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# STREET KIDS DIRECT

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2019/2020

Registered Charity No. 1102894

[STREETKIDSDIRECT.ORG.UK](https://www.streetkidsdirect.org.uk)



# **HOW YOUR SUPPORT HAS IMPACTED THE LIVES OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

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**THANK YOU**



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Duncan Dyason MBE

It is an enormous privilege to live and serve in Guatemala as a volunteer with Street Kids Direct and have daily contact with the projects that benefit from your support. Every project is of tremendous encouragement to me and I can see with my own eyes how many children and young people the charity impacts every year.

One of the biggest highlights of the year was the opening of the Proyecto Alas mentoring centre in Honduras. With funds from Street Kids Direct, the Alas Project started to reach out to street-connected and socially vulnerable children in Talanga, Honduras. As the project began to grow, so did its need to find a permanent base rather than use the streets or the local park for mentoring. Amazingly a building became available in the town right in front of the park at zero cost.

Street Kids Direct was able to fundraise to refurbish the building and create a safe and delightful environment for the children in the mentoring programme.



The growth in the SKD Guatemala project in Guatemala included the regular use of the Protection Home for children who are in need of extra support and protection for a short period of time. We were glad that volunteers were available when a 10-year-old boy walked 6 hours to the home because he had run away from home.

Being available to children and young people at risk is what is at the heart of the charity and something that we continue to commit our lives to here in

Central America.

As I write this the COVID-19 pandemic has hit Guatemala and is causing us to close our mentoring centre and be creative in our care for the most vulnerable children despite government restrictions.

2020 will see the second mentoring centre in Guatemala City opened as well as a return to more normal operations in both Honduras and Guatemala once the COVID pandemic passes.

I really hope this report encourages you to know that we are working hard to reach those children who are at very high-risk of taking to the streets and we are committed to helping every single person living on the streets to find an alternative solution.

Thank you for standing with us.

*Duncan Dyason*



## OUR VISION

To see a world where children and young people do not need to depend upon the streets in order to survive

## OUR MISSION

To work in partnership with children and young people to help them reach their full potential and enjoy life in all its fullness

This is achieved by demonstrating God's love by standing alongside them, whoever and wherever they are. We will provide an environment where it is safe for them to be challenged and to explore a positive future. Moreover, we encourage each of them to develop a unique personality enabling them to mature and become a truly fulfilled individual



## ABOUT US

A CHARITY RUN BY VOLUNTEERS

**S**TREET KIDS DIRECT was founded in 2001 with the simple vision to ensure that 100% of all donations go directly to the projects that impact the lives of the most vulnerable children in Latin America.

**O**ur roots are in the commuter town of Amersham, Buckinghamshire in the United Kingdom. This is where Duncan received a call to give up his life as a church youth worker and move out to Guatemala in 1992 after watching a TV programme called 'They Shoot Children Don't They'.

**T**he programme highlighted the predicament of young children who had run away from home or had been abandoned on the streets and were trying to survive. The average life expectancy for a child on the streets was just four years and there were an estimated 5,000 children living on the streets in 1992.

**T**wenty five years later Duncan and his team continued to survey the streets of Guatemala City and could not find one child living alone on the streets. The work had come a long way and so now the charity wanted to focus its efforts at preventing more children taking to the streets.

# OUR TEAM



**JOANNA SODEN**

Founding Trustee

Joanna Soden is a busy working mother from Amersham and is committed to the work in Central America and two of her sons now live and work with the projects in Guatemala City.



**MATT LEVETT**

Founding Trustee

Matt Levett is the Diocesan Youth Work Coordinator for Suffolk and has worked with high-risk children and youth for over 20 years and visits the projects in Central America each year.



**DUNCAN DYASON**

Founding Trustee & Director

Duncan Dyason first started working with street children in Guatemala in 1992 and continues to live in Guatemala City where he coordinates the work of the charity and works on the streets each week.



**BENJAMIN SODEN**

Street Worker  
Guatemala City



**MARK & ROSALIE BALFOUR**

Pastoral Team  
Guatemala City



**AZARIA SPENCER**

Youth Worker  
Guatemala City



**STEVE POULSON**

Programme Manager  
Honduras

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## HOW WE WORK

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER

**S**TREET KIDS DIRECT partners with local projects in Guatemala and Honduras to help provide services and support to children and young people who live on streets or who live at high-risk of living on the streets.





## A HIGH-RISK CHILD

A child at high-risk is a child under the age of 18 who is at high-risk of living on the streets. Due to their high connection to the streets and the number of risk factors in their lives they are extremely likely to choose life on the streets unless a caring adult comes alongside them to offer them support, advice and help them explore alternative solutions. Children at high-risk have had to develop a number of survival skills and coping strategies that have kept them alive. However, this can put them at further risk of abuse, exploitation and neglect with an increase in health problems and social exclusion together with them failing at or non-attendance at school.

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# HONDURAS

## PROYECTO ALAS, TALANGA, HONDURAS

Proyecto Alas, based in Talanga Honduras, works with vulnerable children who have a high connection to the street and score four or more on the ACE Scoring System.

Proyecto Alas provides these children with a mentor and a safe place to go twice a week after school. These mentors are caring and consistent adults in the life of a child who knows nothing but change and hardship, helping them take positive life decisions and quite simply believing in them.

Despite starting the year with 15 children, we were excited that the numbers of children increased to 24 throughout the year. 100% of the children who came through the project passed their school year, many of whom had not passed in previous years.

“La Casa Alas”, the home for Proyecto Alas officially opened in 2019, which continues to be shaped and moulded as the project grows. A core group of committed volunteers ensure Casa Alas is open for these children twice a week. Proyecto Alas employed its first worker, who helped bring the ministry from largely an idea into reality, as well as welcoming a volunteer psychologist to the centre who carried out a study of

each of the children. They discovered that 100% were behind in their development, with a larger than typical proportion up to 5 years behind, highlighting the importance this project has to these kids' education.

Furthermore, Café Alas was also opened – a coffee shop which aims to become a sustainable source of income for many years to come.

Thanks to your support this project can operate each week and it is hoped that during 2020 further skilled mentors will be trained to impact the lives of these kids.



## ONE DAY RIVIVAL MINISTRIES, CIUDAD ESPAÑA, HONDURAS

Street Kids Direct started to support this project two years ago and have seen how the project has grown during this time.

Situated a few minutes drive from Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, is Ciudad España, a notorious neighbourhood that has been controlled by gangs for many years, but has now become a much safer place to live.

Our work here has been focussed on supporting the most vulnerable children in that community stay off the streets and away from gangs. The project provides a caring and supportive environment for those children we sponsor in full-time education, like Naun (photo) who started 7th grade this February.

A crucial element to the work is the daily help with homework and now the project has been able to re-open their centre so that children can now come each day without fear of the gang and get the help and support they need.



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# GUATEMALA

## **PUERTA DE ESPERANZA, GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA**

The Puerta de Esperanza (Door of Hope) project is one of our key partners in Guatemala City. We work in close collaboration with this small NGO to help provide a robust network of caring people that are available 24/7 to children at risk in La Terminal, Guatemala City.

Thanks to your support we have

been able to help pay half the salary of a full-time worker to work in La Terminal every day. The Puerta de Esperanza team helped 160 children get into school this year by providing them with all the materials they needed to start their school year and daily homework help for 80 children. Furthermore, the project has supported 40 young people, who would not fit into the traditional school programme, with an accelerated home-school education programme.

The notable events during the year for Puerta de Esperanza were the

specialist support they offered to a young boy who was badly injured when a car hit him and dragged him along the road in La Terminal. He recovered in time to join 115 other children on a special camp the following month.

Finally the project is able to offer breakfast to the most vulnerable children as well as lunch to all those in the homework club. They have managed to serve 2,688 breakfasts and 6,975 hot lunches.



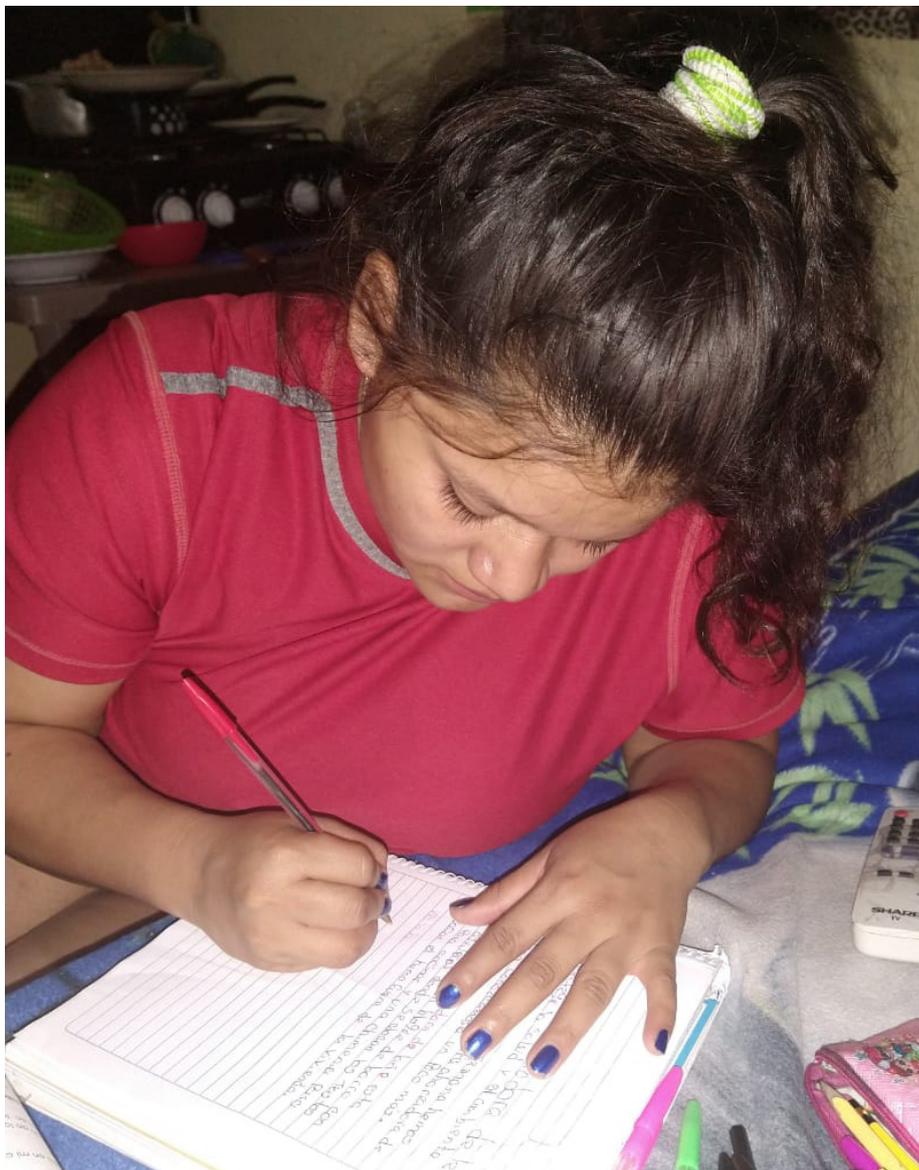
## **MOJOCA, GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA**

The MOJOCA project is one of the oldest projects in Guatemala City that works with young people who live on the streets or who are in transition from the streets into mainstream society.

Mojoca offers support to those on the streets with their daily outreach programme, a day centre for those wanting to start a rehabilitation programme, a start-up business scheme to provide support to those who want to begin their own small business and a refuge for young women and their children.

We are proud to partner with Mojoca and help donate to their daily outreach programme to people living in the streets.

The SKD Guatemala street team works in coordination with MOJOCA to provide a good safety net for those living in the streets as well as options to help those who are going through the process of leaving the streets.



## GO GUATEMALA, GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA

Go Guatemala targets children who are at high-risk of taking to the streets or being recruited into gangs. The project offers a loving place for them to meet together, get help with their homework, receive counselling and pastoral support, a hot meal and spend time with their friends playing in a safe environment.

Each week 150 children attend the Go Guatemala Centre and throughout the week around 225 children receive meals after school, when they walk to

the centre to ask for help with their homework.

Go Guatemala visits all the children in their homes each month to encourage their attendance at school and at the centre and to better understand the particular needs of each family, particularly those who live in very difficult circumstances.

At the beginning of 2020 Go Guatemala have had to close their centre due to the COVID-19 situation, but have continued to offer support to all the children in their programme.



# A YEAR IN NUMBERS

**1700**

## CHILDREN HELPED

Since the charity was founded we have helped children and young people in Central America leave the streets, stay safe and provided them with a place in school.

**140**

## IN SCHOOL

This year we have managed to help 140 children get into school, including paying school fees, uniforms, school shoes, books and supplies.

**96**

## BEING MENTORED

The Street Kids Direct Mentoring programme continues to grow and impact more lives each year. Thanks to all our volunteer mentors.

**11**

## IN NURSERY

We launched a new project this year to put the most vulnerable children into full-time nursery. Thanks to all those who sponsor a child through The Forge Church.

**96%**

## SCHOOL PASS RATE

The national educational pass rate for a child in Guatemala is 73%. Children in the Street Kids Direct mentoring programme achieve a staggering 96% pass rate.

**21**

## STREET RESCUES

Thanks to the street team for dedicating their lives to rescuing people living in the streets and offering them a place in a rehab centre or to start independent living.

## SKD GUATEMALA, GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA

This project was formally the Mi Arca project and when the change was made to SKD Guatemala the project became the main focus of our charity giving and volunteering. The Director of Street Kids Direct, Duncan Dyason, lives in Guatemala City and volunteers full-time with SKD Guatemala as does Benjamin Soden, Mark & Rosalie Balfour and Azaria Spencer.

The year began with the celebration, with other organisations, of the International Day of the Street Child. The annual event helps all those projects around the world that work with street and street-connected children to raise their voice and demand that the rights of these children are protected and that the wider society become more involved to offer practical solutions to this vulnerable people group.

During the year the project has grown substantially as it began to receive children and families in the new Protection Home. The home

became a daily place of great joy as small groups of children were brought to the home to enjoy a range of games, crafts and talks on subjects that we know would help them in their daily lives. Moreover, the home has been used most weekends for either sleepovers to reward children's good grades and behaviour as well as weekly mentoring sessions. Special thanks to Super Brenda and Ingrid for your help over many months to make this possible.

There are always low points in the year and when Pablo (photo right) died, the news hit the team very hard indeed. The SKD team had worked very hard at convincing Pablo to leave the streets and join a rehabilitation programme, but the lure of the streets and the desire for solvents pulled him back to the streets. His health rapidly deteriorated and the team found him unconscious one day and rushed him to hospital, where he sadly died of major organ failure. His death has done little to encourage others to leave the streets, but he was a young man full of talent and potential that we have all lost.





Every death is devastating for the street team, but is also a driver to continue their work of rescuing as many as possible from street life.

Another sad point for the team was when Lorena, Julian and Daniela took the decision to return to Honduras. Lorena had been working with the project, helping run the protection home and coordinating the outreach of the charity in the city. She and her family will be greatly missed as well as her commitment to the most vulnerable families who she embraced so deeply.

The mentoring programme continued to grow and work with children in an area of Guatemala City that has been a focus point for the street team as many children have left this area over the years to live on the streets.

The Santa Fas community was targeted by the team in order to help the most vulnerable children there remain at home, continue in school, and stay away from the gangs that recruit there so easily.

The COVID-19 pandemic began to affect Guatemala towards the end of March and the Guatemalan Government was fast to act and close down borders, schools, most shops and public transport.

The team had to take the difficult decision to close the mentoring centre, due to government restrictions, and stop all outreach until further notice. The charity then produced its own document of protocols on how to work with and support the families in the programme.

Our priority will be to keep staff and volunteers safe and work in such a way as to minimise the risk to the families in the programme through our contact.

The project is hopeful that the return to normal plan will be able to be put into place later in 2020.

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# AMANDA'S STORY

HOW A LITTLE HELP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

One of the many people who have benefitted from the support of Street Kids Direct is 21-year-old Amanda. Amanda has grown up in poverty and has seen many members of her family take to street life and has struggled with this herself and with many addictive behaviours.

We have known Amanda since she was a young child and she has always shown something different, a desire to excel, and has always been interested in a career in hairdressing.

We helped place her daughter in daycare, so that she could explore the option of starting a hairdressing course.



## AMANDA´ STORY, CONTINUED...

Due to Amanda´ s upbringing she was not able to attain the necessary school grades that were required by the hairdressing academies and so felt frustrated, as did we, but decided to not to give up and try a new path.

We helped Amanda record a short appeal video, which we uploaded to Facebook and got some very helpful replies, including one person who offered to pay for her training and

equipment and then a hairdressing academy phoned and offered her a free place on their course.

Amanda took to the course with great vigor and attended every session and then qualified as a hairdresser. She is now very excited to have this skill and equipment to be able to start her own business or work in the trade in order to support herself and her young daughter.

Her dream is to earn enough one day to be able to rent a small apartment and leave the slum area she is currently living in.

Amanda recorded another video to thank people for their support and we are very pleased to be able to re-tell her story here as she wanted those who support the charity to know the difference their support makes. Thank you for all you do that enables us to help change lives.



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# GLOBAL CARE

SUPPORTING  
US ALL THE  
WAY



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*Global Care is a keen partner of Street Kids Direct. The charity operates out of humble surroundings in Coventry and coordinates the child sponsorship scheme for the charity. Global Care also helps provide logistical support, advice and project funding to the projects in Guatemala and Honduras.*

*THANK YOU to all the staff at Global Care for their faithful funding over many years.*

**DUNCAN DYASON**





# FUNDRAISING IN THE UK

This year's Camino por Amor walk took place in the UK and was not the spectacular event we had planned. Duncan, Steve Poulson, Joseph and Benjamin Soden had planned to break a Guinness World Record by walking from Land's End to John O'Groats and back again in record time. Sadly Benjamin became ill and was unable to walk and Joseph injured himself on day three and then could not compete, so it was left to Dunc and Steve to walk the length of the UK, but not as a race and in only one direction.

Despite the many setbacks the walk finished with over £6,000 raised and with plans for Dunc and Steve to plan their next walk in 2021 - the length of the border between Mexico and the USA!

The annual Coin Race was coordinated by Benjamin Soden this year and he, his family and many supporters turned out on a beautiful sunny day to collect funds from the general public in Sycamore Road in Amersham. The event is popular with local people and the friendly competition between boys on one side and girls on the other side of the road adds to the fun as each side battle it out to raise more than the other. £2,000 was raised in total and we are very grateful to the many volunteers who came to help on the day and all those who donated.

Radio Christmas was live from Guatemala and Honduras in December 2019, with the "12 Days of Christmas" appeal and non-stop radio shows. The highlight of the event was having Oli O'Neill join Steve in Honduras for a week of broadcasting and then Duncan in Guatemala to take the programmes through to Christmas Eve. Thanks to those who provided a matching fund to help us raise £12,000 for the projects in Central America.

We are hoping that the next broadcast will be in Amersham from the 1st to the 24th December 2020.

# FINANCE REPORT

HOW YOUR DONATIONS IMPACT LIVES

## CHARITY INCOME

Balance brought forward	£24,438.27
General Donations (inc. direct debits)	£27,129.25
Fundraising Events	£28,724.13
Schools	£1,577.20
PayPal	£1,149.56
Churches	£5,037.35
Trusts & Charities	£25,653.75
Gift Aid	£6,613.14
CAF	£1,379.68
Restricted Funds	£6,000.00
Other Income	£18,500.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£146,202.33</b>

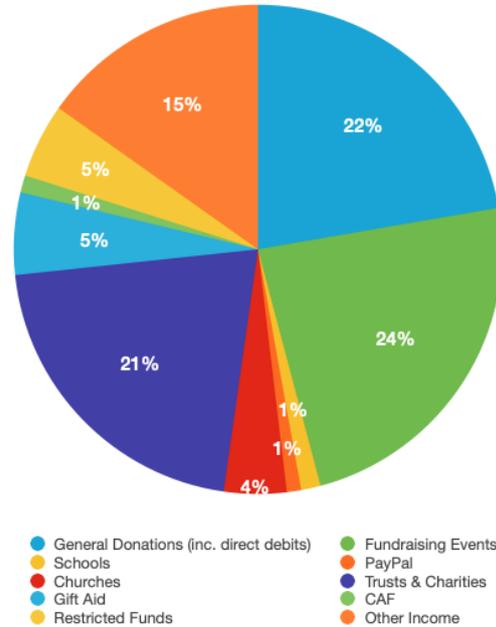
## CHARITY EXPENDITURE

SKD Guatemala	£70,556.00
SKD Guatemala - extras	£30,312.00
SKD Guatemala - Protection Home	£2,430.00
Guatemala High-Risk Fund	£4,600.00
Benjamin Soden Street Worker	£5,000.00
MOJOCA	£2,000.00
Puerta de Esperanza	£3,000.00
Go Guatemala	£1,250.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>£119,148.00</b>

## TOTAL CARRIED FORWARD

Income less Expenditure	£27,054.33
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## INCOME INSIGHTS



Accounts have been prepared on a cash basis from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020

**Trevor Nicholas**

28 West Street, Ryde  
Isle of Wight , PO33 2QQ

6th July 2020

**To: The Trustees of Street Kids Direct**

*Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Street Kids Direct Charity for the year ended 31st March 2020*

*I report on the accounts of the Street Kids Direct Charity for the year ended 31st March 2020, which is set out on one page.*

*Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner*

*The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.*

*It is my responsibility to:*

- *examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act*
- *to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act*
- *to state whether particular matters have come to my attention*

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

*My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.*

**Independent examiner's statement**

*In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:*

*(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:*

- *to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act*
- *to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or*

*(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.*



*Trevor Nicholas FCCA (Fellow Chartered Certified Accountant)*



## THANK YOU

### VOLUNTEERS & VISITORS

**Street Kids Direct is grateful for the tremendous support and constant encouragement from Tom Carter & Carolyn Davidson, British Ambassadors to Guatemala and Honduras who moved on to a new post in 2019.**

**Tom & Carolyn were always ready to support any event we had (like the Camino por Amor walk pictured above) and muck-in as needed. We will really miss them and wish them well.**

Thanks to: Alex Denton, Steve Castree, Tim & Marcy Hines & Torch Missions, Infusion Ministries & Waters Edge, David McColgan, Jeremy Browne, Terry Neale, Chris Dobson, Richard Hawkes, Darold Opp, Walk for Freedom Guatemala, Laura Evans, Bishop Mike & Anthea Hill, Manos de Amor, Hospicio San José, La Municipalidad de Guatemala, Adam & Grace Taylor, Steve Poulson, Julio Araña, Christopher Lanza & Jen Olsen, Raul Chacon, Destino Discipulado Intensivo, Luke deBorde, Joe Rose, Sarah Elliott, Oli O'Neill, Jess Curson, Puerta de Esperanza, Viktor Barber and the new British Ambassador Nick Whittingham for coming to visit and volunteer with us during 2019/2020.

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# GET IN TOUCH WITH US

STREET KIDS DIRECT

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