



**Counting on
Community**
2019 Annual Report

A faded, semi-transparent photograph of an elderly couple standing in a doorway. The man on the left has white hair and is wearing a dark jacket over a light shirt. The woman on the right is wearing a patterned headscarf, a patterned sweater, and a patterned skirt. They are both smiling slightly. The doorway has a blue frame. The background is a plain wall.

Our Mission

Helping and empowering people to
sustainably shape and determine their lives in
dignity and independence.

Dear Friend:

Isolation is, at best, a strong medicine. At its worst it is a form of torture. People tend to thrive while in true community with others. Take it away and loneliness, depression, diminished resources and need are amplified.

Nehemiah Gateway USA works every day to establish and build community. We labor towards this with our clients, students, international colleagues, volunteers, partners and donors. We build community through social and medical assistance, education, implementation of core values and personal empowerment. Our NG USA community came together in 2019 to press into these areas. We accomplished infinitely more than any one person could possibly achieve by himself or herself.

Our goal in the following pages is to provide a taste of what we did together last year. Stories, photos, numbers and first-hand accounts will tell of the impact made by the Nehemiah Gateway community. You will learn of how we were able to come together and meet needs that were immediate and unanticipated when a natural disaster struck. Access to formal education is a universal value and often involves meeting needs of entire families. We tell of the paradigm-changing impact we have had in diverse places and with diverse young people in the broad field of education.

We could not be doing any of this without you. We need each other.

We are so grateful to you for your active partnership in 2019.

Thankful to be in community with you,

Michelle Mann
President

Counting on Community

Our First Student From Guatemala



In fall 2019, Nehemiah Gateway University (NGU) welcomed its first student from Guatemala. Karla Cuca, 30, comes to NGU from Semilla, the Latin American Anabaptist Seminary in Guatemala City, where she has worked since 2013. Karla holds a BA in Art History and is now enrolled in NGU's BA in Business and Economy.

Karla has been living on campus at NGU since the fall. She enjoys the peace and quiet in Pogradec, although she has found the cold of winter challenging. Says Karla, "I strongly recommend NGU to others. Everyone is trying to help you in your studies and wants to see you succeed. Classes are small and you have a lot of personal interaction with professors. They give you tools to give and not just to know."

She already has big plans for how she will help Semilla when she returns to Guatemala. "I want to help them use their resources better and become more self-sustaining," she says. "In the future, Semilla could be a bridge between donors and smaller local church projects like literacy projects and programs for at-risk teens. These are projects that live the gospel, don't just tell it."

Counting on Community

Keeping At-Risk Children in School in Gjirokastër

Megi, age nine, comes from a family of seven in the Gjirokastër Roma community. When the Nehemiah Gateway Gjirokastër soup kitchen launched a program in fall 2019 to help children like her succeed in school, she was quick to enroll. She received new shoes and a backpack, school supplies, and new clothes, along with monthly food aid for her family. She also comes to the soup kitchen every day after school for a hot meal, homework help, and social time with her friends.

A third grader, Megi is one of the top students in her grade. She says "I am so excited that I am accepted in Nehemiah. Now, I can eat delicious food in the soup kitchen. I can play with other children and learn more about myself and others. I like studying. My dream for the future is to become a lawyer so that I can protect children's rights."

Succeeding in school is a challenge for Albanian Roma children like Megi. Over 50% of Albanian Roma adults are illiterate; lack of education perpetuates poverty in their community. The children come from poor families; some are homeless. Many parents resist school because it brings them neither money nor food—and yet, without education, smart girls like Megi will not have the tools they need to help others. By offering aid to the whole family, NG provides an incentive to keep Megi in school.



Counting on Community

A New Partner Helping Teens

Nehemiah Gateway USA partner organization, Daniel One Eight (D1:8), is a faith-based youth program based in the Sunyani region of Ghana. D1:8 offers support and mentorship for children and teenagers living in one of largest regions in Ghana, providing impressionable young people with a framework that helps them make good life choices as young people.

NG has always supported programs that teach and support positive values. Young people served by D1:8 live in poverty, and in many cases lack education and good role models. Meetings and activities offer mentorship and spiritual guidance in a community setting, modeling and reinforcing the impact of good life choices.

A new vocational center in Nsuta provides valuable work skills for young people who have already faced challenges in their lives—like fifteen-year-old Maa Affia. Maa Affia comes from the Brong Ahafo region and became a mother at the age of fourteen. Learning a vocational skill will help her build a more positive future as her son grows up.

We are excited and proud to partner with D1:8, which shares NG's belief in any person's ability to build a better life for himself or herself.



Counting on Community

Emergency Earthquake Aid



The November 2019 earthquake hit northwestern Albania in the dark hours before dawn, shocking households across the region awake, driving many families out of their homes and trapping others inside collapsed buildings. 51 people lost their lives, 2000 were injured, and 4000 lost their homes.

Among the people who lost their homes were Tahir and his family, in the village of Peza. When the earthquake hit, Tahir, his wife, and their three children were at home. The house was badly damaged, and they have been living in donated tents ever since.

Nehemiah Gateway partnered with Profamilja, a small Albanian NGO based in Peza, to bring relief to Tahir's family, and others like them. Since the earthquake, ProFamilja worked with volunteers to supply tents, disbursed ten tons of food packages, distributed 1,700 blankets, worked with World Central Kitchen to serve 25,000 hot meals, and provided 100 pairs of shoes to school children in need.

Nehemiah Gateway USA donors were quick and generous in responding to the emergencies created by the earthquake. The Global Giving Foundation awarded a grant of \$15,000 for earthquake relief, while individual donors worldwide contributed an additional \$10,809. These donations made it possible for Nehemiah Gateway Albania to help ProFamilja and other reputable partners in the affected region.

Financial Accountability

Organizational Information and Financial Accountability

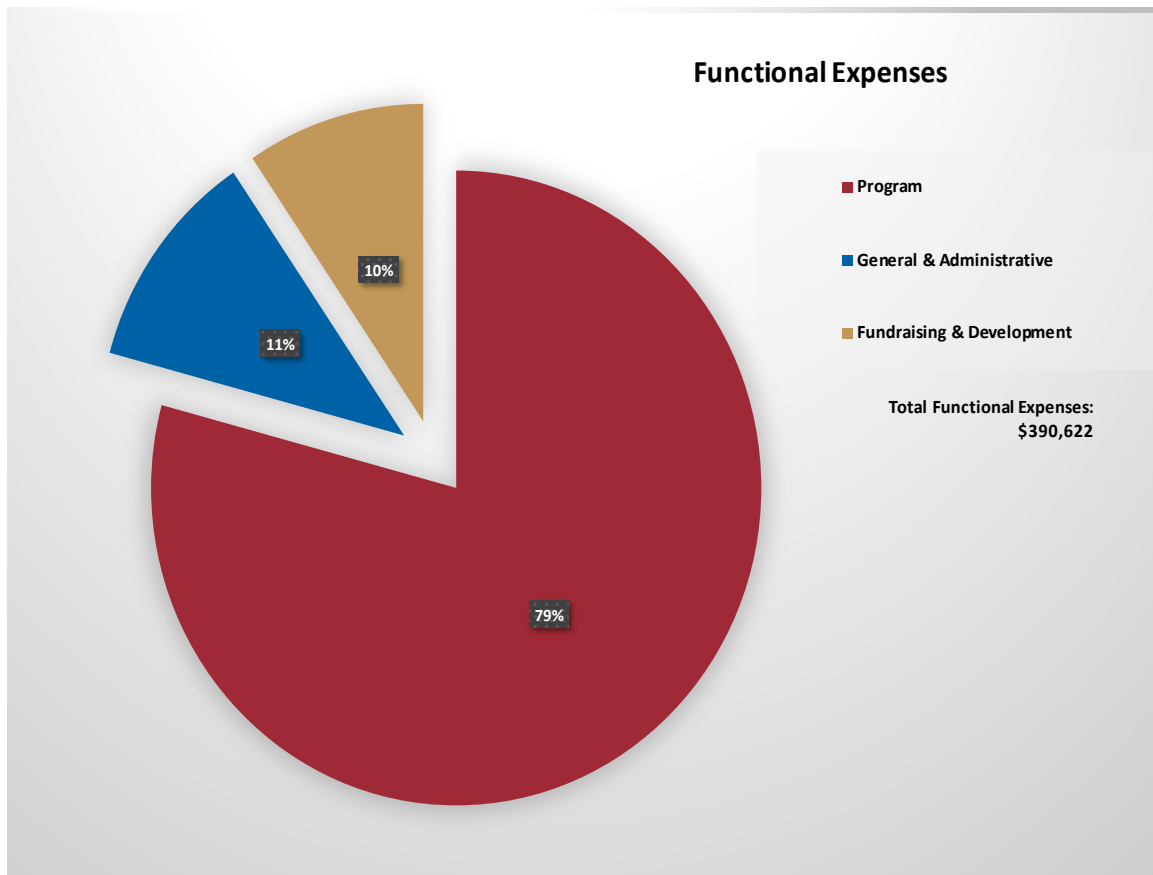
Nehemiah Gateway USA is a not-for-profit organization according to section 501(c)(3) of the federal IRS tax code. Gifts are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law and contributions are solicited with the understanding that Nehemiah Gateway USA has authorization for the distribution of all donated funds. Donations to NG-USA programs represent a contribution to the entire global mission of NG-USA and may be used where most needed.

As an organization, we adhere to the belief of the utmost importance of good stewardship and accountability to our donors for each donated gift. In order to be accountable to you, our donors, and so that we may also maintain strict practices of financial accountability, the following standards have been adopted by the NG-USA Board of Directors:

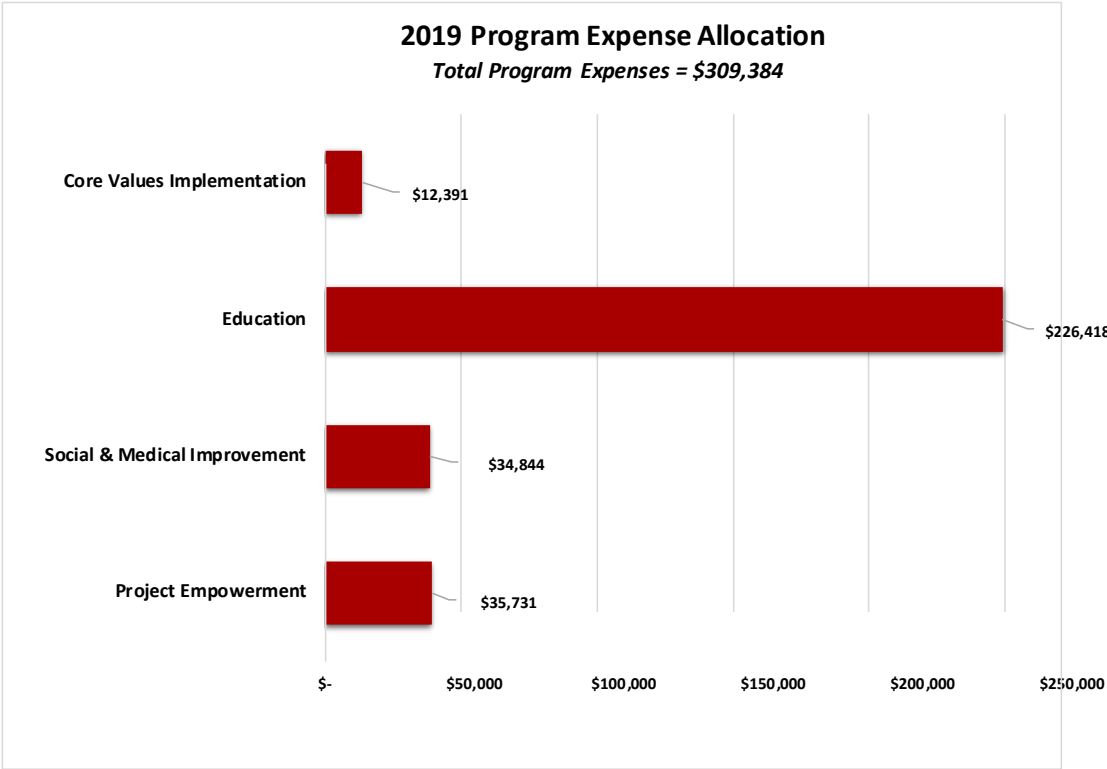
- *We are governed by an active and responsible Board of Directors. None of the members are related, and the Board has full oversight of all of the NG-USA staff, organizational operations, budgets and financial issues, as well as policies and procedures.*
- *Our fundraising appeals are designed to specifically promote and fund certain organizational projects and programs. On the rare occasion that a donation is made for a project that is overfunded, those donated dollars will be applied to a similar, urgent need.*
- *Our financial statements and required government filings are prepared by a Certified Public Accountant. If you would like a copy of our latest annual return, exemption confirmation, audited financial statements or other related information, please send a request indicating the desired information, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope or an email address for the information to be sent, to Nehemiah Gateway USA, 1630 30th St. Suite A #345, Boulder, CO 80301.*

If you have any questions or comments in regard to how we operate or handle your gifts, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to answer your questions.

Financial Overview



Financial Overview



Nehemiah Gateway USA's 2019 financial statements received an unqualified audit opinion by independent auditors, JLM Financial Services, Inc. To view our financial statements and audit report, visit www.ng-usa.org

Board of Directors



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Nehemiah Gateway USA

1630 30th St. Suite A #345

Boulder, CO 80301-1045

t/f 855.683.6769

email: ContactUSA@ng.team

www.ng-usa.org