationships and increasing opportunities for long-term connections between churches and individuals from the US, the Vidas Plenas team, and the people of La Limonada.*

- Lemonade International rents a house (“Lemonade Guest House”) in Guatemala City for the primary purpose of hosting service learning trips who will visit and serve in La Limonada
- We provide staff, management, and funding for the house
- We provide a Community Liaison who works directly with the Vidas Plenas staff to host service-learning trips while they are in La Limonada
- The Community Liaison will also work with VP staff to coordinate any service projects that will be done by the group while they are in La Limonada
- We maintain a van for the use of transporting groups from the guest house to La Limonada and to other destinations included in the itinerary of the service learning trips