

2011 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES

HCR 3034

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Human Services Committee Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 3034
February 9, 2011
Job # 14250

☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Vicky Crabtree

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

To recognize the ND God Child Project.

Minutes:

See Testimony #1

Vice-Chair Pietsch: Opened the hearing on HCR 3034.

Rep. Mike Nathe: From District 30 south Bismarck sponsored and testified in support of the bill. (See Testimony #1.)

Stacey Sturm: Owner of North Dakota's first local internet radio station, urlradio.net based out of Bismarck. Broadcasted live from the God's Child Project from Guatemala for about a week last year. Went on to describe the conditions there and told how the ND God's Child Project handed out rice and bandaids and provide healthcare and dental care, medicine, hugs and hopes and dreams. Felt ND needs the recognition for what they do.

Dan Piller: From Hazen ND. Told of his mission trip through the God's Child Program to Antigua, Guatemala. Eleven individuals from Hazen went on this trip and joined 35 other groups from 15 other states. Much love shared there and give the children opportunities through education.

Chairman Weisz: What about work within the state of ND?

Piller: Volunteers and money to aid in tornado cleanup.

Chairman Weisz: Closed the hearing on HCR 3034.

Rep. Porter: I move a Do Pass and placed on the Consent Calendar.

Rep. Schmidt: Second.

Voice Vote: Motion Carried

Bill Carrier: Rep. Porter

Date: 2-9-11
Roll Call Vote # 7

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 3034

House HUMAN SERVICES Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: ☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Amended ☐ Adopt Amendment

☐ Rerefer to Appropriations ☐ Reconsider

Motion Made By Rep. Porter Seconded By Rep. Schmidt

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
CHAIRMAN WEISZ			REP. CONKLIN		
VICE-CHAIR PIETSCH			REP. HOLMAN		
REP. ANDERSON			REP. KILICHOWSKI		
REP. DAMSCHEN					
REP. DEVLIN					
REP. HOFSTAD					
REP. LOUSER					
REP. PAUR					
REP. PORTER					
REP. SCHMIDT					

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment Rep Porter

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Put on Consent Calendar
Voice Vote
Motion Carried

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HCR 3034: Human Services Committee (Rep. Weisz, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** and **BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3034 was placed on the Tenth order on the calendar.

2011 SENATE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

HCR 3034

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee Red River Room, State Capitol

HCR 3034
March 7, 2011
14952

☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A concurrent resolution recognizing the local and international work of the North Dakota-founded and based charity- THE GOD'S CHILD project- and congratulating this North Dakotan humanitarian effort on its 20th anniversary.

Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

Chairman Andrist opened the committee hearing on HCR 3034, a concurrent resolution recognizing the local and international work of the North Dakota-founded and based charity- THE GOD'S CHILD project- and congratulating this North Dakotan humanitarian effort on its 20th anniversary.

Stacy Sturm: Owner of North Dakota's first internet radio station. URLRadio.net. Testified in support of HB 3034. See written testimony.

Kayla Shafer: Testified in support of HB3034. See written testimony.

Chairman Andrist: I think all of us are touched by people who instead of spending their lives as social activists, but just do it. It's touching to me.

Senator Dotzenrod: Reference on Line 5, and other places in here to Patrick Atkinson as the founder. Is he still involved today? What does he do today? Most of the charities that really do well have low administrative costs. A lot of people are hesitant to contribute to a charity if they think a lot of it is going to go into administrative costs, salaries and other things. Most people would like to donate to charities when they think the large share is going to benefit the people that are impacted by the charities work. Do you know how these numbers work out for this organization in terms of how much of the money that they get goes to administrative costs? **Chairman Andrist:** I think Senator Dotzenrod is asking the same question I have.

Chad Oban: God Child's Project: Patrick is still our Executive Director, our leader of our organization. Our overhead is somewhere at 90-95%. The money goes to direct services in Guatemala and around the world.

Chairman Andrist: Is there anybody who can tell us a little bit more about God Child's project so we understand better its origins, because you do your work so quietly.

Audrey Cleary: Lives in District 35 Bismarck. See written testimony.

Christopher Dodson: Executive Director of the North Dakota Catholic Conference. Support of HCR 3034. The God's Child project has a long history and cooperation with the Catholic Church. It is a religious based organization. A lot of the information about the God's Child project is in the resolution itself. We can get you more information with background, also a good book written by Monica Hannan tells the story. Patrick has the strong support of the Bishops for some time, not just Catholic churches in the state. If we can send a message that someone from North Dakota if they have a dream and feel calling they can make a difference in the world. You can still keep your North Dakota roots and make a difference in the world.

Senator Kilzer: Author and in support of HRC 3034. Pat Atkinson who is a native of Bismarck, started in Guatemala, about 20 years ago. Originally it was an orphanage, through Covenant House in New York where Patrick had worked and then the orphanage concept went down and Patrick returned but the kids who knew him wrote to him and asked him to come back with the promise in a humorous matter that we won't steal from you anymore. He did return and it's grown. Very grassroots type of organization that based upon breaking the bonds of poverty through education is the real concept. I've been to Guatemala and have seen first-hand how it works and it is a very basic type of program. Very frugal, very people centered.

Stacy Sturm: Here is a brief overview of how it exactly works. On a local level here, God's Child works with groups that approach them. When they see there are natural disasters or problems going on, in our state, they will send supplies, food clothing or whatever it is to meet the basic and essential needs. They also do a lot of fundraising in the state. But when you go over to Guatemala, it is actually a very elaborate system. At the Dreamer Center, which is the main school with the smaller kids, they are allowed to attend and get an education, but the requirement is they have to go to school. If these kids miss school for more than two days the family will be paid a social work visit to check and see what's going on with the family. The only way the family can get this education, and get shoes if they it or the food for their family, health care, medicines, dental care, is the kids have to stay in school. Once they are out of school they are out of the project. It is all about education for the student and the family as well. There are a lot of checks and balances, for these kids to grow up and succeed.

Senator Dotzenrod: Is the salaries of the teachers the function of the Guatemalan government? It's not something that God's Child is paying for. **Stacy Sturm:** Neither, actually many of them are volunteers. Thirty American dollars provide a teacher for an entire year. It's really a sad state of affairs. But a lot of the kids that have graduated from the project come back and donate their time to try to make sure these other kids can succeed. They do get food and some housing allowances but for the most part many of them are not salaried people. **Senator Dotzenrod:** It is quite complicated. **Chad Oban:** We actually have 80 staff in Guatemala that run all of our different programs. It is funded primarily through private donors which 70-80% is from right here in North Dakota.

Chairman Andrist: closed the hearing on HCR 3034.

Is there anybody else wants to testify in support, opposition or in neutral position.

Motion for Do Pass: Sr. Judy Lee

2nd: Senator Laffen

5 Yeas, 0 No, 0 Absent

Carrier: Senator Judy Lee

Date: 3/4/2011
Roll Call Vote # 1

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 3034

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: ☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Amended ☐ Adopt Amendment
☐ Rerefer to Appropriations ☐ Reconsider

Motion Made By Sen. Judy Lee Seconded By Senator Laffen

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman John Andrist	✓		Senator Curtis Olafson	✓	
V. Chairman Lonnie Laffen	✓				
			Senator Jim Dotzenrod	✓	
Senator Judy Lee	✓				

Total (Yes) 5 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator Judy Lee

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HCR 3034: Political Subdivisions Committee (Sen. Andrist, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3034 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2011 TESTIMONY

HCR 3034

Nathe, Mike R.

*Testimony of
Rep. NATHE #1*

From: chad.e.oban@gmail.com on behalf of Chad Oban [Chad.Oban@GodsChild.org]
To: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 11:03 AM
Subject: Nathe, Mike R.
bullets from the resolution

Mike,

I cut down the resolution a bit hoping that you can just generally touch on all the points tomorrow. Please let me know if you need more information from us.

Chad

The GOD'S CHILD Project, which was established in 1991 by Bismarck native Patrick Atkinson, continues to maintain its worldwide headquarters in Bismarck, North Dakota;

The GOD'S CHILD Project is an internationally recognized humanitarian charitable leader with operating programs in the United States, Guatemala, El Salvador, India, and Malawi, which combined have raised and educated 18,000 orphaned and abandoned children over the past two decades and have assisted tens of thousands of women and their dependents to break free from poverty.

The GOD'S CHILD Project's Bismarck-based subprogram--the "Institute for Trafficked, Exploited & Missing Persons"--is widely recognized as a foremost national leader in public education, prevention, detection, interdiction, rescue, and rehabilitation of human trafficking victims.

The GOD'S CHILD Project is often the first responder during emergency situations here in North Dakota and around the world, especially in Central America.

The GOD'S CHILD Project provides positive and structured international volunteer experiences for 2,500 individuals and 45 home-building groups each year including some volunteers that are here today to testify on this resolution.

The GOD'S CHILD Project and its founder and chief executive officer--Bismarck native Patrick Atkinson--have received vast international news coverage and nearly 200 international recognitions for its worldwide efforts.

My name is Stacy Sturm and I own North Dakota's first internet radio station, URL Radio.net. Last year I had the privilege of broadcasting live from the God's Child Project in Guatemala for a week.

I have to be honest; I'd heard of God's Child Project in the past and in fact had donated. I knew they fed and clothed less fortunate kids in Guatemala and was looking forward to a week of handing out rice and band aids to kids from a dilapidated shack alongside overworked and overexerted volunteers. But I couldn't have been more wrong. As we walked through the iron gates guarded by a security guard and an almost security dog, it was like walking into fantasy island (without dating myself). There were beautiful lush green tropical plants, beautiful modern buildings with WIFI, and laughing and smiling children in neatly pressed school uniforms. All I could think of is "how proud North Dakota would be to see what God's Child Project has done in providing a magical oasis in the middle of this dirty, scary city." I was sort of right. Volunteers hand out rice and band aids, and medicines, and hugs, and an education...and more importantly hope. To see where these kids came from and where they want to go with their life was just inspiring to me. I wanted to cry several times after walking through their one room houses with dirt floors occupied by 6, 8, 10 family members. But the wonderful volunteers who were with us always hugged the kids and encouraged them to stay on track and stay in school so they could one day leave that little house and become the next doctor, dancer, chef, motivational speaker, whatever it is they wanted to do. Because God's Child Project knows that's the key. Education is the key. God's Child Project Families can received the rice, band aids, clothes, medicine and hugs...but they have to stay in school and receive their education. And unlike our American kids, they do so gladly. Without God's Child Project many of these young kids would be put to work in the fields, streets, dump, maybe even the sex trade. And when you ask these kids where they would like to go if they could go anywhere in the world, they almost all have the same response, "Dakota De Norte" – North Dakota. I've also worked in public relations for almost a dozen years and I know you could spend millions of dollars in advertising and never get those kinds of results.

But that love and passion isn't reserved for just the borders of Guatemala. God's Child Project has assisted with flood relief efforts in ND communities, worked in Solen and Fort Yates to repair buildings for poverty stricken families, they have a clothing redistribution center and most recently provided clothes and items to those displaced in the Bismarck Hotel Fire. But you'd never know this because God's Child doesn't boast or brag about what they do for our country or Guatemala, or Africa, or India. They don't do it for praise; they do it because it's right. Now from this testimony it seems like I'm probably going to hit you up for money, but I'm not. I just want to ask you for what they never will and that's recognition for all their efforts in preserving the human spirit in our country and in our world.

#2

In February I made my first trip to Antigua Guatemala. Imagine walking through the streets lined with walls and doors and not being able to see what is behind each door. As the service team I was with walked to the Dream Center for the first time we passed buildings covered in barbwire, an open space that looked more like a landfill, beggars, and every day citizens bustling to get to work each morning. When we arrived at the dream center we had no idea we were there until we walked through the gates and entered a sanctuary that was reminded me of the book the Secret Garden. The nostalgic sounds of children excitedly waiting for school to start, the five hundred mothers lined up to get fresh vegetables to feed their families and the other service teams from around the country all gather at the Dream Center each morning.

I have been exposed to poverty and pain and suffering that can't be comprehended fully until it is experienced first hand. There is no way for the poor in Guatemala to break the chains of abuse and ignorance by themselves. It is through the vision and dedication of the God's Child Project that the world is being impacted positively by creating hope for a better future to the poor, abused and ignored population in Guatemala.

For the past 11 years, Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson has chosen to support God's Child by sending service teams to help the organization. By helping people more than 2,000 miles away from our sheltered lives in North Dakota we are able to make an impact in the lives of the less fortunate and that interns creates a foundation for me personally to help people here locally.

I ask that you pass resolution recognizing the local and international work of the North Dakota-founded and based charity, The GOD'S CHILD Project, and congratulating this North Dakotan humanitarian effort on its Twentieth Anniversary.

Thank you.

Kayla Shaper

Members of the Political Subdivision Committee,

My name is Audrey Cleary. I serve on the Board of Directors of the God Child Project.

In Guatemala they use the Bismarck Method which was established by Patrick Atkinson, a resident of Bismarck. Patrick saw that education is the way out of poverty.

Many countries are adopting this method. Too bad that our country doesn't seem to have the same esteem for education that these third world countries have.

Please adopt this resolution. The God Child Project is a wonderful effort to help those who have so little.



**DISCOVER YOUR
OPPORTUNITY...**

... To Make A Difference

Who we are...

The GOD'S CHILD Project is an award-winning international family of nonprofit charities that cares for and educates orphaned, abandoned, poverty-stricken children and families.

Patrick Atkinson of Bismarck, ND, founded The GOD'S CHILD Project in 1991 with very simple GOALS: to take vulnerable boys and girls off the streets, get them into school, help them regain their health, and give them back their dreams and a fighting chance to survive.

Most important of all, The GOD'S CHILD Project is YOU... the friend and benefactor of these suffering children who need you NOW.

www.GodsChild.org

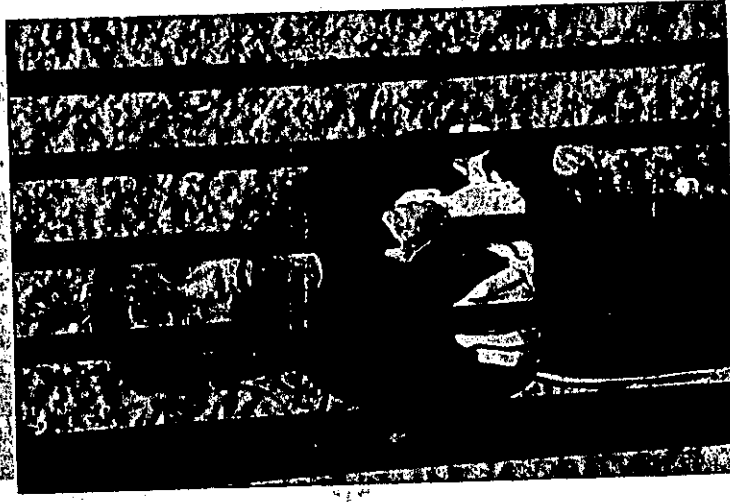
www.ANA.org.gt

www.Albergue.org

www.AtkinsonConsulting.org

"The GOD'S CHILD Project is about teaching the boys and girls to dream. Without dreams, the children have nothing to look forward to. Without anything to look forward to, they have no reason whatsoever to follow any civil, spiritual, or natural law."

Patrick Atkinson



**... And Break The Bitter
Chains Of Poverty For
Children In Need**



STRAIGHT ANSWERS TO YOUR IMPORTANT QUESTIONS



Q What is The GOD'S CHILD Project?

A The GOD'S CHILD Project is an ecumenical 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity that cares for and educates orphaned, homeless, and poor children and families in Guatemala and Africa. In the United States of America, the project provides educational support.

Q How does The GOD'S CHILD Project work?

A Volunteers and a small staff operate The GOD'S CHILD Project from Bismarck, ND. In Central America and Africa, volunteers from around the world join with local staffs to care for and educate the children and homeless families.

Through the program's use of the Bismarck Educational System, the children and families have a vested interest in being active participants in school, while having their central needs met.

Q What is The GOD'S CHILD Project financial plan?

A Our financial plan is very simple: we work hard and pray that God inspires others to help us help the children. Though we have never had much money, we have always been able to cover our expenses, so we are satisfied. Our financial statements are provided upon request and through our website.

Q Does The GOD'S CHILD Project have a Speakers' Bureau?

A Yes. Volunteer speakers are available to talk to public groups and the media about The GOD'S CHILD Project, the Bismarck Educational System, and the care and education of street children. Program founder Patrick Atkinson is in frequent demand as a national speaker to corporations, universities, conferences, and church groups.

Q Who supports The GOD'S CHILD Project?

A Friends and benefactors like you who are concerned about breaking the chains of poverty for very poor children. Friends and family members refer most new benefactors to the project. They are proud that external audit reports confirm that 95% of all program funds are used directly for the children.

Churches, community groups, schools and service organizations frequently sponsor educational forums and special fundraisers to benefit the children.

Q Where do the children live?

A The nearly three thousand children served by The GOD'S CHILD Project live either with their own families and are subsidized by the program, or with carefully supervised, program-selected local foster families.

Q How can I help?

A The GOD'S CHILD Project depends on your support.

If you don't, who will?



please give me a chance!

Without an education, the children's only heritage will be violence and a mud-floor shack!

The GOD'S CHILD Project
721 Memorial Highway
Post Office Box 1573
Bismarck, ND 58502-1573
(701) 255-7956

<omanager@GodsChild.org>
<ahijados@conexion.com.gt>

**I'm just one person,
But I can do this...**



You're walking down the street

and suddenly you see a dirty young boy come towards you. He asks for your help, and says he's hungry and sick. He's never been to school, although he would really like to go. His parents are dead, and he has nowhere to go.

What do YOU do?

Poor and orphaned children and homeless families are highly susceptible to crime, sexual predators and violence. During the day, they engage in begging, stealing, prostitution, and the sale and abuse of drugs... just to survive.

At night, they look for safety and refuge among recessed doorways and abandoned alleyways. They search the trash for food to eat and clothing to wear. They clear a corner in which to sleep, and chase away the rats, spiders and insects with whom they compete for food and heat...

Purchases and plants a
5-foot tall **Apple, Orange or
Mandarin Fruit Tree** in the
home of poor family, to promote
self-sufficiency and good health

\$1

Gives a poor child **Clothes
and a New Pair of Shoes**

\$25

Provides a poor family with
**Egg-laying Chickens and
Poultry-Care Classes**

\$40

Buys a poor child **Food,
Schooling, Medical Care,
And Clothing** for one month

\$62

Provides **Emergency
Medical Treatment** for
critically ill children

\$100

Contracts an **Elementary
School Teacher** for The
Dreamer Center for one month.

\$225

Pays the **Monthly Salary
For A Full-Time Pediatrician**
at The Atkinson Family Clinics
for the regional poor and homeless

\$597

Your support does all of this for the poorest of the poor, and more!

EDUCATION

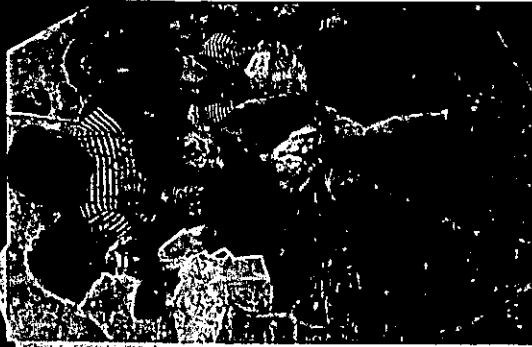
- Offers an **Academic After-School Programs** for poor children
- Sponsors the **Hermano Pedro School For Special Students** who are physically, mentally, and academically challenged
- Administers a **School for Poor and Homeless Children** living in the impoverished coastal region of Guatemala
- Educates **1,200 poor Indian children** in Chimaltenango
- Finances the education of returning refugee children through the **COAIDDES Mayan Rights Project**
- Educates adults in the **CONALFA National Literacy Program**

HEALTH

- Offers quality medical, dental, pharmaceutical, and psychological care to the poor through the **Atkinson Family and Presentation BVM Clinics**
- Researches and broadcasts a **National Home Educator Radio Show** that deals with personal growth and family care, reaching the poorest of Guatemala's poor
- Arranges **Visiting Medical Teams** to travel through rural Guatemala to provide sorely needed medical care
- Operates a **Donated Medicines Clearinghouse** to better coordinate the distribution of medical supplies to and from different non-profit organizations

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Directs international **Service Team Experience Programs**, in which groups from around the world come to Guatemala to build homes, clinics, and schools for the poor
- Provides non-private and government charities with **Meeting Facilities and Support** in the Walsh Family Community Hall and The Dreamer Center
- Directs the region's largest **Women's Support and Development Advocacy** efforts to educate and create opportunities for undereducated and battered women
- Coordinates and houses **Regional Self-Help Groups** such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Anon, Mayan Rights, Narcotics Anonymous, and Abuse Survivors
- Directs **Prison Support Programs**, to provide regional prisoners with humane care, food, services, educational opportunities, and facilities



☐ YES, I want to help. Here is my contribution of \$ _____

☐ YES I want to become a sponsor for \$ _____ a month and be that special person for a needy child

☐ I would like to sponsor a _____ boy _____ girl _____ older child _____ younger child.

☐ Please choose from your Emergency List whoever needs me the most.

MY NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

Please charge my _____ VISA _____ MasterCard # _____ (every month / this one time only)

the amount of \$ _____

Your signature _____

Expiration _____

Telephone _____

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The GOD'S CHILD Project Overview

MISSION

The mission of The GOD'S CHILD Project is "breaking the bitter chains of poverty through education and formation." The project views education as a practical means to assist poor children in escaping an otherwise painful and inescapable life. The goal of the project is to provide the basic needs of children that cannot otherwise be met, while supplying the means to break out of poverty.

THE DREAMER CENTER

- Institute for Trafficked, Exploited, and Missing Persons (ITEMP) was created to focus on trafficking in persons and child labor through prevention, investigation, rescue, rehabilitation, and government advocacy.
- The Dreamer Center School is located in Antigua, Guatemala and provides education for 175 children ages five through fifteen. The graduation rate at The Dreamer Center school is 90% compared to the national average of 50%. The school has expanded to provide additional services including nutritious meals and health care.
- Sponsorship Program—Some children are not able to attend school at The Dreamer Center due to geographical differences or limited space in the program. These children receive sponsorships to attend school elsewhere. The sponsorship money is used for school fees, uniforms, supplies, bus fare, clothes, shoes, food and medical care.
- The Scholarship Program was developed as an incentive for the families of children in the sponsorship and school programs. The children accepted into the scholarship program, which is based on need, can earn incentives for their families by obtaining exceptional grades. The program encourages families to support their children's educational pursuits. There are currently 947 students in the Scholarship Program.
- The Atkinson Family Clinic is also located at The Dreamer Center and provides affordable healthcare to children and families participating in the project. The clinic also serves the poor in Antigua. The fees for healthcare are based on what can be afforded as payment.
- Parroquia de La Presentación Dental Clinic located at the Dreamer Center provides dental care for the children and families that otherwise not receive it. The clinic also educates patients on the importance of dental hygiene and provides tools for maintaining a healthy smile.
- The Social Work Department in Antigua conducts home visits with families participating in the program. Along with educating the children, the families receive support and education in raising children. The Social Work department also coordinates food and clothing drives at The Dreamer Center and in rural Guatemalan communities.
- The Psychology Clinic provides counseling services to the children participating in the project's programs who have suffered physical, emotional, and/or sexual abuse including victims of forced labor and child prostitution.
- Mothers Club is also run by the Psychology Clinic. The Mothers Club includes over 500 mothers that participate in weekly meetings, which include teaching valuable skills, education on nutrition and hygiene, and provide counseling and support.
- Service Teams build homes for families living under inadequate conditions. Service Teams come from the United States to build homes in Antigua and surrounding areas.
- Legal Aid Department offers free legal aid to children and adults seeking to escape forced labor or prostitution. The department also seeks legal custody of children who can no longer remain with their parents for reasons of exploitation, abuse, or neglect.
- Community Rooms are available at The Dreamer Center free of charge to the people of Antigua and surrounding communities. The rooms are often booked with families gathering for celebrations.

- The Chapel at the Dreamer Center is a non-denominational chapel created to be a tranquil space for silence and meditation for people from all walks of life. A cave design was selected for the space to be open and beautiful with running water at the entrances and is a place of silence for crying, giving thanks, meditating, or praying.

ALBERGUE SANTA MADRE

- Albergue Santa Madre is a local homeless shelter run by The GOD'S CHILD Project in Antigua. It provides temporary shelter for children and adults who need alternative living arrangements. The shelter opens at 6 pm each night and offers a warm, nutritious meal, showers, and a safe place to sleep overnight. The shelter also works with the local Alcoholics Anonymous chapter to assist those suffering from drug and alcohol addictions. Albergue Santa Madre is the only year round homeless shelter in Central America open to the public.

THE SCHEEL INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTER

- The Scheel Center is a technical and vocation school to children ages 14 and older, who have not yet had the opportunity for a proper education. Located in one of the most desperate neighborhoods in Jocotenango, Guatemala, the goal of the Scheel Center is to provide students with skills to obtain meaningful employment. The Scheel Center also provides meals, health and dental care, and psychological counseling for the abused and troubled children.

CASA JACKSON CENTER FOR MALNOURISHED INFANTS:

- Casa Jackson provides intensive treatment to infants and children suffering from acute malnutrition and its side effects. More than 50% of the children under age five are malnourished in Guatemala. Patients admitted to Casa Jackson receive on-going in-house treatment. The staff at Casa Jackson also conduct field clinics to monitor acute malnutrition and educate the public on proper nutrition.

EL SALVADOR

- The staff from the Dreamer Center extend the services offered in Guatemala to neighboring El Salvador. The support we offer in El Salvador includes home building, food and clothing distributions, child sponsorships, and education scholarships.

MALAWI, AFRICA

- The GOD'S CHILD Project Malawi was established by a request from the United Nations to provide support for this poor and AIDS afflicted nation. The GOD'S CHILD Project staff builds schools, dig and protect fresh water wells, and teach environmentally friendly farming skills.

ORISSA, INDIA

- In 2008 The GOD'S CHILD Project formed a strategic partnership with DAYA (The Destitute, Aged, and Young Association) in Orissa, India. Through this partnership, The GOD'S CHILD Project provides administrative support and financial assistance to DAYA which provides housing, food, clothing, and school assistance to orphaned children.

UNITED STATES

- Serving the Native American communities, assisting poverty stricken families by improving their way of life through home and community improvement projects and clothing distributions.
- Disaster relief for communities in need of clothing, and blankets is provided through our US Office to communities that have been stricken by natural disasters.
- Educating the public about global social problems including the prevention of human trafficking and advocacy for victims.
- Rescue and Rehabilitation of Human Trafficking Victims—work with families and government agencies to assist with rescue and rehabilitation of human trafficking victims.
- Homeless -Work in conjunction with other agencies to assist the local homeless populations.