



# ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022



**STREET KIDS DIRECT**  
changing lives forever

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# Welcome

I am thrilled to be able to invite you to read this year's annual report as it demonstrates how your support has impacted the lives of 865 vulnerable children in Central America.

Living and working in Guatemala means that I can see first-hand how the charity impacts lives and makes a difference.

I hope the stories will fill you with hope and the reports encourage you to know that every penny of your support really does change lives.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our work.

**Duncan Dyason MBE**



# CONTENT



## **A bold vision**

Impacting lives for 21 years



## **Vision & Mission**

and a full explanation of the unique way the charity operates



## **The SKD Team**

A great team of British volunteers



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Partnering with local organisations to reach the most vulnerable



## **Honduras Projects**

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# A BOLD VISION

## Impacting lives for 21 years

Street 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.

We are a volunteer-run and online-only charity, with roots in Amersham, Buckinghamshire, in the United Kingdom. We work in partnership with local organisations to rescue street-living children and prevent at-risk children living on the streets.

Over the 21 years we have been working in Latin America, we have seen the number of street children in Guatemala drop from an estimated 5,000 to 0. Much of our work and that of our partner-projects now focuses on preventing more children from taking to the streets.

The charity is now exploring the possibilities of supporting projects in other countries where the numbers of street-children are rising.

## 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 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 child to develop a unique personality enabling them to mature and become a truly fulfilled individual.



**2487**

at-risk children and youth helped stay off the streets or who have been rescued from the streets.



**700**

vulnerable families have been supported throughout the COVID pandemic.



**98%**

of all children in the mentoring programme stay in full-time education.

# THE SKD TEAM



**Matt Levett**  
Trustee

Matt is a youth worker for the Anglican Church in Suffolk and has worked with at-risk youth for over 20 years.



**Joanna Soden**  
Trustee

Joe is committed to the work in Central America and one of her sons now lives and works with the SKD Guatemala project.



**Duncan Dyason**  
Trustee & Director

Duncan lives and works in Guatemala City in mentoring and outreach to at-risk youth in some of the city slum areas.



**Mark & Rosalie Balfour**  
Pastoral Workers

Mark & Rosalie live in Guatemala and offer pastoral support to the people who work in partnership with the charity.



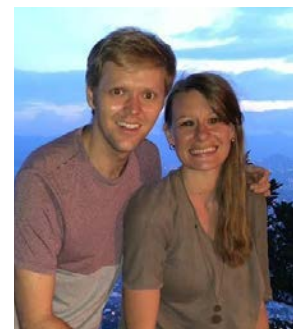
**Benjamin Soden**  
Street Worker

Benjamin has worked on the streets of Guatemala for the last five years and works with the SKDGuatemala project.



**Azaria Spencer**  
Centre Coordinator

Azaria volunteers as a youth worker and coordinator of the new Centro Opp mentoring centre in Guatemala



**Steve & Lindsey Poulson**  
Charity Workers

Steve & Lindsey volunteer with the Proyecto Alas outreach project in Honduras, helping high-risk children and youth.



## HOW WE WORK

Street Kids Direct (SKD) Partners with local projects in Guatemala and Honduras to help provide services and support to children and young people who live on the streets or who live at high-risk of living on the streets.

We are passionate about developing relationships with our projects and working alongside them to support and strengthen the work that they do.

Our promise is to guarantee that 100% of donations made to SKD go directly to the projects that we support. SKD is structured as an online charity with no staff or costs to ensure that this is possible. If any costs do arise, they are donated by friends or covered by volunteers.



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## HOW WE WORK

Street Kids Direct have developed a unique methodology that helps identify, support and care for a child most at risk of taking to the streets.

***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.



# PROYECTO ALAS HONDURAS



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Proyecto Alas team have spent years working and living in the local community and use their unique local knowledge and contacts to be able to help the most vulnerable children. Because of their local commitment the team have been invited by the police to help form the community security council.



## MENTORING

Targetting the most vulnerable children at risk of street life, the team are able to offer a variety of interventions that help keep the child safe and provide a caring and supportive mentor for the them. The mentor meets weekly with their child and helps them make positive life choices and stay in education.



## SELF SUSTAINABILITY

Proyecto Alas have worked hard to create a small business that helps generate funds for the work. The Alas Coffee Shop is situated above the mentoring centre and offers full-time employment of older at-risk youth and has become a popular place for locals to get their hot beverages and pastries.





## PROYECTO ALAS

The aim of Proyecto Alas is to reach children and young people at high social risk and that includes those who have a high connection to the streets and street life.

The project adopted the Street Kids Direct mentoring programme when it started five years ago and now runs a mentoring centre in the town of Talanga, Honduras. The centre is a safe place for the children in the programme to come for support, fun, to be with friends and get help with their homework.

Over the past year Alas has managed to reach more children at risk than the previous year, growing from 25 to 60. Every child in the programme is registered in school now the national schools have re-opened. The team visit every child in their school to offer them support and build a relationship with the teacher in order that any homework or absences are reported to the team.

Due to the nature of the work it is vital that good relationships are also formed with the child's family. Most children come from one-parent families and visiting them weekly takes a great deal of effort, but the team see the results in the commitment of the parent to the programme. Furthermore, Alas regularly provides parenting classes, or talks for parents, which further helps to cement good relationships and builds trust and family unity.

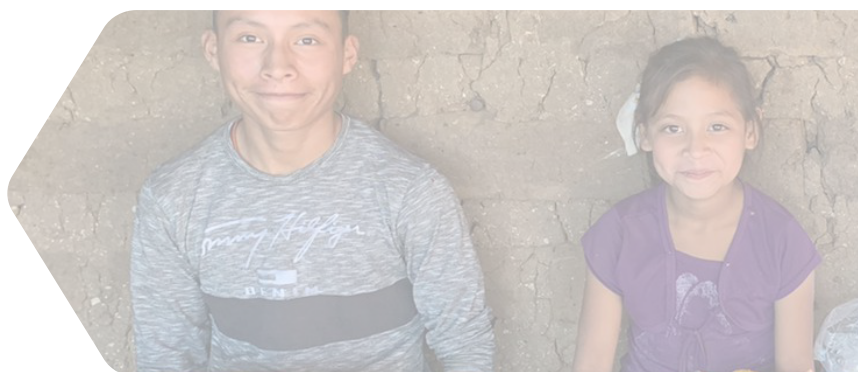
Your support over the year has meant that **60 children at high social risk have been cared for**, mentored and are in full-time education **and a further 200 children** in the prevention programme.

Steve, Lindsey, Lorena, Cristian and the Alas team are very grateful for the partnership with Street Kids Direct. Duncan, together with Mark & Rosalie Balfour visit the project regularly in order to encourage and support the team and see for themselves the impact your support is making.



working with at-risk kids  
in Talanga, Honduras

# CASE STUDY



## NICOLE & CESAR

It is hard for most of us to imagine what it would be like to literally grow up in the streets. Not only that, but to then have the dangers of kidnapping, drug abuse, neglect and dealing with those who prey on small children in a notorious market area of Guatemala City called “La Terminal”. Street life destroys lives very quickly.

It is in this context the SKD street team, headed up by Benjamin Soden, discovered two very young children living in such danger and knew that we had to act.

It took time, but eventually the legal process enable the children to be taken into care and an investigation led to the discovery that wider family members were living in San Marcos, in the North of Guatemala.

The street team visited the family and offered them the chance to take the children in. They were delighted and for the last three years the children have lived in the countryside and have both now started school.

We have helped the family with regular visits to donate food, supplies and clothes for the children and to encourage the parents in their care for the children who have adapted well to their new environment.

We have also helped fund the connection of electricity to their humble home and are now looking at how we can fund the purchase of some animals to help increase their monthly income as well as the construction of a fully-plumbed toilet.

Change is possible and thanks to your support, more lives are being impacted.





**keeping children safe  
for over 21 years**

# Door of Hope **GUATEMALA CITY**





## PUERTA DE ESPERANZA (Door of Hope)

Street Kids Direct have worked in partnership with Puerta de Esperanza for many years due to the nature of their work and their proximity with the SKDGuatemala project in La Terminal, Guatemala City.

During the last year the Puerta de Esperanza project has been able to reach more children and youth at high-risk in the city and the funding we have provided has helped employ a full-time outreach worker.

Together with the governmental Social Services department, the project was able to offer COVID vaccinations to all the children and youth in the programme in order to allow them to re-start their education in the national school system.

The project is open 6 days a week on two locations close to La Terminal (The Terminal) in Guatemala City. Each centre offers a safe place for children to receive help and support with their school homework as well as participate in group activities and workshops. The total number of children attending both centres is 140.

A new area of the work has developed in a developing slum on the outskirts of Guatemala City called Gerona. The initial plan included partnering with the local authorities to identify the most at-risk children. The investigation identified 30 vulnerable children and the outreach work began. The number grew rapidly to 100 children and the team had to recruit more volunteers to help with the outreach.

Puerta de Esperanza have been able to start Cocinas de Esperanza (Kitchens of Hope) for all 100 children in Gerona, plus the 140 children who attend their centres in the city. This means **the project is able to reach 240 at-risk children every week.**

We are pleased to see some of the young people from Puerta de Esperanza joining the SKDGuatemala programmes in the new Centro Opp Mentoring Centre. The young people participate in the Voz of the Streets choir and will soon be joining the team for the launch of the Voice of the Streets radio station.





# Go Guatemala GUATEMALA

## The challenges of keeping kids out of gangs

Driving into Zone 18 of Guatemala City is not something many look forward to. The zone is notorious for the long-standing gang battles together with extorsions, kidnapping and the daily violence and crime.

It is in this context that Go Guatemala was born and now reaches hundreds of children and families at risk on a weekly basis. Street Kids Direct have partnered with this project for many years and have helped them structure their charity in a way that enabled growth to be more sustainable. We now fund the rental costs of the building they use as a base and educational support and mentoring centre for the children in the programme. Thanks to the support received from Radio Christmas we have been able to fund the project's new library, with donations of furniture and children's reading books.

Over the past year Go Guatemala has developed a larger social outreach programme that includes providing food for around 75 families each week, thanks to the donations they receive from a fruit and vegetable wholesaler in the city. The families are given a weekly supply of fresh produce and the Go Guatemala team spend time talking and praying with the families, offering the much needed support that helps them know they are not alone.

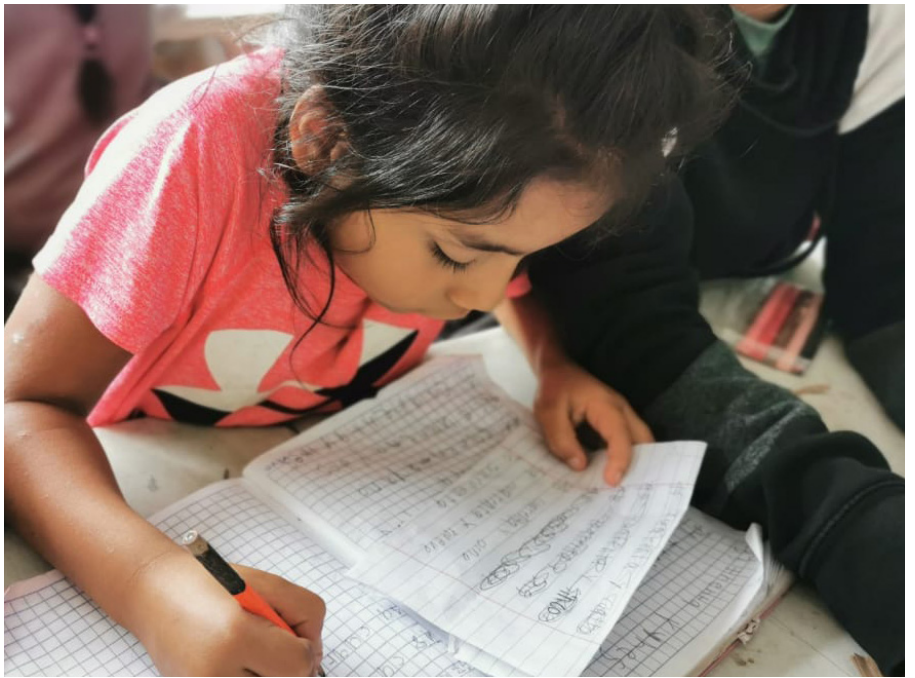
The outreach club on a Saturday attracts around **120 children and youth** and they all enjoy a hot breakfast and lunch and lots of time to play, study and enjoy the growing number of activities Go Guatemala has developed on their site.

During the week children can come to receive homework help and due to many schools being closed due to COVID, children have to access their education online. For the majority of children online is not something they can access and so Go Guatemala provides free access to their courses and children can print off the material they need and then have support with the various exercises they have to hand in.

Thanks to local donations the project can provide **580 breakfasts and lunches every week** for the children attending the centre.

Their work is inspirational and prevents many children being recruited into gangs or seeing the streets as a viable option for life. We would like to continue our commitment to Go Guatemala in the coming year as funds allow.







# A CHILD AT RISK

● **STREET KIDS DIRECT HAVE DEVELOPED A UNIQUE METHODOLOGY THAT HELPS IDENTIFY, SUPPORT AND CARE FOR A CHILD MOST AT RISK OF TAKING TO THE STREETS.**

● **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.



# MOJOCA GUATEMALA

## Reaching street-living youth and young adults

**MOJOCA** stands for the Movement of Young People in the Streets and it was founded by a good friend of Duncan Dyason, Gerard Lutte, when he visited the work that Duncan was initially doing with Casa Alianza in 1993. The organisation continues to work with homeless young people in Guatemala City and is run by a committee of young people, who themselves live or have lived in the streets.

Street Kids Direct have supported the work of MOJOCA for many years, funding their street outreach and the clinic they established in their outreach centre. Furthermore and very sadly, we have provided funds to help cover the costs of burying young people who have died violently in the streets over the last year.

The MOJOCA outreach centre offers around **80 homeless youth** the opportunity of attending the various sessions that are held each day, which includes a small bakery, coffee shop, handicraft workshop as well as providing a safe place for the young people to wash their clothes, shower and receive support.

MOJOCA has always been at the forefront of the fight for the rights of homeless youth and has sought ways to engage with other organisations and the government, together with Street Kids Direct, to work on practical solutions to keep safe those living on the streets and to coordinate strategies for their wellbeing, rescue and rehabilitation.

The charity also runs a home for single mothers and it is a delightful place that helps young mums and their children receive support while they are being prepared for life after the home.



The image features two young women with long dark hair, smiling warmly. They are positioned in front of a background that is split into red and blue sections. A prominent green diagonal stripe runs from the bottom left towards the top right. In the upper left corner, there is a small cluster of purple hydrangea flowers. The text 'SKDGuatemala' is written in white, and 'GUATEMALA' is written in green below it.

**SKDGuatemala**  
**GUATEMALA**



## Mentoring changes lives

The heart of the SKD Guatemala project is the mentoring programme. Mentoring is the provision of a caring and consistent adult (local volunteer) in the life of a child or youth at risk of street life.

Over the past year the charity has opened it's new mentoring centre, Centro Opp, which is a fantastic facility in Guatemala City for youth aged 13+ to see their mentor, participate in the workshops, learn new skills and find a place of belonging and acceptance with other young people.

The daily street outreach continues to focus on homeless youth and adults who struggle to leave the streets. The street team is headed up by UK volunteer Benjamin Soden who together with Juan Carlos (local staff member) visits the different locations around the city and seeks to explore alternatives to street life with those living on the streets. The team then visit those who have left the streets and who are in rehabilitation centres or who are in the process of reintegration into wider society.

The original mentoring centre, which is situated on the edge of La Terminal in Guatemala City had to be converted into a school during the year as the national schools remained closed. During the first year of the pandemic and with schools closed, UNICEF identified 109,000 children who had dropped out of the school system. Many of these will never return and so the project was keen to keep every child in the mentoring programme in full-time education. This stretched resources to the maximum, but the charity partnered with Global Care and Rotary USA to educate every child in their relevant school grade.

The prevention work is a vital element in the support of children in the programme and over the year the SKDGuatemala team have made regular visits to the homes of all the children in the programme. Home visits form part of the network that helps keep a child off the streets. Working in partnership with parents and/or carers means we can ensure a vulnerable child gets the support and understanding they need to stay in education, attend mentoring sessions and other activities and make positive life choices.

The most exciting part of the programme has been the opening of the new mentoring centre, as mentioned above. The centre has a focus on music and art therapy, but is much more than that. The state-of-the-art centre offers a gymnasium filled equipped industrial kitchen, radio studio, training room and areas for young people to chill out, meet their mentor and spend time with their friends. Thanks to Darold and Pamela Opp (sponsors from thr USA) for making this possible and it is for this reason the centre in named in their honour.

Thanks to the support you have given over the year the charity has been able to keep 65 at-risk children and youth in the mentoring programme and in full-time education, and reach out to a further 100 children via the street and prevention work. This means **SKDGuatemala are helping 165 vulnerable children a year.**





# Centro Opp

## YOUTH MENTORING CENTRE



**a place of belonging  
and learning**





# FINANCE REPORT

## Your support impacts lives!

The trustees of Street Kids Direct cannot thank you enough for your very committed, faithful and generous support of the work in Central America. We hope you can see here how your donations have been used to help hundreds of children at-risk in Guatemala and Honduras. We are very grateful also to Trevor Nicolas who produces the independent report each year and to Cat Dale and Janet Wickham for helping with the finances and reporting.

Bank Details: General Current Account held with HSBC Bank, Sycamore Road, Amersham, HP6 5EW.

### INCOME 2021-2022

General Donations	£57,138.48
Monthly Giving	£15,482.00
Events	£21,651.19
Schools	£2,090.98
Churches	£10,364.99
Paypal	£1,105.30
CAF	£9,073.98
Trusts & Charities	£24,067.12
Other Income	£11,079.15
Restricted Donations	£40,373.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£192,426.19</b>



**865 at-risk children  
and youth reached  
this year!**

### EXPENDITURE 2021-2022

SKD Guatemala	£140,825.00
SKD Guatemala - Centro Opp	£8,910.00
SKD Guatemala - Protection Home	£6,970.00
Guatemala High Risk Fund	£3,500.00
Go Guatemala	£6,855.00
Mojoca	£4,000.00
Puerta de Esperanza	£9,000.00
Proyecto Alas	£16,000.00
Bank Charges	£89.89
Ben Soden - Street Worker	£500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£196,649.89</b>





Trevor Nicholas  
28 West Street  
Ryde  
Isle of Wight  
PO33 2QQ

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 2022. I report on the accounts of the Street Kids Direct Charity for the year ended 31st March 2022, 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 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  
Date 11th August 2022



## STREET KIDS DIRECT

*Changing lives forever*

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**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT  
OVER THE YEAR**



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