



ANNUAL REPORT

2019



Alleviating Poverty and Sharing the Gospel

Millions of people live in extreme poverty across the world, struggling daily to feed, clothe and educate themselves along with their children. Without these basic needs met, the cycle of poverty continues from generation to generation.

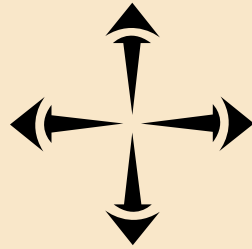
But God has strategically planted leaders, pastors and visionaries in some of the world's most vulnerable communities who are helping meet these needs, building relationships and investing spiritually into the lives of everyone they touch. We're blessed to be serving alongside them.

With *a community of more than 1,490 generous people* supporting these locally-led, child-focused, relief and development initiatives around the world, we believe we can end the cycle of poverty and build life-long disciples of Jesus, one person at a time.



Front page: Margarita is a cook at our Cuba children's program and is one of the many unsung heroes who make our international relief and development efforts possible.

Photography: James Barnett, TJ Broom, Benita Clarke, Ben Edwards, Mark Ellis, Nehru Grant, Heather Hoff, Jose Irineo, Kevin Kubota, Ashley Miles, Nataly Mora, Naomi Mozelle, Jeff Thompson, Deirdre Wilson-Redmond



OUR MISSION

Creating opportunities for people to discover their true worth and pursue God's extraordinary purpose for their lives.

OUR VISION

To see activated churches and individuals in the U.S. and around the world empowering the vulnerable and growing as disciples of Jesus Christ.



OUR MODEL

**Helping Vulnerable Children.
Holistic Community Development.
Short-Term Mission Teams.**

We connect the global Church by integrating child-focused community development programs with short-term mission teams. Our model of mixing missions and development creates lasting transformation, economically, socially and spiritually for children and communities suffering from extreme poverty, while also developing life-long disciples of Jesus, both in the U.S. and abroad.





2019 AT A GLANCE

MEALS SERVED TO
VULNERABLE CHILDREN

134,755

CHILDREN AND ADULTS
IMPACTED BY OUR PROGRAMS

33,180

CHILDREN AND ADULTS SERVED
BY SHORT-TERM MISSIONARIES

2,940





LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

At Forward Edge, we believe every human being was uniquely designed and equipped by his or her Creator to make a difference in the world. For more than 37 years, this has been the driving conviction behind everything God has done through Forward Edge, and something we believe about every person serving on our mission teams, every child and adult in our programs around the world, and every friend and partner of this ministry.

It's the pursuit of some higher purpose or vision that changes the world around us and gives our lives meaning. "Where there is no vision," Proverbs 29:18 confirms, "the people perish," or as it says in another translation, "the people lose heart."

Recent scientific studies confirm that human beings are actually neuro-chemically wired to need purpose—purpose being defined as "the reason for which something was created or for which something exists." In other words, our purpose as individuals is our usefulness, our contribution. And having a purpose that's greater than ourselves directly relates to both our physical and spiritual well-being.

A recent study from Rush University, for example, showed that older people with a risk for dementia who identified a purpose in life outside of themselves were only half as likely to develop Alzheimer's, while a 15-year study in Japan found that a strong sense of purpose resulted in a 72 percent lower risk of stroke and a 44 percent lower rate of heart disease.

Other scientific studies confirm that our Creator actually designed us for purpose—to live for something greater than ourselves. Two recent studies at UCLA, for example, revealed that when we reach outside ourselves to help others we reap a neurological and physical reward in the form of a rush of oxytocin, serotonin, and dopamine—what neuroscientists call "the happiness trifecta." Oxytocin

supports empathy and social bonding. Serotonin regulates mood. And dopamine plays a major role in motivation and movement.

You see, without purpose we don't feel any motivation. Our Creator hard-wired us that way! And the above-mentioned studies not only confirm what I shared from Proverbs 29—without vision, people lose heart—but underscore the importance of Forward Edge's mission: providing opportunities for people to discover their true worth and pursue God's extraordinary purpose for their lives. It's a mission we've been pursuing for almost 40 years, and one we pursued in 2019 with as much enthusiasm as in any previous year.

Some 2019 Accomplishments

Uganda

More than 600 at-risk children in Uganda were provided with nutritious meals, training in basic life skills, career guidance, and spiritual instruction and discipleship.

Kenya

In 2019, we began delivering meals to 200 students at two primary schools in Kijabe, Kenya. As a result, not only did attendance at these schools spike, but test scores rose dramatically.

Cuba

In 2019, 30 teenagers were added to our program in Cuba, bringing the number of children in our Cuba program to 70.

Nicaragua

In 2019, we launched a new program for at-risk boys. Approximately 30–40 boys now gather at Villa Esperanza every month for spiritual instruction and discipleship.



Some 2019 Challenges

The lingering effects of Nicaragua's 2018's political unrest continued to limit the number of mission teams we could send to that country. Things are gradually normalizing, though, and we anticipate an increased number of teams to Nicaragua in future years.

Similar political unrest also prevented us from sending mission teams to Haiti in 2019. We continue to pray for more Godly leaders to emerge in Haiti—leaders who have as their top priority the well-being of the Haitian people.

Our Vision for the Future

Priority Goals

In March, 2019, we held a planning retreat attended by our Board and Management Team. Three priority goals emerged from the retreat: 1) a growing number of children impacted by our programs; 2) an increase in monthly financial support for our field programs; and 3) a growing number of church and school partners. Naturally, success in achieving goals 2 and 3 directly relates to success in achieving goal #1: more children impacted!

Oaxaca, Mexico

Our Oaxaca directors, Victor and Lety Velasco, have a vision for a new Christian school in their community. With financial support from Living Hope Christian Church in Queens, NY, work began on an addition to one of the buildings where our program is located, which when completed will be used as classrooms.

Haiti

In Haiti, we look forward to pursuing a partnership with another Christian organization to help address the “*restavek*” issue in that country. *Restaveks* are children given away by their parents to relatives or strangers. There are approximately 400,000 *restaveks* in Haiti. Most do not attend school and spend the majority of their time doing menial chores.

Nicaragua

We look forward to deepening our partnerships with several local pastors who we've already provided with six months of training in holistic ministry. These partnerships will eventually result in scores more vulnerable children receiving holistic care.

Conclusion

It has long been our privilege at Forward Edge to provide opportunities for people to discover their true worth and pursue God's extraordinary purpose for their lives. As I said at the opening of this letter, it's a mission we believe applies to every person serving on our mission teams, every child and adult in our field programs, and everyone who believes in and supports this ministry.

I hope as you read this year's Annual Report, you'll be inspired to keep pursuing a vision that's greater than yourself. And to those who've found meaning and purpose through their partnership with Forward Edge, on behalf of the thousands of children and adults around the world impacted each year by your service and generosity: THANK YOU!



Joseph Anfuso

Founder & President
Forward Edge International



2019

OUR CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

In 2019, we impacted **33,180 lives** through our child-focused community development programs in **six countries**.

Cuba
Haiti
Kenya

Mexico
Nicaragua
Uganda



WHERE WE WORK





GOOD SAMARITANS CLUB | CUBA

Due to regulated income, countless children in Cuba are malnourished. Our program in El Cobre is providing children with regular nutritious meals and spiritual discipleship. In addition to these things, we're also providing teenagers with school supplies, shoes and tutoring.

KID'S CLUB | HAITI

For the past decade, Haiti has consistently been one of the five poorest countries in the world. Children in the southern town of Vernet suffer from extreme poverty and malnutrition, where our program is providing nutritious meals, tuition support, medical evaluations, and spiritual discipleship.

MAMA BETH'S | KENYA

Children in the rural community of Kijabe are especially vulnerable to severe poverty, malnutrition and being orphaned. Mama Beth's provides local children with tuition support, health care and spiritual discipleship, and offers daily nutritious meals to additional children at local schools.





TRIGO Y MIEL & OPERATION ENDURING HOMES | MEXICO

In an extremely poor rural district outside Oaxaca City, Trigo y Miel is providing children with daily nutritious meals, tutoring, safe drinking water, medical check-ups, and a micro-loan program for their parents. Our home-building business in this area, Operation Enduring Homes, is also providing homes and jobs for local families.

VILLA ESPERANZA | NICARAGUA

Our only residential program, the Villa is providing holistic, round-the-clock care for 16 at-risk girls, many of whom came from a local garbage dump. The Villa also serves their families, and provides regular discipleship retreats for local teenage boys, school scholarships for children in the community, and pregnancy prevention training for scores of students in local schools.

LIGHT A CANDLE | UGANDA

Our program in Kampala is providing nutritious meals, education, and spiritual discipleship to children (including many orphans) living in slums and other extremely poor neighborhoods where drugs, crime, disease and sexual abuse are prevalent.





OUR PROGRAMMATIC STRATEGY

CHRIST CENTERED

At the heart of everything we do is the conviction that Jesus died for our sins and rose again. From the founding of Forward Edge, the spread of the Gospel and serving others in Jesus' name has been priority number one. We work with a variety of denominations and cultures, but the Good News of Jesus Christ is what connects us all and leads us forward in faith.

CHILD FOCUSED

Our programs tend to the mind, body and soul of children. Our goal is to help children trapped in poverty reach their full, God-given potential by meeting their basic needs (food, safe water, health care) and empowering them with quality education, vocational training, and spiritual discipleship. Through them, we also reach their families and communities to influence lasting change.

LOCALLY LED

All our international relief and development programs are envisioned, initiated and led by local Christian leaders. These include pastors, school principals, and former politicians, all held to extremely high levels of trust and stewardship. Our aim is to empower local communities toward holistic development. We want to be part of long-term transformation rather than quick fixes.

PARTNERSHIP DRIVEN

Over the years, we've discovered nothing quite matches the holistic impact made when a community from the U.S. partners with a community in one of the developing nations we serve. This is the Global Church at work. It's why we place such a high value on our partner churches and schools and the long-term impact they create through relationships and shared resources.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

MAMA BETH'S

Mama Beth's Children's Program is our child-focused community development program in Kijabe, Kenya. Children in this rural community are especially vulnerable to being orphaned and suffering from severe poverty and malnutrition. Education is a low priority for most families struggling to survive.

In 2019, it came to the attention of Mama Beth's director, Jane Wathagana (pictured top), that children were skipping school to receive lunch at Mama Beth's, so her team began delivering 200 lunches to two primary schools every school day. Since then, attendance and grades have shot up.

With the space at the program previously used for feeding now free, Jane was able to open a new preschool for 15 children! Early education is a huge factor in educational success later in life, so we're excited about this new opportunity for these little ones in Kijabe.





PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

LIVING HOPE
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Pastor Nehru Grant (pictured top center) and Living Hope Christian Church in Bellerose, NY have been sending teams to our children's program in Oaxaca, Mexico – Trigo y Miel – for the past two years. In 2019 these two communities only grew closer.

Living Hope has sent teams for construction, children's camps, ministry outreach, counseling workshops, and even technical support. Through these experiences, both communities have noticed substantial transformation.

"This is just the beginning. The harvest really is ripe," Nehru shares as he looks into the bright future of his partnership with Trigo y Miel, and its directors, Pastor Victor and Lety Velasco (pictured top).

"We are so grateful to God for putting Living Hope in our path and that they embraced our dreams as theirs," remarks Pastor Victor.





MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

TEEN DISCIPLESHIP

Pastor Alex Sueiro, our Cuba Program Director, runs a feeding and discipleship program for children in first through eighth grade.

In 2019, we were able to launch a pilot program for teenagers in partnership with two team members who visited Cuba and were inspired to help fund its startup costs. We added 30 teens in Cuba to our sponsorship program which will give them access to nutritious meals, assistance for school supplies, shoes and tutoring.

Adding the teenagers will provide them with critical support and nutrition as they grow into young adults, and allow sponsors to support their children right up to college. We're excited to watch God's purposes unfold in the lives of these young men and women.





2019

MISSION TEAMS

In 2019, we sent **451 short-term missionaries** to **nine different locations** to serve, build, teach and disciple.

Cuba
Haiti
Kenya

Mexico
Nicaragua
Puerto Rico

Uganda
USA-Baltimore, MD
USA-Panama City, FL



2019 MISSION TEAM IMPACT

VALUE OF DONATED
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

\$371,300

CHILDREN SERVED

1,558

ADULTS SERVED

1,382

PEOPLE PRESENTED WITH
THE GOSPEL

665





SHORT-TERM TEAMS WITH LONG-TERM IMPACT

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Our short-term missionaries are not sent as “heroes” to “save” those living in poverty. Instead, they are servants, always focusing on doing things with people, not just for them.

FOCUS ON RELATIONSHIPS

We encourage all our short-term missionaries to embrace the reality that relationships are more important than accomplishments, and people are more important than projects. Many of our short-term missionaries build and maintain fruitful relationships for years, even lifetimes, both with their team members and those they meet on location.

MEETING FELT NEEDS

Our teams come alongside local leaders who know the actual felt needs of their community. This prevents our short-term missionaries from solving problems that aren't there. They're able to engage in current development initiatives that are maintained long-term by community leaders.

DEVELOPING DISCIPLES

Team members are encouraged to prayerfully consider how their mission trip experience relates to the rest of their lives and are provided with resources and training to help them integrate what they learned on the mission field into their lives back home. As we often say, their one-week serving is more about the 51 others.



TEAM HIGHLIGHT

PHOTOGRAPHY TEAM

In April, a group of 12 photographers served on a team to our Cuba children's program as part of Workshops with A Purpose, created by Kevin Kubota and Ben Edwards.

Workshop participants travel around the world learning how to perfect their craft and donate their skills and talents in photography and videography to organizations who are doing humanitarian work.

In 2019, we were blessed to be the beneficiaries of this group. They volunteered to take professional photos of our Cuba program and create a new child sponsorship video, both of which we now use to share about our mission, recruit more partners and raise more support for these long-term programs.

During the course of the week, they also accompanied the children on a trip to the beach, made home visits, and did projects to assist the local church.





PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

CHRIST CHURCH

In 2019, Christ Church in Rockaway, NJ continued to deeply invest in our child-focused community development program in Nicaragua, Villa Esperanza.

Ten women shared the Gospel with six different groups of people. The team ministered to small groups of women, providing prayer, insight and deep discussion on Bible study, prayer, and purity. They ministered to young women, missionary students, community church leaders, and the girls of the Villa. They also visited, prayed with, and provided nutrition for three special needs families.

A separate men's group brought their unique talents, gifts and experience. They visited small businesses, then gave a three-day entrepreneur's training (valued at \$10,000 in the States) contextualized to the Nicaraguan culture. They also gave workshops on evangelism to local pastors, on "Raising Godly Children" to the Villa workers, and held a camp for boys in the community where they taught "Four Things I Wish My Father Would Have Told Me."





MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

PUERTO RICO BAPTISMS

With 11 completed teams, Puerto Rico was our most-visited location in 2019. We are thankful for the partnership we continue to share with Pastor Rolando Cruz (pictured top left) and others on location.

While teams put in hard work to restore homes, God was on the move, restoring relationships, both among the community and with Jesus.

Pictured bottom are team members who, in the middle of the excursion day, were compelled by the Holy Spirit to dedicate their lives to Christ and be baptized! Another young woman in the park, after watching all that went on, asked to be baptized by Pastor Rolando too!





OUR 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Andersen

Joseph Anfuso, Founder and President

Karen Anfuso, Secretary

Lisa DaSilva

Brad Fenison, Chairman

John Greholver, Treasurer

Kay Moore

Greg Seifert

Nick Shivers (pictured)

Dan Vahalla

Mary Vahalla

Gabe Winslow





OUR TEAM

Our team is comprised of talented and passionate Christ-followers from eight different countries. In 2019, we had 12 staff at our International Headquarters in Vancouver, WA, 61 international staff, and five long-term missionaries.

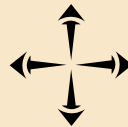
This wide-ranging group of Christ-followers draws upon a variety of educations and backgrounds to remove obstacles blocking those in poverty from living out their full, God-given potential. In 2019, we were thrilled to add to our IHQ staff: Sheri Stanley as our new Director of Mobilization and Pastor Rick Vogt as our Church Partnership Liaison. Both are helping us connect U.S. churches and schools with our international programs for mutual growth.





OUR COMMUNITY

We thank God for our inspiring community of missionaries, pastors, teachers, leaders, churches, schools, Real Estate professionals, sponsors, volunteers, and financial supporters.





“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:10



THE FORWARD EDGE COMMUNITY

ILIANA'S ALLIANCE

Iliana's Alliance members are generous partners investing deeply in God's work through Forward Edge by giving \$1,000 or more each year, giving 100 or more times, or including Forward Edge in their estate plans. In 2019, there were 357 members of Iliana's Alliance!

SELL A HOME, SAVE A CHILD

Sell a Home, Save a Child is a movement of Real Estate professionals investing in the transformation of vulnerable children around the world. Through monthly membership, child sponsorship, fundraising events, and special gifts, this committed and creative group has raised more than \$1.5 million for Forward Edge children's programs over the past five years.

CORPORATE PARTNERS

When for-purpose businesses partner with Forward Edge, it underscores the effectiveness of our mission and the integrity of these corporate partners. It helps both organizations grow their influence and impact in this world. In 2019, 70 businesses invested in Forward Edge, and 10 invested as Corporate Partners.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Many churches and schools have begun to understand the importance of long-term investment in another community. As relationships develop and resources are shared, everyone experiences lasting transformation. In 2019, we partnered with 39 churches and schools from across the U.S.



SHORT-TERM MISSIONARIES

Our short-term missionaries come from across the U.S. dedicating a week of their lives to serving God and serving others. They are truly living out the Great Commission, sharing their hearts, talents, and passions with the Global Church. We mobilized 451 short-term missionaries in 2019.

CHILD SPONSORS

Our child sponsors are compassionate people pouring into the lives of vulnerable children in our programs through sustained relationships and consistent financial support. In 2019, 566 sponsors helped provide children what they need to find and follow their God-given purpose.

FINANCIAL AND MONTHLY PARTNERS

In 2019, 1,375 people embraced our mission to help the vulnerable through their financial support. Our 661 monthly partners provided the consistent support needed to plan effectively and ensure the sustainability required for lasting transformation.





COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT

2019 BENEFIT
DINNERS

Our events provide a special time to celebrate the work being done in the lives of the extended Forward Edge family. Financial partners, short-term missionaries, child sponsors, new friends, and special guests from our field programs join in an annual family reunion to celebrate things accomplished and dream of what's possible in the coming year.

In 2019, our events in Long Island, NY, Vancouver, WA, and Seattle, WA raised a record-breaking \$511,795 and hosted 587 people!





COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT

SELL A HOME, SAVE A CHILD

Two top 1% Real Estate agents in the nation, Nick Shivers and Erik Hatch, led the charge for Sell a Home, Save a Child (SAHSAC) members to have their greatest yearly impact ever. Twenty-two Real Estate teams across the U.S. were members of SAHSAC in 2019.

Monthly membership is the heart of SAHSAC, but members had some extra fun in 2019 through three unique events: Hatch Realty's annual Golf Scramble fundraiser in Fargo, ND; Hatch Coaching's appeal for children at their annual fall Summit, and a sumo wrestling fundraiser - Sumo for SAHSAC - at the RATE conference in Los Angeles, CA.

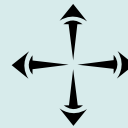
SAHSAC members are also invited each year to go on a mission trip to one of Forward Edge's six children's programs to meet children directly impacted by their membership. In 2019, SAHSAC members went to Haiti where they connected with the children, learned about the local culture, did some service projects, and accompanied the kids on a day trip to the beach!





FINANCIALS

Gift stewardship will always be of utmost importance to us. In 2019, ***83% of your donations were poured directly into our programs for the vulnerable.***





“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.”

1 Corinthians 4:2



TOTAL REVENUE IN 2019:

\$2.5 MILLION

IN 2019 WE INVESTED

\$ 2.1M into our children's programs

\$ 98K into disaster recovery

\$470K into our operations

NET ASSETS

\$1M 2018

\$882K 2019





FINANCIALS

BREAKDOWN OF INVESTMENT
BY PROGRAM

In 2019, we impacted **33,180 lives** through our child-focused community development programs in **six countries**.

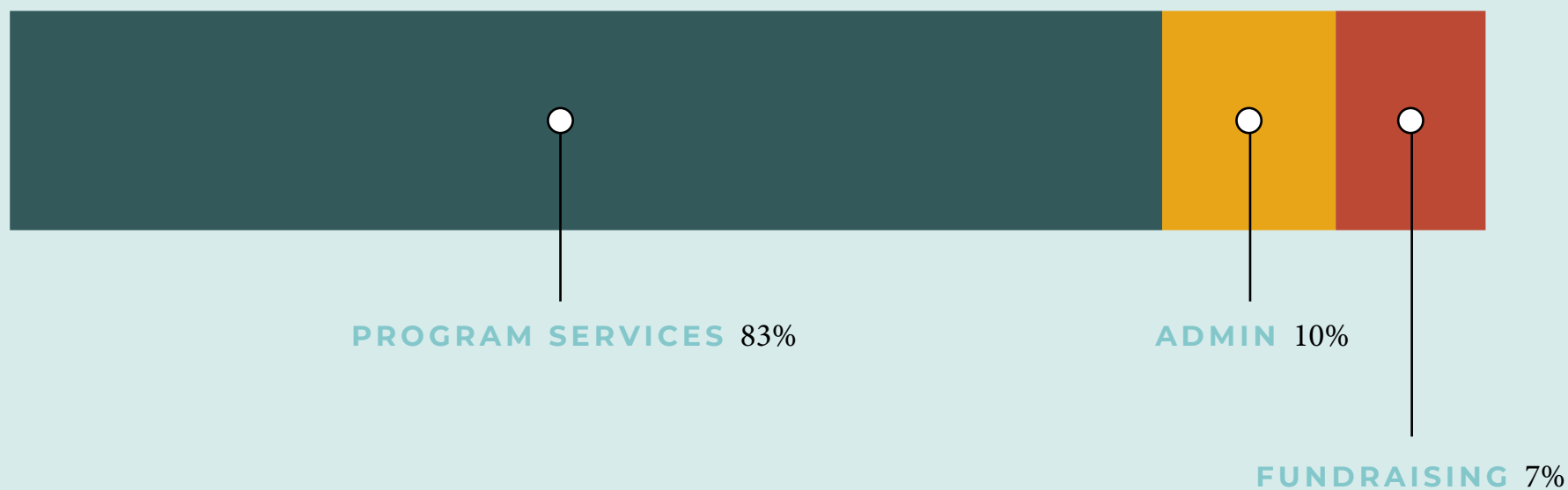
\$93K	Cuba	\$509K	Mexico
\$167K	Haiti	\$1M	Nicaragua
\$194K	Kenya	\$110K	Uganda

\$12K to program related special projects



FINANCIALS

ALLOCATION OF EXPENSES*

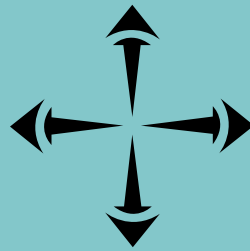


***VIEW FULL FINANCIAL REPORT AT
[FORWARDEDGE.ORG/ABOUT-US#FINANCIALS](https://forwardedge.org/about-us#financials)**



THANK YOU

For being a part of everything God
is doing through the international
ministry of Forward Edge!





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