



Jubilee

Journal

Spring 2023

Dear Friends,

It has been an exciting, busy, and challenging start to the 2023 school year. Between welcoming our new 10th-grade class and reopening our PreK program. We have 50 additional students this year, a total of 350 students are now on campus! In response, we've added many new staff positions and furnished and opened new classrooms and spaces. We started three after-school programs: Music, Drama, and Sports, one of which is completely new this year. We were blessed to have our first ever February Mission Team serve with us for a week.

We are very excited to see our new library space almost completely finished. Thanks to some recent grants and special gifts, we were able to purchase new furnishings and more books for the new library space, which is twice the size of our previous library space.



Sixth grader Camila has been a student at Jubilee since PreK. Last year, her mother died very suddenly of an illness, and she was left in the care of her grandmother and aunts. Last month Camila had a pivotal moment in her

life. She was sharing with one of her teachers how much she missed her mom and that she felt like she couldn't go on anymore. All of her teachers have taken Camila under their wings, but on this day in particular, her teacher was able to share from her heart about when a close family member died and how the Lord helped her through this time. Camila was comforted and she told her teacher, through tears, that she wanted to really live for Christ. We have seen the difference in Camila's spirit and ask you to pray that she will continue to be strong and comforted in the Lord.

Our deepest desire is that Jubilee's ministry will produce in our students a courageous faith, a clear purpose in their lives, and preparedness for professions or for further study in order to serve God and the people of Honduras.

Would you be willing to make a gift this spring to help us invest in these students' lives, equipping them to be agents of change?

In Gratitude,

David & Emily Romero
David & Emily Romero



Bonded Together in Christ's Love

"My husband Ken and I have known Emily (Steenwyk) Romero since she was 11 years old. Emily grew up at the same church that Ken and I have been members of for 30 years. I remember when Emily went to Honduras for a semester through Calvin University, and later heard that she had met a man while she was there. Fast forward almost 20 years, and Emily and David are married with 3 children. They have made their dream of starting a Christian school for children in La Era, Honduras a reality! They saw a need and they went after it, trusting God completely along the way. Ken and I knew that it was time to visit Jubilee

to see all that we had heard about for ourselves. **We had absolutely no idea how much we would be impacted by that visit!**

I was so struck by the community at Jubilee. Each person has their own story. Their own hurts and worries, their own joys and celebrations, their own families, and yet they are a family at Jubilee. They share in each other's lives. They encourage and pray for each other; everyone seeks and needs connection. At Jubilee, it just seems to happen so naturally, they are bonded together in Christ's love."

- Ken & Marla Hoekwater

Jubilee offers children and youth who live in poverty-stricken neighborhoods the opportunity to meet Christ and receive a transformative education while also discipling the student's entire family.



“While at Jubilee, I was struck by how much the Romeros invested in the community. They dedicate their time and effort to others, selflessly seeking to grow God’s kingdom. The Romeros and the Jubilee community are a beautiful testimony of what happens when you decide to live for Christ. They are an inspiration to Christians everywhere.”

- Elizabeth Winn

“It is amazing watching 300+ children on fire for Christ. They will be changing the world for decades to come!”

- Paul & Judy Plaggemars

“Even though it was my 10th trip to Jubilee, I found myself captured and delighted once again at being wrapped in its warm embrace as I was greeted by all the familiar and new faces of students and staff!”

- Amy Haroff

“At Jubilee, it was evident that the Holy Spirit of the Lord was in that place. Pastor David and Emily are stellar examples of humble servants. The foundation of prayer and the manifestation of the blessings could not be denied. Seeing the active faith of the Jubilee community was exactly what I needed. My faith received a booster shot.”

- Linda Gordon

To read the entire article, visit: www.jubileecentershcn.org/blog/



Jubilee offers children and youth who live in poverty-stricken neighborhoods the opportunity to meet Christ and receive a transformative education while also discipling the student's entire family.

Athletes for Christ

Mr. José Bermúdez has joined Jubilee as our first-ever full-time physical education teacher and sports coordinator. He has 14 years of professional sports experience and has held many athletic positions, including currently working on the side as a sports coach at the National Autonomous University.

This year, for the first time, all of Jubilee's students will receive PE classes from a professional PE teacher, unlike in years past, taught by their homeroom teacher. Also for the first time, we have started an After-School Sport's Club for boys and girls from 4th – 10th grades focusing on Handball, Basketball, and Soccer. Mr. Bermúdez coordinates the program and additional trainers come three afternoons each week to practice and train with the students.

Mr. Bermúdez shares his wishes and aspirations:

“ I feel the weight of expectations and challenges ahead. This is a new program at Jubilee and I am aware that this is the beginning of something big. The excitement and optimism that I see in the students, who anxiously want to be a part of this program, encourage, and inspire me deeply.

I also hope that our sports teams will be an example to others, that our programs will be built on Christian principles. I want the students to be an example on and off the field. When they arrive at sports facilities and institutions, and that others notice that our teams are different. That we treat others with respect and compassion, demonstrating our Christian values.”

To read the entire article, visit www.jubileecentershcn.org/blog/



“I really like this class, we are learning and practicing many different exercises. The teacher inspires us to keep working out and do better. I love soccer and plan to use my free time to practice and learn how to become a better player.”

– Arody Domínguez,
10th grade student



“My favorite class is PE. I was very interested in this program because it is fun and we do it for the Lord. We are ATHLETES FOR CHRIST! This will help strengthen us physically and spiritually.”

– Valery López,
8th grade student



Featured Student:

Encourager, 5th Grader, Nazaret

My name is Nazaret Danae Elvir Quezada, I am 9 years old, and I am in fifth grade at Jubilee. What I love the most is reading my Bible and playing with my little brothers. We live in La Era with my mom and dad.

One of the things I enjoy the most is reading the Bible. My favorite book is Genesis because it talks about how God created everything. I can hear from God each time I read my Bible. Last year, the Mission Team gave Bibles to my class. It's a beautiful Bible, I have never owned one of my own and it made me very happy.

I love attending a Christian school like Jubilee. We get to hear and learn about God, plus the teachers care about us and we have pastors, David & Emily. It is also a very joyful place to learn.

During the pandemic, my parents lost their jobs and we didn't have enough money to eat or go to school. So, they decided to take us out of school and move to Spain to live. My uncle lives in Spain and told my parents that he was going to help us with the passage. When we arrived at the airport the woman

from the airline told us that the reservations for Madrid were not enough. Then we found out that my uncle could no longer help us, his money was gone. We had to return home where we no longer had anything, not even a bed to sleep in. We had sold everything.

It was a very difficult time for our family, we cried a lot. We prayed to the Lord to bring us food and things for the house. The school helped me and my brother with tuition and the Lord helped us recover some of the things needed for our home. I remembered what we had learned at school and tried to encourage my family that we should pray and then trust God because God would provide for us, and He did.

You can the full story at:

www.jubileecentershq.org/blog/

Jubilee offers children and youth who live in poverty-stricken neighborhoods the opportunity to meet Christ and receive a transformative education while also discipling the student's entire family.

Featured Student:

Actor, 9th grader, Luis

My name is Luis Antonio Rodríguez Gaitán. I am 16 years old and I am in 9th grade. I began attending Jubilee in the 3rd grade, and my greatest experience at Jubilee was meeting the Lord. There is no doubt this was the most important decision of my life.

I was born in 2007, and my father's name was José Luis Rodríguez. He was a man inclined towards drugs, despite this, he was a good father to me. He tried to get to know me, and I felt he understood me. We would talk while having a cup of coffee or sharing a meal. Unfortunately, sometime later he attempted suicide for the second time, this time he was successful.

In my daily life, I really enjoy my studies, feeling very thankful for the education that I receive at Jubilee. Arriving here was the best thing that could have happened for me. The class I enjoy the most is math class. When I grow up, I would like to study to be a CPA since I really like mathematics and numbers.

I have been part of the theater group for several years now.

Last year was the most difficult since we returned from a long period of isolation due to the pandemic. When we started practicing for the concert, we did not know how to interpret our lines, so we had to have help learning the process again, but our efforts and hard work paid off. At the end of the year, we had a beautiful concert, in which God was glorified.

Now that the Theater group will be part of the daily afternoon programs at Jubilee, we will have more time to develop our talent and put on excellent productions. These productions draw a lot of attention in the media and the general public will attend.

To read the Luis' entire story, visit:
www.jubileecentershcn.org/blog/





Join us this May for our
**STUDENT
SPONSORSHIP
CAMPAIGN!**

Together let's Sponsor
30 Students in 30 Days!



Mission Trip to Jubilee

Join us July 22 - 29, 2023

“Wow! Jesus blew me away with His goodness during our visit to Jubilee. I was inspired by the spiritual maturity of students. I hope to visit again within the next year!”

For more information or to apply visit jubileecentershq.org/mission-trips or contact Laura at lsullivan@jubileehq.org. Application deadline is April 20th.



PO Box 7758, Grand Rapids, MI 49510



WWW.JUBILEEHN.ORG