



ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



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After closing our fiscal year (August 2021-July 2022), we're reflecting on our collective impact. Join us in looking back on a year of working for peace and justice in Honduras, and inspiring communities across the world to do the same.

View this report online at www.asj-us.org/impact2022.



A Message from Our Executive Director Jill Stoltzfus

Dear Friend,

As we reflect on the past year, we are beyond grateful to be shaped by a community committed to justice. In a year of both challenges and opportunities, we were inspired by ASJ's dedicated work for a society where **Hondurans experience peace and justice**, and where those lessons are applied globally. We were moved by our Honduran and North American colleagues' hope, courage, and curiosity. And we were renewed by your support for a more just society.

In a year of historic change in Honduras, ASJ stood faithfully for peace and justice. ASJ trained a group of over 1000 young people to monitor the **2021 presidential election for transparency**. When a new government came into power, ASJ presented comprehensive proposals to advance well-being in health, security, education, and anti-corruption. And in the months since, ASJ has defended the rights of **Honduran children** by promoting safe re-opening plans for public schools and the transparent hiring of teachers.

In the U.S., we committed to a 10-year **strategic plan** that will help us grow partnerships and engage more communities in justice. We challenged ourselves to live out the value of *acompañar*, accompanying/walking alongside, in our events and relationships with Honduras. As an organization founded in partnership between Hondurans and North Americans, we center Honduran stories as we advance best justice practices, and challenge and inspire people around the world to effect change.

I hope this report reminds you of what is possible when we work together with a **beautiful vision of peace and justice**. I encourage you to reach out with stories of how ASJ has impacted you over the past year. We look forward to continuing to grow with you in the season to come. ¡Bendiciones!

I. Collaborate, Learn, & Advocate

We collaborated with, learned from, and advocated alongside our partner organization ASJ-Honduras to promote peace, justice, and the transformation of society and government in Honduras.



ASJ's work is led by over 70 Hondurans in our office in the capital city of Tegucigalpa.



ASJ-US's staff and board accompany the work of peace and justice in Honduras and beyond.

ASJ (formerly known as AJS) changed our name in 2021 to reflect our partnership with Honduras and our Honduran roots. [Read more here.](#)

Solidarity After the Hurricanes

In the aftermath of tragedy, solidarity brings the light of hope. After the **November 2020 Hurricanes Eta and Iota**, supporters from Honduras, the U.S., and Canada reached out in support. Thanks to you, ASJ stood with 23 affected families in Tegucigalpa and 42 affected families in San Pedro Sula in the years since. These families, long-time participants in ASJ programs, lost their homes and belongings during the storms.



Click the video above to learn more the journey of rebuilding.

With food, clothing, psychological support, economic aid, and home reconstruction, **ASJ and community members are coming together to build a new future.** The impacts of the hurricane are far from being over and ASJ is committed to long-term recovery.

Speaking Up for Peace

During Honduras' historic November 2021 election, ASJ advocated for a **peaceful and transparent process**. ASJ's advocacy was the culmination of four years of proposals for electoral reforms, calls on candidates to publicize their records, and engagement with young people in social change. On election day, **we gathered experts in our Tegucigalpa, Honduras office** to share real-time information about transparency.

ASJ-US supported Honduran advocacy by **raising awareness** in the United States. We prepared a bulletin for international decision-makers detailing critical points for transparency. ASJ-US also sent five people to accompany over 15 international and 1000 Honduran **electoral monitors** observing transparency in the election, which ultimately saw high citizen participation and a transparent result.



A Honduran woman arrives at her polling station on Election Day 2021



A group of election monitors from Honduras, the U.S., and Canada, speak at an ASJ press conference, led by ASJ-HN Executive Director Carlos Hernández



Observing the process on election day

Promoting Public Health

The majority of Hondurans depend on the public health system for care, but in 2021 the system faced medicine shortages and staffing challenges. In response, ASJ carried out a study on the satisfaction and quality of services at **six major hospitals in the public health system**. By surveying patients, doctors and nurses, ASJ identified **opportunities for improvement in the hospitals**, such as the need to a) improve infrastructure and sanitation conditions, b) assign more medical personnel, c) reduce current waiting times for medical attention, and d) improve the system for supplying medicines and supplies.

In addition, ASJ **trained a group of more than 220 community members** to evaluate the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines across the country, and 20 **auditors in Tegucigalpa** to evaluate local health centers for proper use of funds.

Advocating for Children's Well-being

ASJ sought to defend the rights of Honduras' children in education and security by promoting:

1 Access to Education

The safe **re-opening of Honduras' public schools** was one of ASJ's top priorities this year. After two years of the pandemic, more than one million children were excluded from online classes due to the lack of access to Internet and devices.

In response, ASJ advocated alongside other civil society members for the government to safely re-open public schools in poorer neighborhoods, and to provide repairs and resources for remedial learning. When the majority of schools reopened in early 2022, ASJ promoted a **transparent, non-politicized process for the national hiring** of 14,000 teachers.

2 The Right to Safety

ASJ released a comprehensive report on the Honduran government's response to the **sexual abuse of children**. Together with several renowned nonprofits, ASJ advocated for a stronger public policy in both preventing harm and providing justice for Honduras' children. ASJ also led workshops with over 100 teachers, children's homes' mentors, and religious leaders to teach them how to **prevent, recognize, and report abuse**.



ASJ-trained volunteers monitor the testing process for teacher candidates in nine departments across the country.



Participants in ASJ's workshop learn a song and dance about the dignity of bodies that they will teach the children in their care.

Generating National Conversations

ASJ launched “**State of the Nation**”, a public online platform with a wealth of data on Honduras’ reality in health, education, anti-corruption, government purchases, and security. It is rare to find this information all-together in one place and ASJ hopes sharing its years of research will empower other students, journalists, and other civil society groups to **work for change**. To accompany the platform, ASJ held press conferences to generate national conversations.

[Explore the Platform](#)
[\(Spanish\)](#)

(For English, use your browser's translation button)

Strengthening Justice Systems

Every Honduran has the right to life, freedom, and equality. But when these rights are violated, cases often remain in impunity, denying justice to individuals and communities. In response, ASJ facilitated a **series of workshops in our Tegucigalpa office** that taught Honduras’ prosecutors how to **effectively approach cases of human rights violations**. In collaboration with the Attorney General’s office, every prosecutor in the country’s Special Court of Human Rights received this workshop to understand theory, review case studies, and adopt best practices. As part of our long-term goal of strengthening the justice system, ASJ is also monitoring the rate at which human rights cases in this court are prosecuted and resolved.



A group of Honduran prosecutors receive a workshop at ASJ's office

Forging Just Partnerships

At ASJ-US, one of our values is to **acompañar**, or to walk alongside, community members, and supporters. One way we are walking alongside Honduras is by recognizing and addressing power and privilege in our relationship with our Honduran partner. Through monthly facilitated conversations between Honduran and U.S. staff and board members, we share how injustice and justice have impacted our own lives and discuss how to be a more just team. These conversations have been pivotal for practicing what it means to **act with courage**.



ASJ-US and ASJ-Honduras board and staff members discuss gender equity

II. Sharing Our Experiences

We shared our experience in Honduras with communities of justice seekers in order to learn together and advance best practices in justice work worldwide.

Advocating for Honduras' Future

Through strategic communications and events, ASJ **promoted justice for Hondurans on the international stage**. In two trips to Washington, D.C., ASJ-HN and Oxfam accompanied members of slain Honduran activist Berta Cáceres' family in advocating for further investigation into her assassination. Throughout the year, ASJ shared proposals for Honduras' future with several **international leaders**, including the U.S. ambassador, the European Union, and the U.S. Undersecretary of Energy.



Accompanying Berta Cáceres' mother and brother on an advocacy trip in Washington, D.C.

This advocacy does not happen alone! ASJ-US's participation in the Evangelical Immigration Forum and the Faith and Public Integrity Network, and ASJ-HN's participation in the anti-corruption coalition CCINOC helped us promote just experiences for Hondurans no matter where they are.

[Read about Our Advocacy.](#)



Executive Director and Co-founder Carlos Hernández, Co-founder Jo Ann Van Engen, coordinator Hillary Gómez, and researcher Edgar Aguilar share during the webinar.

Forging Just Partnerships

We hosted **webinars** for justice supporters to hear firsthand from civil society leaders in Honduras on important issues. Following the inauguration of Honduras' **new president**, Xiomara Castro, we were honored to share the implications of the governmental transition with the World Affairs Council of West Michigan. After the **historic extradition** of former president Juan Orlando Hernández, to face drug trafficking charges in the U.S., we hosted a webinar "Understanding Recent Events in Honduras" for Honduran staff to share their analysis.

“Corruption is not over, it is a long journey, through the efforts we have been working on for several years and seeing progress, we are committed to working for a more just society and for people in all spheres of power and influence to be held accountable.”

Comment from ASJ senior researcher Edgar Aguilar during the webinar "Understanding Recent Events in Honduras"

ASJ in the News

ASJ has been featured in numerous Spanish and English-language media outlets over the past year, including *The Economist*, *The New York Times*, and *Financial Times*. **Click below to read some featured articles.**

The
Economist

The New York Times

FP

Learning from Each Other

ASJ was honored to **host several groups in our Tegucigalpa, Honduras office** to explore partnerships. From churches to business leaders to non-profits, we found spaces to **collaborate together** for justice. In the United States, we were grateful to host ASJ-HN Executive Director and co-founder Carlos Hernández in Chicago to share on the future of anti-corruption. And ASJ co-founder Kurt Ver Beek met with a senior living community to dialogue on violence and migration.



Meeting with a church group in Tegucigalpa, Honduras to discuss collaborating in the health sector

III. Challenge & Inspire

We challenged and inspired Christians to live out the Biblical call to do justice and to effect change in their own communities.



We are renewed when we remember past stories of communities propelling change. ASJ senior researcher Edgar Aguilar incorporated these stories into his interview on the Office of Social Justice's "**Do Justice**" podcast.

Edgar explores the question, "**How can we pursue justice in the short-term while working towards systemic change?**" Along the way, he dives into various ASJ-led advocacy initiatives and shares where he finds hope in his daily work. Tune in for an uplifting listen!

[Listen](#)

As we engage each other in conversation and action, ASJ seeks to:

- accompany,
- champion justice,
- choose hope,
- act with courage, and
- encourage learning and curiosity.



We are passionate about equipping others to pursue justice in their communities. In this spirit, we contributed to **Women of Welcome's Equipping Series**, a free portal with educational resources about immigration from subject matter experts, trusted authors, and faith leaders. Join the portal to learn from ASJ Co-founder Jo Ann Van Engen on attaching confidence to compassion in the area of immigration.

[Learn with us](#)

Gathering for Justice



This year, we launched supporter-hosted events as a new way to connect with ASJ’s mission. These gatherings provide an opportunity to share a more intimate look at the work of justice and engage with supporters’ questions and reflection. Thanks to our generous hosts, we discussed topics like strengthening the public education system and advocating for resources in public health, and raised funds to sustain our justice initiatives in Honduras.











Thank you to all the supporters who hosted a gathering!

Loving Beyond Fear

We believe we are called to **live justly**—to make choices for the restoration of wholeness in the relationships between people, communities, systems, and creation. And yet we know we often have questions on where to begin. In 2022, ASJ launched the “**Love Beyond Fear Challenge**,” a collection of eight prompts to spark reflection, connection, action, and joy as we all learn what it means to live justly.



Welcome to the Love Beyond Fear Challenge



[Explore the Challenge](#)

“What is a dream for well-being in your community? Search for a group in your area that addresses it from a justice perspective and ask how you can learn more about their work.

Example prompt from ASJ's "Love Beyond Fear Challenge"

Reflecting for Growth

While in pursuit of a more just society, we seek to become more just ourselves! This commitment has put on a lifelong journey of asking "who do we want to be?," pursuing antiracism, and building diversity, equity, and inclusion into our operations. We believe everyone is essential to the work of justice.

- After over a year of listening to our communities, ASJ-US **committed to a 10-year strategic plan** that holds us accountable to growing in our mission. We identified some areas of growth as: expanding our ASJ-US community with new relationships in communities most impacted by injustice, developing creative education and advocacy initiatives in partnership with ASJ-Honduras.
- We reinvented our **signature event** through the lens of equity, with the hope of creating a welcoming space for all justice-seekers

We are thankful for the gift of consistency and sustainability from supporters like you!



Our **35 church partners** have walked alongside us through the last year, offering both prayer and financial support.

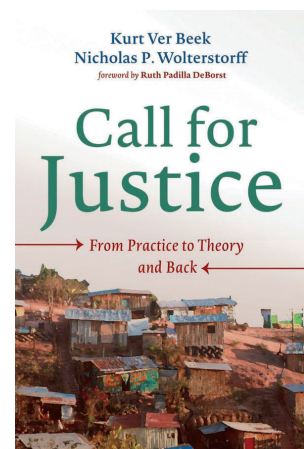


Our community of **Justice Partners**, supporters who give monthly to the work of justice, now numbers **277**.

Answering the Call for Justice

ASJ's Co-Founder **Kurt Ver Beek** and Christian philosopher **Nicholas Wolterstorff**'s book continues to move audiences with its reflection on the messiness of making government systems work to defend rights and uphold justice. In a four-week **book study** led by ASJ staff, a group dove deeper into justice questions and even had the opportunity to dialogue with the authors.

[Explore *Call for Justice*/ Host a Study.](#)



As an exploration of the ASJ model for transforming justice systems, *Call for Justice* embodies a rare combination of warmth and rigor; it's highly accessible as a dialogue between Ver Beek and Wolterstorff, while also providing a framework for confronting corruption and engaging broken justice systems. This book will be a significant companion for anyone who is serious about doing the work of justice over the long haul.



Gary Haugen
International Justice Mission, CEO

Engaging All Ages

You're never too young (or old) to engage in justice. This belief inspired ASJ's **Family Fun Night**, a time for both kids and adults to joyfully spend time together and connect with ASJ. During the event, we shared several resources for parents to start conversations about justice with their children. We also held a festive and inspiring night "**Take Me to Honduras**," with over 100 supporters, to highlight ASJ's work in education.



We asked children to respond to the prompt, "What's one way you can make the world a better place?"



We hosted a event in Grand Rapids, Michigan centered around justice in Honduras.

The below information is for FY'22 (August 1, 2021 - July 31, 2022)

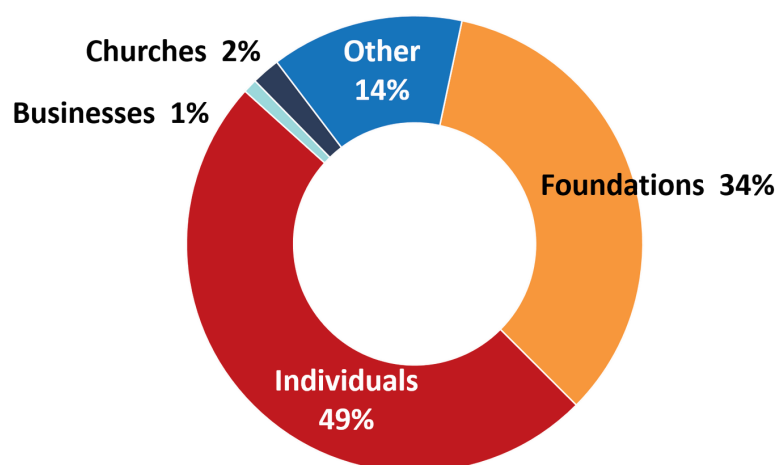
SUPPORT & REVENUE

Individuals	\$1,321,529
Foundations	\$908,145
Churches	\$57,904
Business/Corporate	\$43,461
Other	\$369,223
Total	\$2,700,262

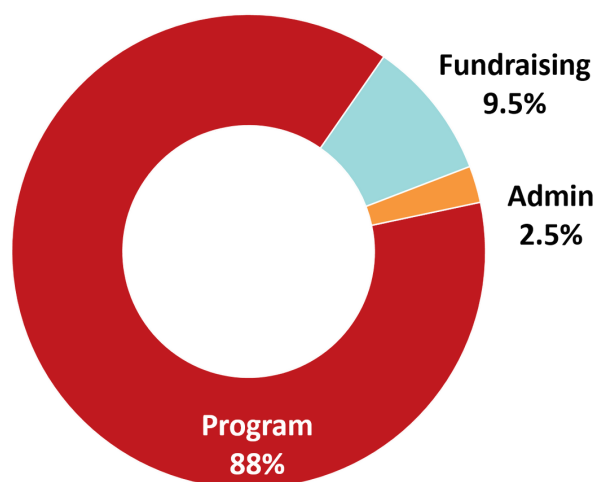
EXPENSES

Program	\$2,201,781.95
Fundraising	\$235,640.03
Administration	\$61,108.34
Total Support & Revenue	\$2,498,530.32

Contributions



Expenses Breakdown



ASSETS

Total Assets **\$5,387,553.35**

LIABILITIES

Total Liabilities **\$1,527,161.39**

NET ASSETS

Total Equity **\$3,860,391.96**

Notes

Audited financial statements and our 990 for FY'22 are expected to be available on our website www.asj-us.org in December 2022.

ASJ-US is committed to responsible stewardship of its funds. ASJ-US and our partners undergo external audits each year to ensure quality, accuracy, and ethics of our financial management. Because of our commitment to transparency, ASJ-US has earned the GuideStar Exchange Platinum Seal, as well as the Excellence in Giving's Commitment to Transparency Seal. ASJ-US is also an accredited agency with the Better Business Bureau, and we have received a score of 100 in Charity Navigator's Encompass Rating System.

[See Our Leadership](#)

[View Past Financials](#)