

Jubilee Centers International  
PO Box 7758  
Grand Rapids, MI 49510



# Jubilee's 2019 Annual Report





March 2020

Dear Friends and Co-laborers in Christ,

**"Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."** - Nehemiah 8:10

As you may recall, this verse was our theme for the 2019 school year--a year marked with many significant events for us as a ministry. It marked our first full decade and included preparations for the opening of our middle school. It also marked the first time we lost a student to illness, our beloved Alex. Little did we know when we picked this theme that all of these surprises and challenges were awaiting us, that these opportunities to experience the ever-constant, never-changing joy of the Lord were just around the corner. We continue to be grateful to Him for where He has brought us, for what He has done in 2019 and over the past 10 years, and for all that He is going to do in this new year and new decade, starting now in 2020!

With your help, in 2019 we not only exceeded our general fundraising goal, but we are also over halfway to reaching our Middle School Miracle Campaign goal of \$500,000! Through your generous support, in 2019, we had the opportunity to educate, transform, and disciple 245 PreK - 6th grade students! This year, that opportunity expands to just over 300 PreK - 9th grade students. As we have just recently begun our 2020 school year, we ask for your prayers for wisdom, effectiveness, and strength as together we work to bring a year of great changes and new opportunities to Jubilee. Please pray that God's Kingdom would grow more and more powerful in our midst and come alive in the hearts of our students and families. Please join us in praying that this power would also spread throughout the nearby neighborhoods and entire city of Tegucigalpa.

Thank you for your partnership in prayer, friendship, and financial support this past year! We pray that you will continue to walk with us at Jubilee in this new year.

With deep gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily and David Romero". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Emily and David Romero  
Co-Founders & Co-Directors

# Mission

Jubilee Centers International is an organization compelled by Christ’s love for the poor to “preach the year of the Lord’s favor,” (Luke 4:19) through community outreach including formal Christian education and through holistic community development.



# History



Jubilee began in the community of La Era in 2010 providing quality Christian education for 85 PreK/Kindergarten students with 4 teachers in two loaned classrooms. Although initially the plan was to begin Jubilee with Middle School and grow into a High School, the Lord had other plans. Over the past 10 years, we have grown a grade level every year until graduating our first class of 6th graders in 2016. Now in 2020, rejoicing in answered prayers and a hope fulfilled, for the first time we opened our doors to over 50, 7th - 9th grade students and another 250 Prek - 6th grade students! Over the past ten years, the Lord, through so many supporters like you, has provided Jubilee with its own property; a debt-free, 20 classroom school building; accessible tuition assistance for hundreds of students; and salaries for our staff of 40 dedicated Christian co-laborers. “Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.” Ephesians 3:20

# Quality Christian Education

In 2019 we served a total of 275 students: 245 PreK - 6th grade Jubilee students and 30 7th - 9th grade Jubilee graduates in our Middle School Support program.

Seventy percent of our students come from poverty or extreme poverty, 20% from the lower middle class, and 10% from Honduras’ middle class. All of our families take ownership of their children’s education through a sliding tuition scale. Sixty percent of the families come from a single parent home or a home in which parents are not married. Sixty percent of our students are raised in families that are not part of a church. Jubilee is fulfilling one of Honduras’ greatest needs by combining financially accessible, quality schooling with Christ-centered education. Providing Christ centered education is one of the most powerful ways to transform, equip, and empower children and youth to be leaders in and to be agents of change in their homes and surrounding communities right here in Honduras without leaving their home country.



## Incorporating Christ In All We Do

For us, Christian education is not just a label, but it is at the very foundation and core of who we are and what we do. Every decision we make is made through seeking guidance from our Shepherd who directs our paths. As the leaders of Jubilee, we make sure that Christian values and a Christian worldview are woven into all of our teaching, instruction, and discipline by equipping our staff during teacher workshops, regular devotions, and all our interactions throughout the year. Our desire is that our school culture is reflective of the Fruits of the Spirit because they are fundamental to who we are as a ministry. Each week we set aside time to meet as a staff for an hour of prayer, worship, and studying God's Word to help us be able to give out of a full cup and to grow in our ability to share Christ with others. This carries over into the classrooms where each day is started with a short devotional and prayer time. Each week, our students come together for a time of corporate prayer, praise, and spiritual guidance. This includes the older students leading the praise music! Lastly, even greater emphasis is placed on Biblical learning in September when we celebrate Bible Month with activities such as visual art, drama, poems, prayer, and worship. These activities facilitate the students growing in their depth of love for and understanding of the Lord and His Word.



## Growing Staff, Dedicated Volunteers, and Board Members

Everything we do at Jubilee is a team effort. From the numerous volunteers we have throughout West Michigan and the greater US, to our localized Honduran staff, this work would not be possible without the dedication of so many who have joined us in Jubilee's mission. In 2019 we added Paul Soper, CPA, to Jubilee's board as our Treasurer. We hired Alexander Martinez to serve in a diverse role in education administration. Timothy Essery, missionary from El Paso, TX and now husband to our music director, Paola Soto, joined us as our technology specialist, computer teacher, and music collaborator. Lastly, several other gifted elementary teachers joined us in 2019 as well. We thank the Lord for providing the human resources through our US and Honduran boards, our staff, and wonderful volunteers.

## Academic Success

In 2019, we continued to show improvement on our frequent standardized test scores. We also were thankful to provide monthly workshops for teachers and aides. The support of our teacher aides (who are present in every one of our PreK - 2nd grade classrooms), our tutoring programs, one-on-one parent meetings, and specialized parent trainings all continue to help grow our students' academic success and make us a reference for high-quality education in our school-district and throughout the city.



## Jubilee's Child Sponsorship Program

Our first full year of managing our own in-house Child Sponsorship Program was a HUGE success, and we are so thankful to each of you who have helped! At the end of 2019, we already had 130 Child Sponsors, more sponsorships than we have ever had in the past! We are so grateful to our sponsors for this financial support and for building a special connection between sponsored students and their own family. In 2020 we hope to sponsor at least 30 more students. We still have over 100 students that do not have any sponsor. Please consider sponsoring a child in 2020 and forming a personal relationship with one of Jubilee's students. Go to [jubileehn.org/sponsorship/](https://jubileehn.org/sponsorship/) for more information or contact our Sponsorship Coordinator Emily Brown at [ebrown@jubileehn.org](mailto:ebrown@jubileehn.org).

## Mission Teams and Volunteers



In 2019 we were blessed by the support of two mission teams and eight visitors, volunteers, and interns who served with us. Are you interested in joining us on a Mission Trip in 2020? Visit [jubileehn.org/mission-trips](https://jubileehn.org/mission-trips) or contact Hannah Breuker at [hbreuker@jubileehn.org](mailto:hbreuker@jubileehn.org). We have room for you in our Jubilee-led team which is the week of July 11-18th!



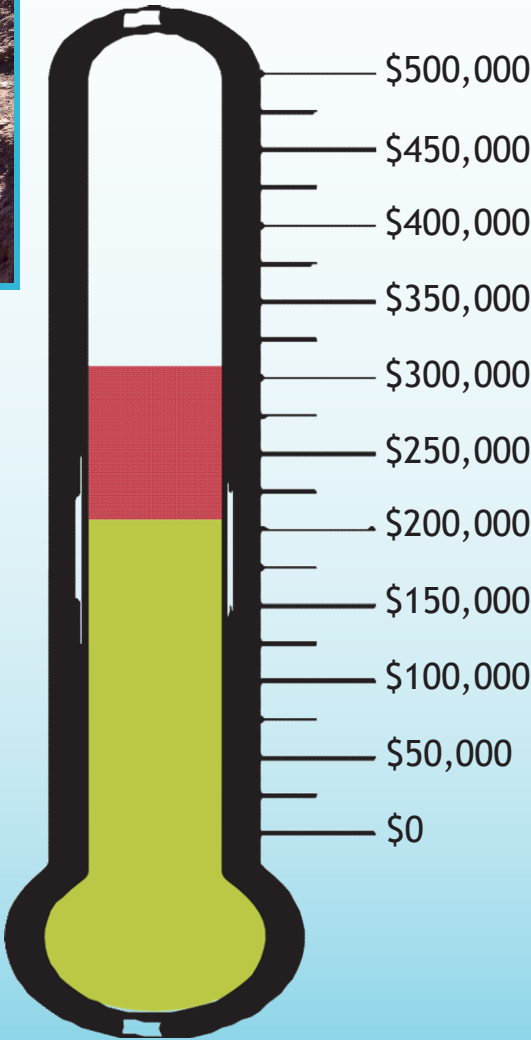
# Middle School Miracle Preparation & Campaign

Last year was marked with many investments as we got ready for the start of our 2020 middle school launch! New systems were created to begin the process of enrolling 7th, 8th, and 9th graders. The hiring process began for 6 new middle school teaching positions. Construction began in July 2019 for new classrooms and additional spaces needed for our growing student population. Lastly, we began our Middle School Miracle capital campaign in order to provide the additional financial resources for the new capital projects and operating expenses for the middle school (see more about the capital campaign in the financial section of this report). We are so thankful for the involvement of so many of you in the middle school campaign. Preparations in 2019 were done very well, and this created a smooth and excellent launch of our middle school in 2020!



Goal: \$500,000  
Total Raised in 2019: \$297,500

- \$213,000 funds given in 2019
- \$84,500 funds pledged for 2020, 2021, 2022

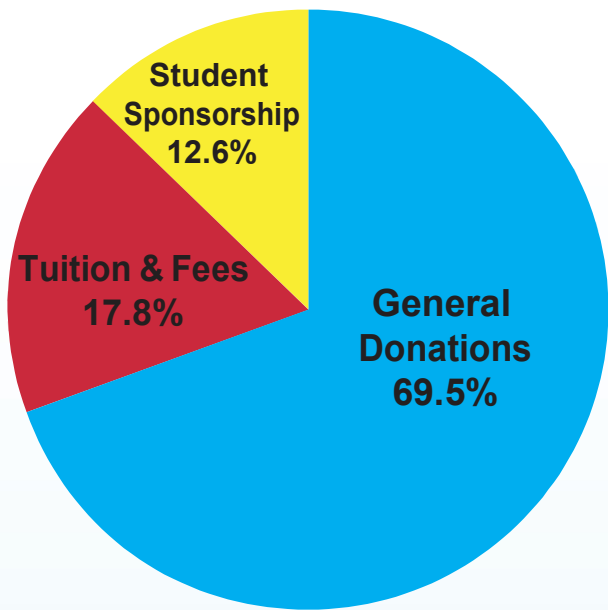


# Financial Update

We are so grateful to the Lord for His financial provision once again. We not only met our General Operating revenue goal, but exceeded it, even in the midst of the capital campaign! We declare, “Ebenezer”, meaning: “Thus far, the Lord has helped us!” And He has helped Jubilee, by prompting generous partners like YOU, to make this continued provision and growth possible!

**Actual 2019 General Fund Revenue: \$443,000**  
**Actual 2019 General Fund Expenses: \$368,000**

**Total Students: 245**  
**Cost Per Student: \$1,500**

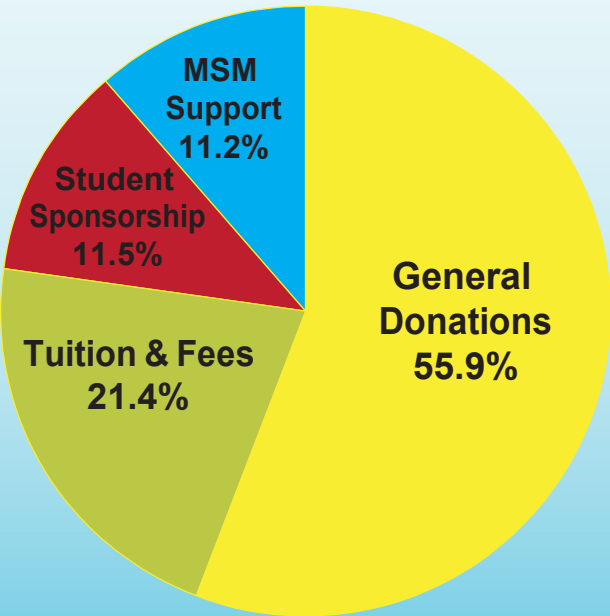


- General Donations = \$308,000
- Tuition & Fees = \$79,000
- Student Sponsorship = \$56,000

**2020 Budget General Fund Revenue: \$537,000**  
**2020 Budget General Fund Expenses: \$509,000**

**Total Students: 305**  
**Cost Per Student: \$1,760**

- General Donations = \$300,000
- Tuition & Fees = \$125,000
- Student Sponsorship = \$62,000
- Middle School Miracle Support = \$60,000



# Gracias

On behalf of the Jubilee Board of Directors both in the US and in Honduras we want to thank you for being such an important part of Jubilee’s work! Thank you for entrusting us with your time and talents!

We thank you for allowing the Lord to use you as an important co-laborer in this work together. Whether it is through praying, volunteering, serving physically at the school, or giving financially, Jubilee’s ministry is blessed and enriched by each of these gifts.

## US Board of Directors:

Kathy DeJong  
Amy Haroff  
Annalise Kontras  
David Romero  
Emily Romero  
Paul Soper  
Mark VanZanten  
Jim Wieland

## Honduran Board of Directors:

Meliza Cabrera  
Santos Calix  
Gabriela Casco  
Iris Mayorga  
David Romero  
Emily Romero  
Kenny Santos



## Pray for:

- › Overflowing of wisdom and direction for our boards and leadership
- › Protection for our construction workers who continue to work on the capital projects within the Middle School Miracle Campaign
- › Protection for the physical, spiritual, and emotional integrity of our students, families, and staff
- › That Christ’s love would be tangible in all we do and say this new year as our theme is ‘Love one another as I have loved you.’



Our 11th year Anniversary Celebration Event will be Tuesday, November 17th, 2020 at The Pinnacle Center in Hudsonville, Michigan. We hope to see you there!

## Stay Connected

We’re social



Follow @jubileecenters  
[www.jubileehn.org](http://www.jubileehn.org)

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Grand Rapids, MI 49510

## Stay IN Touch?

Please contact Hannah Breuker at [hbreuker@jubileehn.org](mailto:hbreuker@jubileehn.org) for more information or to discover more ways you can become involved in Jubilee’s work.