



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2020**







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## TO OUR GLOBAL BRIGADES FAMILY,

out, or act boldly to innovate around the logistical challenges to sustain our mission. We share with immense gratitude - that with the support of visionary students, faculty and donors - we were able to pivot amid these enormous obstacles to lay a new foundation that will perpetuate our work for years to come. All while creating what we feel is the world's most innovative health and sustainable development work alongside community partners.

So what changed? Nearly everything except for the impact.

Student volunteers could not travel, so, by August, we developed and launched the first of its kind virtual international development program. By December, more than 38 groups had participated and more than 131 were set to participate for the academic year. Thanks to the incredible work of our in-country team members, to our delight, the volunteer feedback from the initial groups was verbatim the same life changing comments we would receive with in-person programs without the complaints about bugs and cold showers. At one-tenth of the donation requirements, no time away from school, and zero environmental effects, we now have virtual programs for each of our disciplines with the same community impact. What is more, an opportunity to scale in a way in-person programs could never

The fact that we even have impact to report in 2020 is nothing short of miraculous.

COVID 19 simply wiped out the entire sector of international volunteerism, our largest source of funding. We had a choice to pause everything and wait it

by reaching a broader, more inclusive audience that could not go abroad due to financial or time constraints.

Meanwhile, on-the-ground, with limited resources for donated or highly subsidized projects, we went all in on affordable financing models that our community "clients" pay for. This recirculates the costs of the projects back to Global Brigades to be perpetuated in additional communities. Think of it this way: instead of donating a water system, we create the local infrastructure for households to pay a small monthly fee over multiple years to recover the project costs, opening the doors for new funding opportunities based on loans.

We recognized, we would need lots and lots of small loans. Several million actually, to meet our ambitious goals for truly empowered and sustainable communities. To facilitate that, we created our own Microfinance organization, called Eskala and raised more than \$1M from impact investors in the first three months. Those investments, coupled with our partnership with Kiva.org for loan capital, we have a path set to create more than 1,000 community banks over the next four years, laying the groundwork to go from our E100 initiative to an E1000.

Lastly, if that wasn't enough change, because mobility to put mobile medical clinics was stifled, we established our first physical primary clinic in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Fully open to the public, in its first 2 months, we saw over 1400 patients and even though the fees for services were priced significantly under market, it earned enough revenue to fully cover its monthly operating costs. The Urban Clinic concept will be going global in Greece, with the clinic set to be up and running by March 2021, serving vulnerable migrant and refugee populations in Athens.



Per tradition in our annual report, before we share the impact of 2020, we welcome new team members and congratulate others who stepped into new leadership positions. We welcome back two infamous GB staffers, Christie (George) Catlin who will be serving as Chief of Staff and Orion Haas serving as a Leadership Development Consultant. We would like to recognize a few others: Kiraki Hatziagapiou who is stepping in as new Health Programs Director in Greece. Maggie (Mandt) Sandoval as our Sr. Operations Manager, and Anna Jamieson as our Volunteer Engagement Manager, all much deserved leadership roles. Lastly, we want to recognize and thank Vanessa Lopez, after 10 tremendous years of service, most recently as the President & COO of Global Brigades, as she has transitioned to an incredible opportunity as COO of Nia Impact Capital.

Beyond Gratitude,



**Dr. Shital Vora**  
Co-Founder & CEO



**Steven Atamian**  
Co-Founder & CSO



**Steve Atamian**  
Co-Founder & CSO



## ABOUT

Global Brigades is an international health and economic development organization recognized for its unique integrated community development model, innovative financially sustainable programming, and network of thousands of volunteers that empower its partner communities.

## OUR VISION

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Millions of empowered people equipped with scalable solutions to achieve their own sustainable development goals.

## OUR MISSION

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To collaboratively improve health and economic outcomes with partner communities through a holistic development model.



# OUR VALUES

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**HOLISTIC  
APPROACH**



**SUSTAINABILITY**



**FINANCIAL  
TRANSPARENCY**



**EMPOWERMENT**



**COLLABORATION**



**SCALABILITY**



# WHERE WE WORK

**HONDURAS**



**PANAMA**



**NICARAGUA**



**GHANA**



**GUATEMALA**

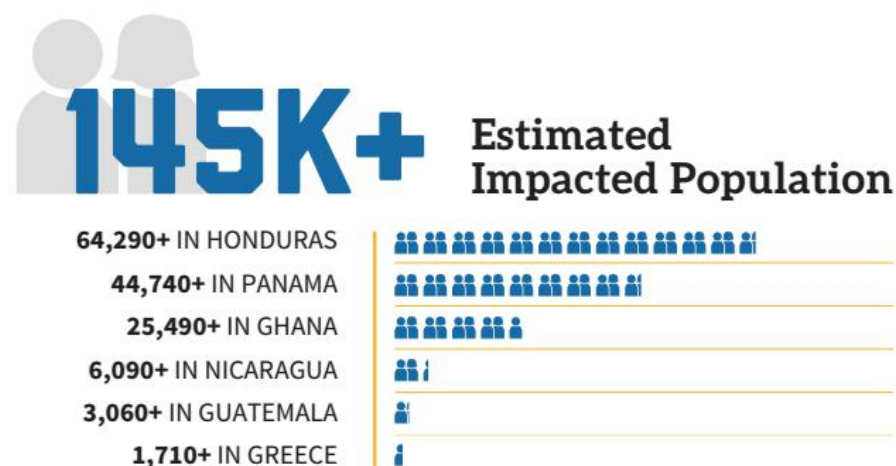


**GREECE**





In 2020 Global Brigades worked in 188 partner communities in Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama, while additionally impacting many more nearby communities with access to its programming.





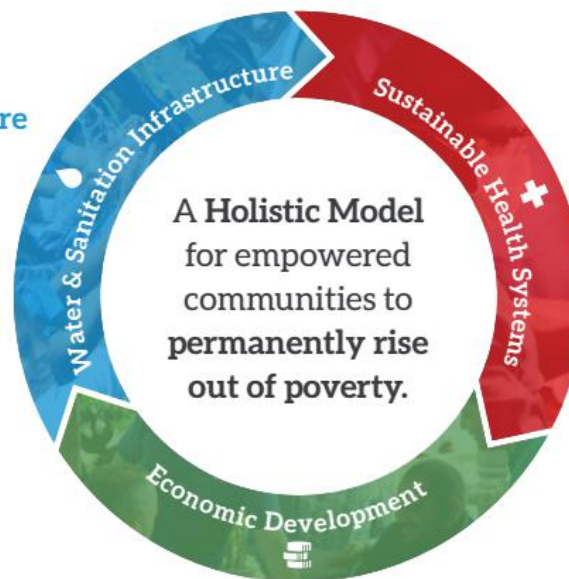
# OUR HOLISTIC MODEL

Global Brigades collaborates with partner communities to implement a Holistic Model aimed to meet the community's healthcare, economic development, water, and sanitation goals. The model emphasizes community ownership and participation in their own sustainable development, eventually evolving into an Empowered Community. An Empowered Community that has accomplished the objectives of GB's Holistic Model is equipped to lead its own development moving forward through access to affordable, sustainable development solutions. By offering opportunities for community leaders and individuals to affordably finance projects and services for their community, GB is able to sustain an amazing team of on the ground experts and to scale its impact.

## Water & Sanitation Infrastructure



Supply continuous access to a clean water system maintained by trained local water committees and facilitate comprehensive adoption of public health infrastructure projects in the households.



## Sustainable Health Systems



Provide regular access to affordable healthcare services and medication, and daily access to our trained Community Health Workers in the community.

## Economic Development



Provide equal access to sufficient, affordable credit through our trained Community Banks and demonstrate an increase in community savings on an annual basis. Coupled with financial literacy education, leadership training, and small business consulting, this promotes healthy and sustainable local economies.





Global Brigades' The Empowered 100 campaign is aimed at empowering 100 rural communities in Central America and Africa with over 65,000 persons to permanently rise out of poverty through an approach anchored to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals #3, Good Health and Well-being; #6, Clean Water and Sanitation; and #8, Decent Work and Economic Growth. **This approach emphasizes the 3 core components embedded in the Holistic Model: Healthcare, WASH, and Economic Development.**

After 4+ years of implementation of the E100, GB has learned many valuable lessons which will serve to shape a replicable blueprint for sustainable community development. These lessons so far, along with the unique situation in 2020, have driven GB to emphasize the importance of training of community leaders and ensuring affordable access to projects and services through a financially sustainable model anchored in the Community Bank. This fundamental concept will be a cornerstone looking forward to 2021 and beyond as GB works to develop the next phase of the Empowered 100.

## 5 GOALS FOR AN EMPOWERED COMMUNITY

### GOAL #1\*

Regular, affordable access to a healthcare professional and prescription medicine.

### GOAL #2

Daily access to a trained community health worker.

### 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



### GOAL #3

Continuous access to a clean water system + water council in place.

### GOAL #4

Comprehensive adoption of public health infrastructure projects within a community.

### 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



### GOAL #5

Access to sufficient, affordable credit + community bank in place.

### 8 GOOD JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



## Progress Count:

### GOAL #1:

38 Communities Complete

### GOAL #2:

78 Communities Complete

### GOAL #3:

75 Communities Complete

### GOAL #4:

34 Communities Complete

### GOAL #5:

84 Communities Complete




## HIGHLIGHT

# Guayacan, San Matias El Paraiso, Honduras



Guayacan, a rural farming community, is located within the municipality of San Matias in the department of El Paraiso in central Honduras, and is home to over 80 families. GB was first introduced to leaders from Guayacan when three individuals participated in a regional Community Health Worker training in nearby El Espinito in 2016. After a further assessment visit, Guayacan was added to the list of E100 communities, and work on implementing the holistic model continued. In 2018 GB started working with the Community Bank of Guayacan, training their 30 members for over 90 hours on how to provide savings and loan services to their community. These services now allow farmers and cattle raisers in the community to expand their production and income. Shortly after beginning work with the Community Bank the GB Honduras WASH team visited the community to assess the community's existing drinking water infrastructure, where they found that the piping network and storage tank needed expansion in order to serve the entire community. After an Engineering Brigade designed the improved water system, construction was completed in early 2020. While community members had been attending Medical Brigades in El Espinito for years, GB ran its first Medical in Guayacan in 2019. Guayacan now has access to GB's sustainable healthcare programming, receiving four visits from health care professionals in late 2020.

**86%**   
public health  
infrastructure  
coverage

**482**   
people with  
access to clean  
water

**281**   
medical & dental  
consultations  
provided

**3**   
community  
health workers  
trained

**30**   
trained  
community  
bank members




## HIGHLIGHT

# Canglón, Pinogana Darien, Panama

Canglón is a rural community located alongside the panamerican highway in the biodiverse region of Darien roughly four hours from Panama City. There are 183 families and over 720 individuals in the community, the majority of which are dedicated to agriculture, cultivating rice, yucca, yam, and corn, while some community members raise livestock. GB began its work with the E100 community of Canglón in 2015 when their Community Bank was established and trained. Today, the bank is one of the oldest and most successful of GB's Panamanian partner communities, has 26 active members and has disbursed 160 loans over the years. Business Brigades have been visiting Canglón since 2015, consulting 6 local small businesses in the community. GB brought the first Medical Brigade to Canglón in 2016, and since then has provided over 1300 patient consultations to community members. The Legal Empowerment program has had a large influence in the community since 2016 as well, providing over 25 legal consultations. In 2019 the WASH team assessed the drinking water and public health situation in the community and began constructing biodigester toilets in community member's homes in 2020. The pandemic forced the WASH programming to a halt, but GB is optimistic that it will continue to collaborate with the community to improve its water and sanitation services soon.




**46%**   
public health  
infrastructure  
coverage

**1,331**   
medical & dental  
consultations  
provided

**2**   
community  
health workers  
trained

**26**   
trained  
community  
bank members

**\$11,523**   
invested in the  
community  
bank

**160**   
loans disbursed  
to community  
members



# DONOR SPOTLIGHT

## Merkel Family

In 2020, the Merkel Family continued its enormous support of Global Brigades and its partner communities. Their passion to drive sustainable change along with their understanding of the great challenges faced around the world in 2020, including GB's own challenges, inspired them to contribute an additional \$1,000,000 towards the E100 and supporting GB's operations worldwide in 2020. Their continued support has helped empower GB's partner communities to achieve a better future for generations to come. We are infinitely grateful to the Merkel family for positioning Global Brigades to make the most impact possible.







## JIM SARTORI

Mr. Sartori continues to feel strongly about the Global Brigades mission as well as its growth and innovation during this unique year. With his ongoing mentorship and enthusiasm for creating more opportunities in the partner communities, Mr. Sartori has made an investment in Eskala in support of this exciting initiative.

## STEVE NOOYEN

Global Brigades has been fortunate to have Mr. Nooyen support ongoing operations right when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. His generous donation of \$100,000 to continue the momentum among the team as well as becoming an investor in Eskala has created a prospect for success across the organization.



## JIM STOLLBERG

After visiting GB's operations in Central America, Mr. Stollberg has become a key contributor to GB, consulting our economic development programming and introducing new contributors to its network of partners. Not only that, but Mr. Stollberg also made a significant investment in Eskala as a founding investor, and a \$50,000 donation to GB to implement healthcare and WASH programming in Honduras, Guatemala, and Panama.

## FRANCIS L. LEDERER FOUNDATION

As first time supporters, the Francis L. Lederer Foundation has made a \$3,000 contribution to GB to support ongoing programming focusing on all aspects of the Holistic Model. This donation will support giving communities the tools they need to succeed.







Accessing health and dental care is one of the largest challenges for GB partner communities. Hospitals and clinics are scarce in rural areas, often lack personnel, equipment and medication, and this situation is further exacerbated by the economic obstacles faced by community members when seeking healthcare. These factors often leave families with undiagnosed and untreated ailments. GB believes that “Access to Healthcare,” must include access to a

healthcare professional and medicine, at a location and cost that meets the capabilities of community members. This should be combined with access to a Community Health Worker that has been trained to attend basic health and emergency needs of the community.



# Medical

In collaboration with community leaders, GB healthcare professionals visit partners monthly to provide primary care, OBGYN, optometry, laboratory services and medication to patients at a much lower cost that community members would pay if having to travel to a local clinic, hospital or local pharmacy. The financial sustainability of this program allows GB expand its impact into an ever increasing amount of communities. Between visits, community members access healthcare through our locally trained Community Health Workers.



 **69**

**Medical & Dental  
Brigades**

 **1,940**

**Medical & Dental  
Volunteers**

 **1,791,263**

**Raised by Medical Volunteers**



# Empowered 100 Goals

## GOAL #1

Through December 2020,  
38 of the 100 target  
communities were  
implementing sustainable  
healthcare programs.

## GOAL #2

Through December 2020,  
78 of the 100 target  
communities have trained  
fully established and trained  
Community Health Workers.



# 27,021

## Number of Patient Consultations



**102**

**COMMUNITIES  
ATTENDED**



**25**

**CHWs  
TRAINED**



**242**

**PAP-SMEARS  
PERFORMED**



**1,658**

**HEALTH  
EDUCATION  
WORKSHOPS  
IMPLEMENTED**



**4,951**

**VISION  
SCREENINGS**

I am a Community Health Worker in Las Animas, Cedros, Francisco Morazan. I am 37 years old and at the service of the community and all of the people that need me. My role on brigade as a CHW is to collaborate with doctors to take blood pressure, blood sugar, pulse readings, and respiration. The brigade to Cedros has come to motivate people since the medication is affordable as are the glasses, since normally if we don't have 2000 or 3000 lempiras we can't buy glasses. Thank God for the opportunity that GB is giving to so many people. We thank GB and each one of the doctors that have come to give this opportunity to Cedros. Their generosity and kindness as doctors is excellent.

### MIRIAN JANETH CRUZ

Community Health Worker  
Las Animas, Honduras





## Dental

To complement medical care provided in GB's mobile clinics, the Dental program provides emergent and preventative dental care to patients by licensed dentists. At the dental station of a clinic, community members have access to fluoride treatments, cleanings and extractions, as necessary. In addition, dental education workshops are implemented to encourage community members to practice healthy dental care habits.



**69**

**Medical & Dental  
Brigades**



**1,940**

**Medical & Dental  
Volunteers**



**1,791,263**

**Raised by Dental Volunteers**





# 6,522 Number of Patient Consultations



**1,484**  
FILLINGS



**10,887**  
FLUORIDE  
TREATMENTS



**3,088**  
EXTRACTIONS



**407**  
DENTAL EDUCATION  
WORKSHOPS  
IMPLEMENTED



“The attention from the volunteers is very good. The job done is very good and I wish more organizations like [GB] existed to provide even more support to the communities. Often times people from the community don't think dental care is very important, but this brigade creates increased awareness in the communities. I congratulate the volunteers for their social activity. I am very satisfied with the service.”

## LUZ METIVIER

Church Pastor  
La Mata, Panamá



## GB's New Urban Clinic

In response to the pandemic's effect on GB's operations, and the limitations to providing healthcare services by visiting partner communities, GB Honduras established a physical primary clinic in Tegucigalpa. The clinic provides primary care, OBGYN, optometry, pediatrics, and affordable medication to the public. Targeted at serving the vulnerable and under-resourced urban population of the capital city, services at the clinic cost significantly less than competing private clinics, while still providing revenue for ongoing operations. In just 2 months the clinic saw over 1400 patients. GB Greece looks forward to opening a similar clinic in Athens in 2021.



## Hurricanes in Central America

In November, Honduras and Nicaragua were battered by both hurricane Eta and Iota. The devastation was widespread with millions of people affected and thousands displaced from their homes. GB teams immediately got to work to provide medical relief and donations of food and basic supplies to those affected. Two emergency brigades were executed in Honduras, attending over 2,800 individuals. In addition to the public health crisis, the storms resulted in extensive loss of agricultural production from flooding and wind. GB is well positioned moving forward to provide opportunities for agricultural producers to access resources, through their Community Banks, to re-plant crops. Support from GB's network has been incredible, and fundraising efforts continue so that long term support can be offered.



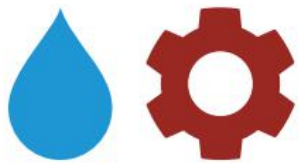


Access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) is fundamental to human health. It is common for our partner communities to lack these vital resources, often leaving families to struggle with preventable disease. Not only can this result in serious medical complications but it also contributes to stalled community development.

GB's experience implementing WASH solutions in rural communities has led to the conclusion that access to proper "Water, Sanitation and Hygiene" is achieved with a balance of

infrastructure, education, and community buy-in. For an improved quality of life and reduced risk of preventable illness, community members should, at a minimum, have access to clean water, a functioning toilet and the infrastructure to facilitate best practices in sanitation and hygiene. Furthermore, to enhance economic sustainability of a scalable WASH program, and to empower community members to lead their own WASH development projects, ensuring access to capital through their community banks to finance affordable WASH solutions is paramount.





## Water & Engineering

While many community members are aware of the obstacles faced to access clean water, the technical expertise to identify, design and implement solutions is often absent. Engineering Brigades brings volunteers, local engineers, and community members together to assess, design and budget community water solutions. Once a water system is designed, the community can access financing options and collaborate with the Water Brigades program to complete construction.. Upon completion, each family in the community has access to the necessary quantity of treated, clean water that they can use for consumption and proper hygiene and sanitation practices.



**6**  
Water & Engineering  
Brigades



**74**  
Water & Engineering  
Volunteers



**61,146**  
Raised by Water  
& Engineering Volunteers



# Empowered 100 Goals

## GOAL #3

Through December 2020, 75 of the 100 target communities have a clean water system and a trained Water Council in place.



# 1,381

## Community Members Provided Access to Clean Water



3

**WATER SYSTEMS  
CONSTRUCTED**



7

**WATER COUNCIL  
MEMBERS TRAINED**



4

**WATER SYSTEMS  
DESIGNED**

“I want to say that the community has struggled to have the vital liquid. The municipality government of Jinotega at some point wanted to support us with a project that happened close to the community but we could not be benefited, we continued working for about 6 years to accomplish this project until this became a dream come true. Some people thought that we were not going to achieve the project, and that inspired us to fight for the project. Water is very important, now with the project, we have access all the time and drink quality water. This project is a great achievement, I thank God, Global Brigades, the municipality government of Jinotega, all the people who supported us and the Water Council who are my partners, since we trust each other and always try to have good communication, and the truth is that we were satisfied with the project.”

**BEKER LANZAS ZELEDON**

Community Member  
Anita, Nicaragua





## Public Health

There is a lack of basic in-home public health infrastructure and education on best practices in sanitation and hygiene in GB partner communities. This contributes to the cycle of health challenges and obstacles in development that families experience. GB's Public Health program aims to address this by providing innovative designs and affordable financing for in-home sanitation & hygiene infrastructure, accompanied by related education and training.



**10**  
Public Health  
Brigades



**169**  
Public Health  
Volunteers



**\$115,599**  
Raised by Public Health Volunteers



# Empowered 100 Goals

## GOAL #4

Through December 2020, 34 of the 100 target communities have access to in-home public health infrastructure products through affordable financing options.



# 199 Families Benefited by Public Health Projects



**11**

**PARTNER  
COMMUNITIES**



**151**

**SANITATION UNITS  
CONSTRUCTED**



**53**

**ECO-STOVES  
CONSTRUCTED**



**15**

**COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS  
TRAINED**

“We are working with the Public Health TeleBrigade. For me it has been a privilege to be able to participate, collaborate with my community because in the end this is ours. It's been an excellent experience as I have learned so much more than I thought I could. It is an opportunity to improve the community, keep it cleaner, and work to make sure that community members are more careful with their health. GB brings support, not only to those on the brigade, but to the entire community. We hope to continue working in our community moving forward.”

## ONEYDA PORTILLO SUAZO

Water Council Member  
Quebrada Grande No. 2, Honduras





# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Business

Economic resources and opportunities can be scarce in GB's partner communities. The lack of access to financial services, capital, and financial literacy education acts as a barrier to economic growth for families and their small businesses. These factors, combined with high-interest rates, exploitative intermediaries, and volatile agricultural conditions, often leave families trapped in a cycle of poverty.

GB's experience working with community members and small business owners has led us to believe that "Economic Development" for our partner communities starts with local access to affordable financial services in the form of a Community Bank. Once loans and savings are available, GB can work with community entrepreneurs to grow their businesses.





## Business

GB's Business program is the backbone of our Holistic Model. It consists of four core components: (a) creating and strengthening Community-Owned Banks, (b) increasing family income, (c) fostering a culture of savings, and (d) ensuring access to capital for low-interest loans. In 2020, GB innovated its Economic Development programming to significantly expand its network of Community Banks, infuse more capital into local economies through financing, and encourage the participation of impact investors worldwide.



**12**

**Business Brigades**



**180**

**Business Volunteers**



**61,810**

**Raised by Business Volunteer:**



# \$192,673

## Amount Invested in Community-Owned Banks



**36**

**COMMUNITY  
BANKS  
ESTABLISHED  
AND TRAINED**



**229**

**COMMUNITY  
BANK  
MEMBERS  
TRAINED**



**1,496**

**SMALL LOANS  
DISBURSED IN  
GB PARTNER  
COMMUNITIES**



**109**

**SAVINGS  
ACCOUNTS  
OPENED**



**42**

**SMALL BUSINESS  
CONSULTATIONS**

## Empowered 100 Goals

### GOAL #5

Through December 2020, 84 of the 100 communities have a Community Bank established and trained that provides access to affordable credit to community members.

“In the past, there wasn’t a way to get a loan because the other banks have a lot of requirements in order to get it or even try to save money until the Community Bank was created. The Community Bank is really good because it gave us access to capital that I can use for investing in my business. Thanks to the Community Bank I was able to get a Kiva loan, now I’m on my third loan, it has been really helpful for me and my family. The Business Program has a big impact all around my community and I hope it continues like that.”

### YINA PEREZ

Small Business Owner  
Ipeti Kuna





## Eskala

Based on more than 10 years of research and best practices in implementing economic development programs, Global Brigades has launched its own microfinance organization Eskala, Inc. Eskala uniquely blends microfinance and microequity to create, lend to and invest in community-owned banks. GB has found traditional microfinance in emerging economies to be extractive. Often, it lends at high rates, with limited recirculation of capital in local economies, and misses an enormous opportunity to invest in community-owned banks that can drive growth and operational efficiency to access the bottom of the pyramid. Unlike other microfinance institutions, Eskala doesn't just lend, it invests to acquire equity positions in community-owned banks that manage a hyperlocal savings and loan portfolio. The current asset base of 93 banks located in rural and under-resourced Central America has generated more than \$250k in profit for local communities. Eskala's goal is to manage a portfolio of 20,000 community-owned banks that will empower 18 million people living in poverty with financial services.

Special thanks to the founding investors: Oisin O'Connor, Steve Nooyan, Jim Sartori, and Jim Stolberg who contributed in closing our first round of investment, totalling more than USD \$1 million.



## Kiva

For the last several years Global Brigades has been strengthening its partnership with Kiva. Kiva is an international non-profit whose mission is to “to expand financial access to help underserved communities thrive.” This is done “by crowdfunding loans and unlocking capital for the underserved, improving the quality and cost of financial services, and addressing the underlying barriers to financial access around the world.” As a key field-partner of Kiva for Central America, GB facilitates Kiva loans through Community Banks, increasing the bank's and their borrower's access to affordable loan capital. In 2020 GB raised capital for 73 loans on the Kiva platform for a total loan amount of \$162,125.



# NEW & ONGOING INITIATIVES



In 2020, Global Brigades continued expanding its horizons as an organization, working to engage stakeholder populations, both as volunteers and beneficiaries. We took important steps in launching TeleBrigades, our virtual international development program, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.





One of the most instrumental innovations for Global Brigades in 2020 was the development of and successful launch of the first of its kind virtual international development program, TeleBrigades. In-country team members around the world worked diligently to adapt their programs, which had been implemented in-person for over a decade, for virtual participation of volunteers without sacrificing impact. Volunteer feedback from the virtual volunteers has echoed the same life changing experiences that GB received for years with in-person programs.

Not only is the virtual program impactful and growing, it has some unique advantages such as a lower donation goal, more flexible with school schedules, and a significantly reduced environmental effect. This program presents an opportunity to scale volunteer participation at a new level by reaching a broader, more inclusive audience that could not go abroad due to financial or time constraints.



Partner communities interact in-person with our on-the-ground team while volunteers connect over video-conference. Medical TeleBrigades volunteers interact directly with patients through a telemedicine platform. Business volunteers are able to provide virtual consulting services to microenterprise clients. Public Health virtual participants work with community leaders and the GB WASH team to analyze survey data and develop Community Health Action Plans. Engineering volunteers collaborate with local engineers to turn field measurements into complete water system designs with budgets.

## **807** TeleBrigade Volunteers



**1,009**  
PATIENT  
CONSULTATIONS



**182**  
HOUSEHOLD  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
ASSESSMENTS  
COMPLETED



**10**  
SMALL  
BUSINESSES  
CONSULTED



**1,536**  
BENEFITTED BY  
CLEAN WATER  
SYSTEM DESIGN

“

I have never experienced anything like this before. Global Brigades has encouraged involvement from all to ensure that people will eventually have the same access across the world, starting from one area at a time. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, this organization worked tirelessly to start an active, engaging, and impactful brigade virtually so that communities could get the help they need and eager volunteers could still do the things they love but from a safe distance.

”

### **VICTORIA LOOR**

University of Guelph

Medical TeleBrigade, Honduras







## Greece

GB entered 2020 with great momentum and excitement for its programming Greece, focused on supporting refugee populations in the country. Then, as with the rest of GB programming countries, the pandemic forced the Greece team to take a step back and adapt its work. Prior to lockdown in March, 2020, GB Greece visited the Ritsona Long Term Accommodation Site to provide dental care services to the refugee population there in the form of fillings, extractions, cleanings, and fluorisations. Seeking alternatives to working solely in the accommodation sites, GB Greece, following the success of a pilot program, conducted medical interventions in partnership with NGO The Home Project for the provision of primary healthcare services to the accommodation centers for refugee unaccompanied minors run by this organization.



After suspension of operations in accommodation sites in March 2020, the team refocused on organizational asset mapping and needs assessment to creatively reorganize and set new goals for GB Greece's future operations for 2021. The team conceived the idea of opening a stable polyclinic in Athens aimed at providing affordable care to vulnerable and refugee populations in the city. The clinic will be attending its first patients in early

2021, including primary care, OBGYN, pediatrics, and optometry. Finally, in preparation for the new Business program in Greece, the team visited potential small business clients in Athens, predominantly businesses run by refugees, during 2020 to better understand their assets and needs. The team is looking forward to performing virtual business consultation with these clients in 2021.

## **301** Patient Consultations

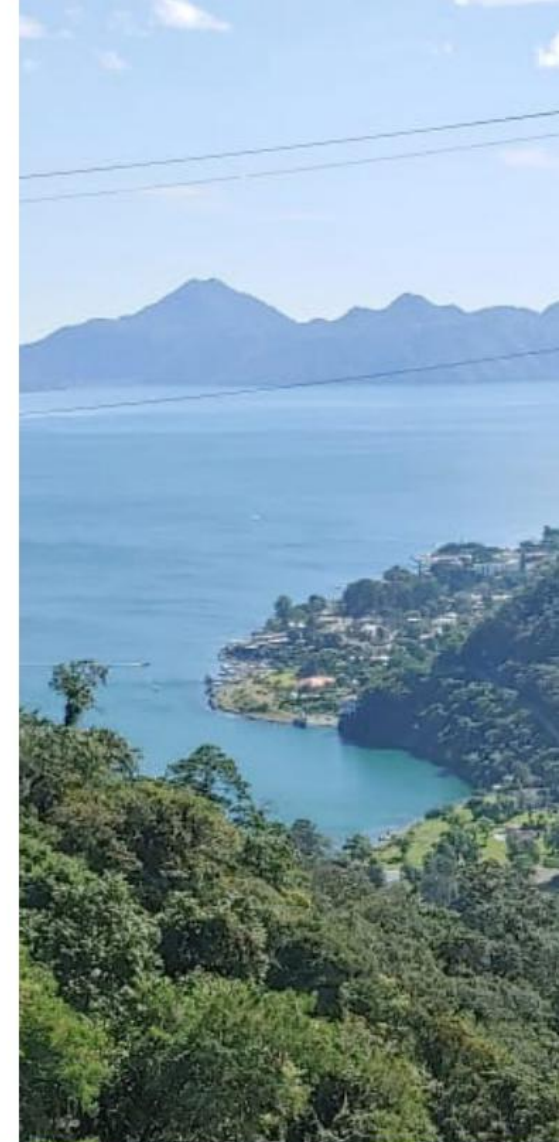




# Guatemala

In 2019 Global Brigades began exploring expansion of its holistic programming to indigenous mountain communities of Central Guatemala. After assessing over 20 potential partner communities in the area and collaborating with local and community leadership, GB launched its first brigades in Guatemala in January 2020 in the community of Pachaly, located in the municipality of Tecpan. With two GB staff members stationed in Guatemala, plans were laid to do further WASH assessment in communities, train Community Health Workers, and pilot sustainable healthcare programming.

While many of those plans had to be adjusted due to the pandemic, GB was able to execute three in-person Medical & Dental brigades in Guatemala in January and February. In November, Hurricanes Eta and Iota devastated much of Central America including Guatemala. GB leaped into action donating medication to the affected families in the country as well as to the Health Center of Tecpan and the Hospital of Chimaltenango. Looking forward to 2021, GB is excited to resume more programming in collaboration with its Guatemalan partner communities.



**1,877**   
Medical Patient  
Consultations

**3**   
Communities  
Attended

**73**   
Health Education  
Workshops  
Implemented

**471**   
Vision  
Screenings

**1,000**   
Dental  
Treatments

**72**   
Dental Education  
Workshops  
Implemented



Squads Abroad is Global Brigades' rapidly growing high school division exposing and engaging thousands of youth to GB's health and development work. The teacher-led groups enable GB to perpetuate these groups year-after-year, engage students earlier and inspire them into a longer-term involvement with the organization.

In 2020, Squads Abroad expanded into virtual programming, with 20 different experiential learning courses for faculty to apply in their virtual or on-campus classrooms. TeleSquads engaged more than 1,000 students in the first three months of operations with several district-wide initiatives being planned for 2021.

Each new TeleSquad "course" has a defined focus in either Health, Business or STEM with tangible projects and educational workshops aligned to GB's Holistic Model and E100 initiative. For example, in the Intro to International Business course, students gain understanding of globalization and apply broad business skills in the highly practical context of small businesses in rural Central America.





Students are guided by local economic development professionals and mentors from leading consulting firms to build business plans for aspiring entrepreneurs in partner communities. Through client interviews, concepts of microfinance, industry research, cultural sharing, and utilization of our templates, students create and present business plans with their selected clients.

**To learn more about  
Squads Abroad courses  
please visit [squads.org](https://squads.org).**



“If you want to help others or feel like you’ve done something great you should join the TeleSquad because this program does a great job in making an outstanding impact to those in need or help when it comes to medical attention. They are all impactful, helpful, and supportive towards all their patients. [What most impacted me was reflecting during the sessions with my TeleSquad, seeing photos and videos from rural communities in Honduras, interacting and speaking with the facilitators, analyzing actual data from our partner community, and learning about the healthcare situation in the community and country”

**MARISOL HERNANDEZ**

Stockton Health Careers Academy HS, Health TeleSquad, Honduras



**16**  
**SQUADS**  
**ABROAD TRIPS**



**336**  
**SQUADS**  
**ABROAD**  
**VOLUNTEERS**



**249**  
**HEALTH SQUAD**  
**PATIENT**  
**CONSULTATIONS**



**179**  
**HEALTH SQUAD**  
**VISION**  
**SCREENINGS**



**100**  
**BENEFITTED BY**  
**A STEM SQUAD**  
**WATER SYSTEM**  
**DESIGN**



**2**  
**BUSINESSES**  
**CONSULTED**  
**BY BUSINESS**  
**SQUADS**



**92**  
**HOURS OF**  
**VOLUNTEERING ON**  
**INFRASTRUCTURE**  
**PROJECTS**



**196**  
**HOURS OF CULTURAL**  
**AND LANGUAGE**  
**LEARNING**  
**ACTIVITIES**



# SUPPLEMENTARY INITIATIVES



Educating and empowering leaders in our partner communities is essential to the successful implementation of the Holistic Model. Initiatives aimed at increasing gender equality, economic and health knowledge and practices, and legal empowerment are an integral part of Global Brigades programming.



## Women's Empowerment

Global Brigades believes that investing in and empowering women is fundamental to the success and sustainability of projects and the continued development of our partner communities. Each of our programs work in a unique way to educate and empower women to take on leadership roles in their communities.

**88%**   
women of  
total Community  
Health Workers  
trained

**66%**   
women of  
total Community  
Bank Members  
trained

**10**   
female WASH  
committee  
members trained  
in 2020

**65%**   
women of total  
patients attended  
with healthcare  
programming

**2**   
Legal  
Empowerment  
brigades

**32**   
Legal  
Empowerment  
volunteers

**\$12,849**  
raised by Legal  
Empowerment  
volunteers

**4**   
communities  
provided access  
to legal services

**14**   
legal  
consultations  
provided

**1**   
total  
family legal  
cases resolved

## Legal Empowerment

Many families in GB's partner communities struggle with a lack of access, and barriers to basic legal services and knowledge regarding legal procedures and their rights. To mitigate the effects of these barriers to justice, the Legal Empowerment program implements three program activities: pro-bono legal clinics, family law case resolution, and educational workshops. While limited in 2020, the program still was able to make a positive impact.

# Community Leader Conferences

In 2020, despite the limitations of holding meetings with large numbers of participants due to the pandemic, Global Brigades was able to host multiple conferences for community leaders in our programming countries. Community Banks and WASH Committee leaders from 33 communities came together to share best practices and learn new skills. While GB uses these opportunities to build additional capacity in conference participants, perhaps the most powerful result of these events is the opportunity for people in similar roles across a whole region or country to get to know each other and share experiences. Despite the fact that these events were partly virtual, socially distanced, the conferences helped to renew a sense of community in such an isolated time.

**118**   
community  
bank conference  
attendees


**30**   
water & sanitation  
conference  
attendees

**72%**   
females of  
total conference  
attendees





# FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY



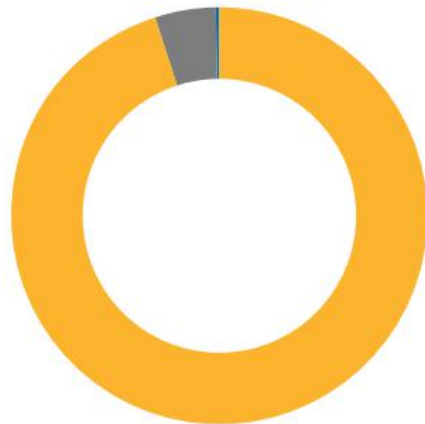
Global Brigades strongly values financial transparency and the ability to share our budgets with our donors and volunteers. Each year, we strive to utilize funds raised to expand our model to more communities and with increasing sustainability.



# FUNDS RAISED

In 2020, we raised more than \$5.7 million dollars. Global Brigades, Inc (a US 501c3 nonprofit), each of its international subsidiaries in Honduras, Panama, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Ghana Greece, and affiliated entities Global Brigades Sustainable Development (Canada) and Global Brigades UK undergoes an independent financial audit. The financial figures shown below are combined numbers for January 1, 2020 thru December 31, 2020 for Global Brigades, Inc and its subsidiaries along with Global Brigades Sustainable Development in Canada, and Global Brigades UK.

**\$5,702,929** Total Raised  
in 2020

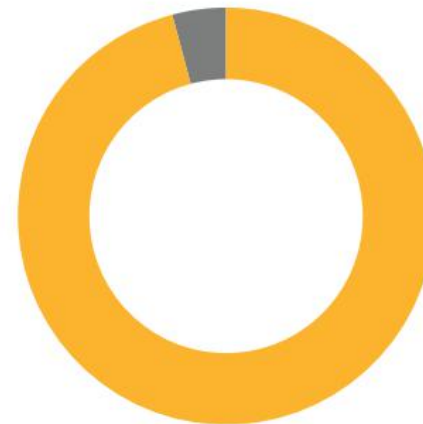


**\$5,426,349** RAISED BY  
GLOBAL BRIGADES, INC

**\$274,430** RAISED BY  
GLOBAL BRIGADES CANADA

**\$2,150** RAISED BY  
GLOBAL BRIGADES UK

**\$7,346,968** Total Expenses  
in 2020



**\$7,052,666**  
PROGRAM AND  
OPERATIONS EXPENSES

**\$294,302**  
FUNDRAISING EXPENSES

**-\$1,644,039**  
Total Deficit in 2020

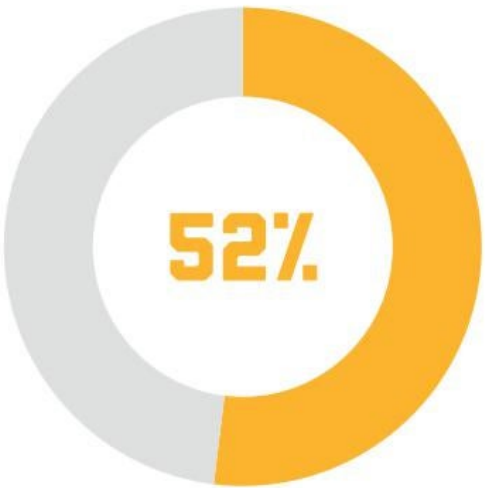
Global Brigades' revenue is earned as it's received by donors and chapters. However, those funds are held as temporarily restricted until each applicable brigade (if the funds were raised in conjunction with a brigade) happens on-the-ground. Global Brigades' deficit in 2020 was mainly due to the loss of donations from the stop of brigade operations due to COVID.



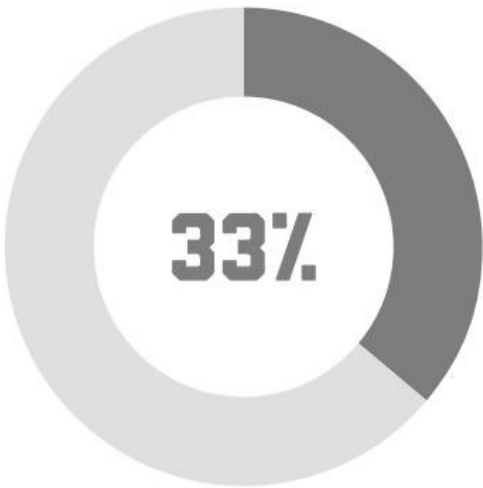
# ALLOCATION OF PROGRAM EXPENSES

Funds are granted to our subsidiary entities in Honduras, Panama, Nicaragua, Greece, Ghana, and Guatemala to execute our initiatives in healthcare, WASH, and economic development. In addition, our program impact also includes the global leadership development of our student leaders.

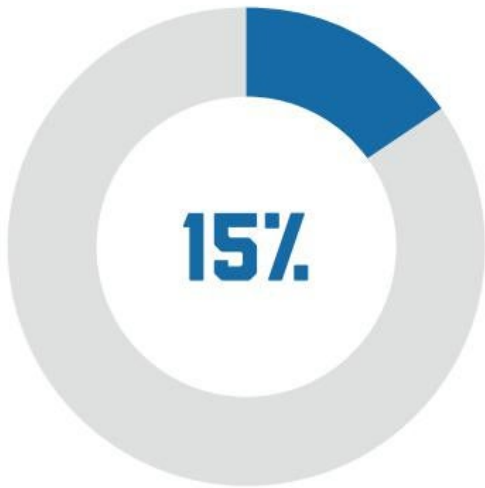
**\$5,752,634** Total Program Expenses in 2020



**\$2,993,617**  
Granted to Program Countries



**\$1,883,927**  
Volunteer Travel



**\$875,090**  
Student & Program Impact Support

# OPERATING OF PROGRAM EXPENSES

We have adopted a strategy of identifying and empowering strong local teams in our granting countries to not only implement programs, but also lead various international administrative and leadership roles. Based on this model, we are able to forgo needing a costly headquarters based in North America and provide more high level employment opportunities in the developing world.

**\$1,300,032** Total Operating Expenses in 2020

**\$874,345**  
Operating Staff Salaries

67%

**\$214,846**  
Professional Fees

17%

**\$184,712**  
Operating Expenses

14%

**\$26,129**  
Travel Expenses

2%

Full and Part-Time Employees: **506** IN PROGRAM COUNTRIES **17** IN NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE



# OPERATING OF FUNDRAISING EXPENSES

Our student chapters lead the fundraising efforts of Global Brigades. The bulk of our fundraising expenses are mainly focused on ensuring they have the tools to effectively fundraise and mobilize volunteers using our online platforms that expose students to international development. As such, much of it could also be categorized as program expenses, but we label it as fundraising to be conservative.

**\$294,302**

Total Fundraising Expenses in 2020

**\$137,139**  
Marketing

47%

**\$111,682**  
Fundraising & Marketing Salaries

38%

**\$45,371**  
Credit Card Fees

15%

**\$110**  
Fundraising Travel Expenses

<1%

**\$0**  
Fundraising Website Maintenance

0%

# SUPPORTERS

## Chapters Donors Board



Thank you to our Board Members, Campus Chairpersons, Chapter Presidents, Brigade Leaders, volunteers, donors and partner organizations who work with us to achieve our mission alongside our partner communities. It's your passion and generosity that make this impact possible.

Funds that Global Brigades Chapters raise make a significant impact on GB's ability to operate and implement its Holistic Model. In 2020, 74 Chapters supported us to further our Holistic Model and meet the goals in our Empowered 100 initiative.



# GLOBAL BRIGADES CHAPTERS

2020 Universities, Campus Chairpersons (note: not all universities have a Campus Chairperson), Chapters, and number of 2020 volunteers per chapter

## USA (70 Universities)

### **Albion College**

Medical – 14

### **Arendsen Davis (Grand Valley State Unaffiliated) – Mekaya Tripp**

Public Health – 7

### **Arizona State University – Brandon Bourquin**

Medical TeleBrigade – 12

### **Boston College**

Medical – 21

### **Boston University – Madeleine Mattson**

Medical – 23

### **Brandeis University – Nisansa Perera**

Medical – 6

### **Brown University – Bianca Melendez Martineau**

Medical – 11

### **California State University Sacramento**

Medical – 30

### **Carroll University**

Medical – 20

### **College of William and Mary – Mark Weil**

Medical – 23

### **Columbia University**

Medical – 10

### **Crean Lutheran**

Health TeleSquad – 62

### **Dana Hills High School**

Health TeleSquad – 54

### **Dayton University**

Medical – 54

### **Dragones Viajeros**

Health TeleSquad – 15

### **Duke University – Jea Hyun Kim**

Public Health – 5

### **Essex High School STEM Academy**

Health Squads – 20

### **Foothill College**

Medical TeleBrigade – 16

### **Governors State University**

Public Health – 13

### **Great Expectations School**

Education Squads – 20

“Approaching my second year returning to Honduras with a medical brigade, I had some high expectations and extreme excitement to return to the place that I can call ‘mi hogar’. Everything that was accomplished on the trip, including this year’s group and coordinators/translators, exceeded my expectations and hopes by miles and miles. The trip was more than incredible, and I have gathered a new family, a ‘big brother’, a renewed passion for medicine, and an immense sense of encouragement, hope, and support for the long road ahead in the medical field. I cannot wait to pursue my dreams in being an international surgeon, and Global Brigades has helped me keep my passions ablaze and my heart full. Can’t wait to return!”

**FRAN MILLER**

University of Kentucky Medical, Honduras (Jan 2020)



**Indiana Wesleyan***Medical TeleBrigade – 41***Jefferson University***Medical TeleBrigade – 42***John Burroughs School***STEM TeleSquad – 13***Launch***Business TeleSquad – 10**Health TeleSquad – 10***Marquette University, Skyler Demis***Medical – 73**Dental – 34**Business – 22**Public Health – 22**Medical TeleBrigade – 40***Mary Washington University***Medical TeleBrigade – 7***Michigan State University – Lindsay Royer***Medical – 59**Public Health – 12***Milwaukee School of Engineering – Brain Chavaz***Medical – 31**Business – 14**Public Health – 9**Water – 12***Niagara***Business TeleBrigade – 10**Engineering TeleBrigade – 8***Northeastern University – Philippa Johnson***Medical – 64**Public Health – 13**Business TeleBrigade – 18*

I had an incredible experience with Global Brigades. I was able to attend the first Business Brigade at Marquette and I came back from the experience feeling extremely grateful for the opportunity. I learned so much from the community that we worked with. Although many of us were not able to communicate with the community members directly without the help of a translator, I saw how love, empathy, and kindness are a universal language that help connect us to one another. During the week, I met so many incredible people who deeply impacted me. I learned so much more from the community that I worked with than I will ever be able to give to them. It was incredible to see all the relationships our brigade formed with the community. I hope to return again someday.

**EMMA CURTIN***Marquette University Business, Panama (Jan 2020)***Pace University – Matthew Orzillo***Medical TeleBrigade – 29***Penn State University – Mark Kazour***Medical 14***Saint Louis University – Claire Landewee***Medical – 62***Seton Hall University – Analisa Espino***Medical – 22***Smith Academy***Education Squads – 24***Smith College***Medical – 19***Southern Connecticut State University – Martha Polanco***Medical – 15***Southwest High School - HOSA***Health TeleSquad – 34***STEM Civics***Education Squads – 8***Stetson University***Legal Empowerment – 12***Stockton Health Careers Academy***Health Squads – 16***Syracuse University – Alexander Giudice***Medical – 20*



“This year was my second brigade with the Water chapter at the Milwaukee School of Engineering. On this brigade, we had two public health days where we built a sanitation station and dug the necessary trenches and laid pipes for the system. During those two days, we completed everything but putting the roof on the sanitation station. I really enjoyed working alongside the construction workers and talking with the homeowner. For the rest of our week in Panama, we worked in La Penita to finish the whole water project by digging and laying pipe in the last trench at the school, and testing the system throughout the community. It was a great experience to see the end of a project, and how much the community appreciates the work and they can see where their time and savings have gone. My favorite part of this brigade was the inauguration of the water system in La Penita. To see the joy on everyone's faces and to dance and celebrate along with the community members is something I will never forget. Global Brigades has given me the opportunity to travel and learn so much about other cultures than my own while helping to reach the Empowered 100 goal, and I can't wait to go on my next brigade!”

## JAMIE TAYLOR

Milwaukee School of Engineering Water, Panama (Feb 2020)

### **Texas A&M University – Natalie Freeman**

*Medical – 29*

*Dental – 10*

*Business – 25*

*Legal Empowerment – 20*

### **University of Maryland**

*Dental – 25*

### **University of Arkansas**

*Medical – 56*

### **University of Central Florida – Alyssa Mickle**

*Public Health TeleBrigades – 8*

### **University of Connecticut – Audrey Kochiss**

*Medical – 38*

### **University of Detroit Mercy**

*Medical – 13*

### **University of Florida – Mike Golan**

*Business TeleBrigade – 10*

### **University of Houston**

*Dental – 12*

### **University of Kentucky**

*Medical – 43*

### **University of Maryland Baltimore – Zuriel Herran**

*Medical – 25*

### **University of Mississippi – Matthew Saucier**

*Medical – 16*

### **University of Missouri – Kelly Mebruer**

*Medical – 32*

*Business – 11*

### **University of North Carolina Chapel Hill – Divya Mahesh and Elle Hepburn**

*Dental – 22*

*Medical – 15*

*Public Health – 8*

### **University of Notre Dame**

*Medical – 34*

### **University of Portland**

*Public Health – 14*

### **University of Puerto Rico**

*Public Health – 21*

*Water – 15*

### **University of San Diego – Adrian Rodriguez-Valdez**

*Medical – 28*

**University of Southern California***Medical – 28**Business – 23***University of Texas Austin – Elaine Avshman***Medical – 18***University of Toledo – Emma Morris***Medical – 39***Vanderbilt University – Kristyn Vicente***Medical – 20***Villanova University***Medical TeleBrigade – 45***Virginia Commonwealth***Medical – 20**Virginia Tech – 32**Medical – 32***West Prep Academy***Education Squads – 12***West Virginia University – Nicholas Miller***Business – 8***Western University of Health Sciences***Public Health TeleBrigades – 18***Woodstock High School Interact***Education Squads – 27***Canada (4 Universities)****Guelph University – Jonah Kawarsky***Medical TeleBrigade – 24**Medical TeleBrigade – 19***Mount Allison University – Kailey Willock***Medical – 14**Public Health – 12**Public Health TeleBrigade – 7***University of Toronto Mississauga – Bismah Khalid and Jennifer Kan***Medical TeleBrigade – 18***University of Victoria – Ashley Larnder***Medical – 41**Engineering – 9*

This year I participated in my second Public Health Brigade to Honduras. My first experience was in the rural community of Suyapa, and this year we were in a nearby community of Cerro Bonito. Myself and four other brigaders from my chapter worked with our mason, Gustavo, to build a hygiene station for a young family of 5. Elin was a beautiful young mother to three girls, staying home with her 4 year old who has hydrocephalus and her 7 month old baby while her 6 year old went to school each day. Kevin, her partner, works in the capital, but was present during our brigade to help with the station. Throughout our time working at their home, we were all able to share smiles, laughs, stories, and even a few tears on our last day with them. It was clear that the finished hygiene station would provide tremendous improvements for their family, providing convenience and dignity to be able to use a restroom right at their home. Despite language barriers, we were able to share our appreciation for each other and the few days we got to spend together on brigade. Elin and Kevin expressed that they hoped we would be able to meet again, this time just as friends without having to work, and that we are always welcome in their home. I hope that someday that comes true and I will be able to reconnect with this family that made me absolutely love the Public Health Brigade experience yet again.

**ABBHEY HOLLAND***Northeastern University Public Health, Honduras (Mar 2020)*



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*Jim Stollberg*  
*Steve Nooyen*  
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*Luke Namer*

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Club Rotario Merendon  
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Ghana Water Company Limited, Central Region  
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Tobinco Pharmaceuticals  
Entrance Pharmaceuticals and Research Center  
Rural Enterprises Program  
Pharmacy Council, Central Region

## Greece

Greek Ministry of Health  
Municipality of Athens  
International Organization for Migration  
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Solidarity Now NGO  
Greek Forum for Refugees  
Greek Forum of Migrants  
Melissa Network for Women  
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# COLLABORATING TO MAKE AN IMPACT.

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[www.globalbrigades.org](http://www.globalbrigades.org)