

# The People We Serve Thank You!







Cheyenne River Reservation



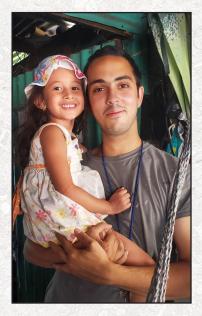






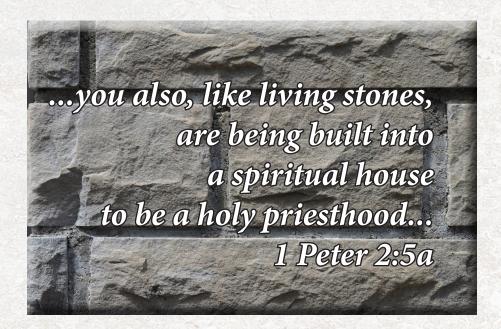


El Salvador



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## **Statement of Purpose**

To honor God, we will model Jesus Christ, through serving others and sharing His abundant resources with those in need.

#### **Our Vision**

Our vision is a world where individuals who have the love of God in their hearts can come together with others of like faith, to reach out and touch those who live in spiritual, physical, and/or emotional darkness, with the light of healing that only faith in Christ can bring.

### **Our Mission**

In order to achieve our vision our goals are:

- to help alleviate the distress of poverty by coordinating the distribution of medical resources and material goods to improve daily living conditions
- to provide the opportunity to strengthen one's internal beliefs by developing the life skills needed to gain confidence through God's message
- to inspire others to take up the cross of servitude to fulfill missions that will benefit not only themselves but their brothers and sisters in Christ
- to encourage people to use their God-given talents and financial resources to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

**Fifteen years** - in some ways it seems like such a long time, in other ways it seems like the blink of an eye. We continue to build upon the foundation that was set in our first ten years: listening to and following Jesus in service to others; leaning on Him and trusting Him to supply all of our needs; waiting patiently for the Spirit's leading. We continue to build this organization in a way that truly honors God.

**Building Relationships** - We have worked hard over the past five years to build relationships of love and trust with our partners in the areas we serve; seeking always to offer a helping hand to those who are already working to bring about positive changes in their communities. Encouraging, supporting and lifting them up in prayer so they might have not only the strength and courage to continue but also the ability to carry out their work.

**Building Hope** - Our goal has always been to work with our partners to bring hope for a better future - in this world and the next. We strive to bring the message of the Gospel in both our words and our actions. We aim to be God's hands and feet of mercy and love to a hurting people who desperately need His peace.

**Building Faith** - We seek to encourage others to step forward in their faith. We offer concrete ways they can use their time, talents and treasure by joining or supporting short term mission trips that truly make a lasting difference to them and the people we serve. Learning to depend on God for our financial and material needs goes a long way in growing our faith.

**Building Up God's People** - Every board member is dedicated to serving and encouraging those who have committed their lives to sharing God's Word. They do this physically, financially, and most of all prayerfully. We are very active in the lives of our partners as we work together to do God's will. Board members are also very willing to speak one on one with others bringing them the invitation to Christ's healing forgiveness and salvation.

We have been so blessed! God has taken a small group of five board members to touch the lives of thousands of people. He has multiplied the efforts of our mission team members to reach many lost and hurting people. We have seen the financial donations we have received from our faithful supporters accomplish far more than we ever dreamed possible. Indeed, God has been faithful!

Our foundation is strong - Working together we can build upon this foundation and take the ministry to new levels. We are grateful for your past support but we are not ready to stop now. We need your help to bring the light of Christ into the darkness.

**Together we can do more!** This report is just a highlight of what we have accomplished. It cannot begin to express the many lives that were impacted, both those whom we serve and those who do the serving. Are you ready to build alongside us? Are you ready to become a living stone for Jesus? He is calling you.

In His service

Carol Fanelli, President

#### **BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION**

Karen Moore - Native American Team Leader

The building blocks of any fruitful ministry are fashioned by allowing the Lord to lead and guide us to those who are on His heart. We must follow the pattern He has laid out before us carefully to be sure that the plan and outcome are His. Jesus is the cornerstone, the most solid rock upon which we can construct a firm foundation! As we celebrate this milestone in the ministry, we can all agree that first and foremost all that is done by We're All Gods Children has been carefully built upon Christ the Solid Rock.

In 2015 I became involved with We're All Gods Children, and the ministry to the Native American people on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Our first outreach was to bring a vision clinic to several schools on the reservation. I had no idea, as we came alongside of them, how deeply I would come to love the people who were already doing such wonderful work among the young people.



Our focus has been, and probably will continue to be, reaching out to a broken-hearted people who for generations have felt hopeless by the way they have been made to live. Reservation life is unlike anything I and the ministry team have ever experienced in this country. The poverty and homelessness are everywhere, yet during this we have found hope can be offered.



The schools are working hard to give this generation of children a good education with the materials and teachers they have. Takini School has been one of our main focuses as they are in a remote location and lack funding and supplies. We have developed a strong relationship with the administration and have been involved with several major projects in conjunction with the teachers' help and are seeing a tremendous change in the school!





Being a part

of We're All Gods

Children has been



We have also worked closely with the Cheyenne River Youth Project. This organization has done

amazing working with the children and bring teens to

things

Jesus is the cornerstone, the most solid rock upon which we can construct a firm foundation!

back Lakota values and heritage into their lives. We have worked with them for five years, bringing teams to do workshops with the children and helping the Youth Project with maintenance projects.



This past year, in November, two members of We're All Gods Children became acquainted with the Veterans Homeless Shelter and Food Bank. They were able to bring 900 pounds of food and

clothing that were given out during a snowstorm! What a blessing to see how God's timing was perfect. We are now in contact with the head of the Veterans Outreach and are planning ways to continue to help them as they also struggle with support.

As we have returned year after year we have found that our relationship with the children and adults has grown so deep that when we return each year they are excited to see us and remember the great times we have had in the past! It is so rewarding to feel that we are not just "Volunteers" but are considered friends and even have been referred to as family! What an honor that is for us.

a life changing experience for many people. I know that my life has been impacted in a way that has changed my view of how the Lord wants to use all of us. He is the Chief Cornerstone of all that has been done on the reservation, and all the outreaches of We're All Gods Children, and we know in the future His plans are far beyond our understanding!

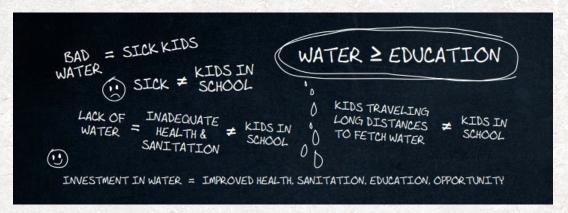


#### **BUILDING BRIDGES TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY**

### Andrew Brighton - Africa Team Leader

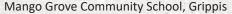
In the United States, what is essential and non-essential have become quite blurred. But in other parts of the world, it is simply two words: Clean Water. This is the essential first step out of poverty. For without clean water, the health and safety of a community are at risk. Poor health and sanitation leads to a lack of education and lost future opportunities among children.

WAGC, by the grace of God, has been able to help several communities in Zambia, Africa with this first essential step. Thanks to donors like you, we have been able to sponsor the drilling of several deep water wells over the past few years. These wells will be a bridge to the community towards healthy children, leading towards better education and productive members of society.



Source: http://thewaterproject.org







Karubwe Community School, Chongwe District

I am so blessed to have been a small part of this, and so grateful to our partners in Zambia – Vincent Luwizhi and Cosmas Zimba. It is a privilege to come along side and support these amazing "Bridge Builders".

All we do is modeled after the greatest bridge builder, Jesus Christ, who bridged the gap between our sinful nature and our Holy God. He alone can provide the living water that never runs dry. Here are the words of Jesus: "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:13-14).





EastView Community School Ngwerere District







Deep Well Drilling Rig: 50-75 Meter Depth



A drink of clean water!

# El Salvador - Building Up Children of God Mark Herman - El Salvador Team Leader

Our newest board member, Mark Herman, brought a new "building block" into the ministry. He had built up a relationship with Beth Alegria, a missionary from Lancaster County, currently working in El Salvador. Beth and her husband Oscar run Esther's Heart Ministry serving children living in poverty in the hills of San Salvador. We are grateful to God for pointing Mark in our direction and allowing us to support EHM in the tremendous work they are doing for these children.

#### 2018

In 2018, I had the pleasure and honor of leading six dedicated volunteers to San Salvador from July 29th until August 4th, 2018 to support Beth Alegria and her team at Esther's Heart Ministry (EHM). Our mission goal was to support Bible school activities for up to 100 children as well as stabilize the metal shack home for one of the EHM children's families. From the time we hit the ground in San Salvador we were surrounded by the chaotic pace of life faced by urban ministries in developing countries. Our dependence upon God and the team at Esther's Heart Ministry was complete and humbling. Without either, we would have struggled to make even basic connections.



Our three children's ministry team members spent the first day creating food boxes for the families of sponsored children (at that time EHM had obtained sponsorships for approximately 120 children) while getting to know them and their families. The rest of the week was spent conducting Bible-school related activities twice a day for up to 30 children per session and building relationships between sessions. The team spent each evening creating the lesson plans and materials for the following day.



Our three construction team members spent 12-hour days removing dirt and debris that served as the back wall of a metal shack and replacing it with a cinder block wall. The work was physically grueling under extreme heat and humidity conditions. The dirt wall had to be removed by pickaxe and shovel and carried in buckets from the home and dumped into a ravine. Due to the tight living quarters, the concrete and mortar were mixed by hand and carried down three flights of narrow stone stairways in 5-gallon buckets, as were the cinder blocks and metal reinforcement rods. The wall was successfully completed and blessed on the final day and will help guarantee a much higher degree of safety for this family during future mud slides and earth tremors.

In December of 2018, WAGC provided \$300 through their Holiday Giving program to EHM for the purchase of outside play toys such as scooters, bikes, and balls. It has been fun to see the children enjoying these toys in many videos posted by the EHM team.

2020



2019

Due to instability in the San Salvador area, we opted to raise money to provide directly to EHM in lieu of taking a team onsite. Following a very successful (and fun) chicken bar-b-que fundraiser, WAGC was able to provide EHM with almost \$2,000 to put towards their youth center building fund. A youth center will provide room for Beth and her team to greatly expand their ministry and give children a safe place to gather.

In the fall of 2019, Tyler Barley, a member of our 2018 ministry team that visited San Salvador, decided to return to El Salvador to work with Beth and her team. As of this writing, May 2020, Tyler is still onsite working with their team and has become a vital part of their ministry. His posts and videos showing the joy of the Salvadoran children despite their burdens has been a source of renewed faith and recognition of the relatively light burdens many of us bear (and complain about) here in the U.S.



WAGC was again able to provide monies to EHM for more outdoor play equipment for the children. These donations were largely raised through a basketball "free throw" contest held among the children of Hempfield United Methodist Church's Kids Konnection program. It is especially heartwarming when children from one part of the world are willing to give of their gifts to help children whom they may never meet.



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the trip being planned for August to San Salvador has been postponed to December. Our intention is that a small team of 2-4 volunteers will accompany another group from the U.S. to help organize and host Christmas banquets for the various age groups of children. The group we will be joining has been conducting this December trip for several years and look forward to the additional hands needed as the number of children attending continues to increase . . . Hallelujah. The Christmas banquet is often the only time many of these children receive a gift. They also spend time making cards to their parents and sponsors, making crafts, and eating lots of good food. All followed by swimming in the pool at a local hotel which is generous enough to lend their facilities. The thought of seeing these children experience this wonderful time at Christmas has our team excited and ready to go.

## **Volunteer Comments**

As a proud Board member since the beginning, it has been amazing to watch our building blocks being made as they formed this God-driven organization.

We didn't just go out and pick up a block. First the entire idea to build anything was a vision of Carol Fanelli. One person with big ideas to help people in this country and wherever needed in the world, but always with God's help and direction. And help He gave us along with a lot of blocks!

In Appalachia, our building blocks were home goods, doors, windows, bathroom fixtures, furniture and supplies such as wheelchairs and other medical needs. We built trust, hope and love.

Native Americans received eye exams, reading glasses, clothes, books, school and sports supplies. We built a network and foundation to build on. Once God's hands were there to show us where to put our blocks, there has been no stopping us.

In African countries we have built schools and wells. Our blocks were also eye exams and reading glasses, Bibles and sharing the Gospel. We taught by example. God didn't give up on our missions and we didn't give up building with our blocks. We networked and God handed us more blocks. We were able to buy a state of the art Eye Refactor to give to an eye doctor who will continue building new blocks all year long.

San Salvador's blocks are made of hope, love and support in many needed ways. We fed the children, brought them God's words of hope, and brought a little fun into their lives with outdoor play equipment. We even shored up a family's home with a firm foundation of blocks. Our blocks are building in all directions.

Yes, these are our blocks belonging to God and the many talented caring volunteers that make up We're All God's Children. Our blocks have built many needed things for all of God's children and have strengthened the bridges between all who have lifted these bricks, to God. We welcome anyone with a heart for building love and a spirit for adventure. We would love to share the tears of joy, laughter from cold, clean water, and smiles to be able to see and read once more. We invite you to witness the independence our bricks have given people along with a hope toward a better future.

Sandy C. Smith

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ~ Matthew 7:24

## **Volunteer Comments**

I was impacted by the people we met on our trip ----- how happy they were even though their situation wasn't the best ---- the children were so loving and wanted our attention --- always happy with what they had. They were very appreciative of what you were doing for them. This made me more thankful for what I have and to be able to help the children I have at Bible Adventure. More thankful for the freedom we have here to worship God and tell others about Christ. My heart is in Africa.

#### Jan Milles

As a young child, Heather remembers when a teacher asked her what she wanted to do when she grew up. Her dream was to someday have the opportunity to be a medical professional working in Africa. Never would she have thought that dream would become a reality almost 20 years later, when presented with the opportunity to travel to Africa on the first WAGC mission trip to Kenya. At that time in Heather's personal life, it was a huge step of faith, and the chances were against her to travel half way around the world for a two week mission trip. However, she put her faith in God, and believed that if it was meant to be, He would provide. God came through and provided for Heather's needs, plus some.

As a result of Heather's interest and connection to Carol, Dennis also felt drawn to participate in experiencing the uniqueness of helping people in a different way and seeing other cultures. We both had the chance to travel to Kenya on the first mission trip with WAGC. There are moments from that trip that we will remember forever; from the people we worked with, their faith in God and joy in praise and worship, the medical assistance we were able to provide in areas that had no medical treatment, the people who waited in line for hours to be seen and treated, and the fun moments with the WAGC team. Lasting friendships have not only been created with team members, but also with several team members in Africa, now called our brothers, sisters, and Godchildren. This first experience opened up opportunities for both of us to travel back to Kenya, Zambia, and South Africa with WAGC and a few other organizations, seven more times to perform medical work, building construction, and scriptural education. We are honored and truly blessed to have had these experiences.

Aside from working in Africa, we were also lucky to serve as founding board members with WAGC and travel with teams to South Dakota and Appalachia. We have been blessed beyond belief and the experiences have strengthened our faith in God and created joy in seeing the power of impacting people's lives where they are at. The goal of WAGC was never to provide a hand out or short-term fix, it was always to give a hand up, educate, and leave the people with something to help make their life a little better. We are honored to have had a chance to work with WAGC and be a part of its continued success.

Happy 15th anniversary! Dennis & Heather Mitterer

## **Stewardship Report**

#### Dear Friends,

What a blessing to have the support of so many people over the last 15 years. Without your willingness to commit time and financial resources, this ministry would not be possible. Through you, we have seen God do amazing things! Thank you so much for your generosity.

I am pleased to report that We're All God's Children is and always has been debt free. We are committed to being the best possible stewards of the resources given to us. We are in awe at how God has used these resources here in North America and around the world.

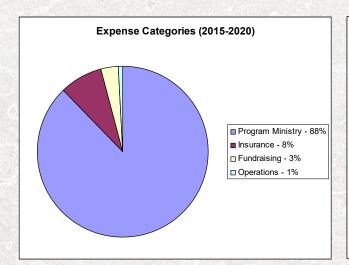
As we celebrate 15 years of this ministry, we pledge to remain steadfast in our determination to use all of your donations in the most efficient and God-pleasing manner. This ministry is funded solely by donations from people like you, and we are so grateful. With these resources we will continue to model Jesus Christ to the nations.

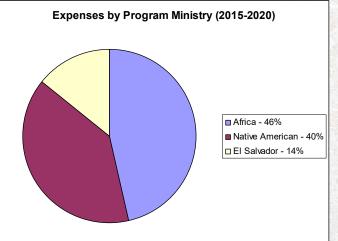
As I write this, I am reminded of the words by St. Paul found in Ephesians 3:20:

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

In His Service, Andrew Brighton

Andrew Brighton Treasurer





# Our Board Members Thank You!



Above: Board Treasurer
Andy Brighton
and wife Trisha



Above: Board President Carol Fanelli and husband Tom

Far Right: Board Vice President Karen Moore and (above) husband Ken



Left: Board Director Mark Herman and wife Nancy

Right: Board Director Sandy Smith



# "BEHOLD, I AM LAYING IN ZION A STONE, A CORNERSTONE CHOSEN AND PRECIOUS, AND WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME." 1 PETER 2:6 ESV



# "THE STONE THAT THE BUILDERS REJECTED HAS BECOME THE CORNERSTONE." PSALMS 118:22 ESV

