

A COMPREHENSIVE SUMMARY OF A YEAR'S PROGRESS, CHALLENGES, AND OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD.

With great pleasure, we present the 2025 Champions in Action annual activity report.

The purpose of this report is to give a comprehensive overview of the accomplishments, challenges, and progress of our organization. We will emphasize the positive effects we have had on the lives of children and adolescents in our community by sharing the different programs and activities we have put in place through these pages.

## 

## FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS!

#### **OUR MISSION:**

We connect disadvantaged youth to life-changing mentors through the gospel of Jesus Christ and soccer.

#### **OUR VISION:**

Our vision is to empower a generation of at-risk youth – through the Gospel, mentorship, and soccer – to transform themselves, their families, their communities, and their nation.



HEARTS UNITED BY THE GOSPEL: CHANGING LIVES, SHARING HOPE

## THE ONGOING CHALLENGE

Across Guatemala, countless children face harsh realities that limit their potential and endanger their future. Without guidance, love, or opportunity, they are often forced to survive in environments that push them further away from hope.

These are the challenges we are called to confront:

**Violence and Gangs:** Without family, guidance, or love, many children turn to whatever means they can to survive—often joining gangs or becoming victims of violence.

Malnutrition and Disease: The lack of resources and opportunities leaves children vulnerable to hunger, illness, and long-term health problems.

**Crime**: With no access to food, shelter, or positive role models, many children resort to petty crime as a means of survival.

**Lack of Education**: Countless children grow up without a stable home or parents to provide for their schooling, leaving them without the opportunity to learn, grow, or dream of a better life.

Guatemala has one of the highest rates of chronic malnutrition in the world

Gang violence is rampant, particularly in urban areas due to lack of family support

Financial limits prevent children from attending school

Poverty is a crucial cause; many children lack basic resources for food and shelter

23% of the population live in extreme poverty
25% of children do not finish primary school

942 reported violent deaths of children in Guatemala

47% of children under five in rural Guatemala suffer from chronic malnutrition

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The good news is that with God, all things are possible — even when the world says otherwise. His heart beats for the poor, the broken, and the forgotten.

He never overlooks a single child who feels invisible or unloved. God's heart moves toward those the world has rejected and calls His people to do the same — to bring His love, hope, and redemption where despair once lived.

At Champions in Action, we believe that transformation begins when the Gospel reaches both the heart and the field. Through soccer, mentorship, and the message of salvation, we connect at-risk youth with life-changing mentors who reflect God's love in action. By providing physical nourishment, spiritual guidance, and emotional support, we help them discover their true worth and purpose in Christ.

While the challenges are great, the light of Christ shines brighter. Every practice, devotional, and shared meal is a step toward healing—proof that God's love continues to redeem lives and build a future filled with hope.



### BUILDING TEAMS TRANSFORMING LIVES

The story of 2025 begins with impact in motion. This section marks the start of our journey through the year's results—where every milestone, number, and story reflects how God continues to move through Champions in Action.

We began the year by strengthening our foundation through the formation and accreditation of soccer teams—each composed of 10 players and 2 dedicated mentors guiding their growth in faith and character.

Over the past 15 years, we have refined this model to create lasting change, returning to our convictions: "the local church is essential," we partnered with pastors and congregations to recruit and equip mentors who now serve as spiritual leaders, bringing transformation to their communities.



Soccer League Guatemala



Soccer League Chimaltenango

These mentors—rooted in their own communities—play a vital role in recruiting players, building personal relationships, and ensuring consistent follow-up with each youth. Our focus remains on high-risk and underserved areas, staying true to our mission of bringing hope, opportunity, and transformation where it's needed most.

Once confirmed, each team receives official credentials and registration, overseen by our Mentor Coordinators, who provide support and guidance throughout the process.

This year, we successfully registered 13 teams in Chimaltenango, 15 in Guatemala City, and launched 2 new teams in the Escuintla area, across our three soccer categories: Girls, Boys U-15, and Boys U-17.

Our model is simple — yet it creates a **lasting impact**. Each mentor is required to lead at least one weekly training, where soccer becomes a vehicle to build discipline, trust, and faith.

These sessions are organized by our volunteer mentors, who also lead one of the most important parts of our program: *Bible devotionals*, using resources provided by Champions in Action.



This year, through the partnership with the CBS Ministry, we received digital devotional materials designed specifically for mentors and teenagers. These lessons and activities allow us to clearly and effectively teach the message of the Gospel and help youth grow in their relationship with God.



Every mentor takes on the responsibility of finding a safe and accessible training space — from public soccer fields to dirt pitches — demonstrating their commitment to creating a secure environment for practice and spiritual connection.

Each week is a new opportunity to share the Gospel, mentor with love, and build relationships that last.







In addition to devotionals, every gathering includes soccer practice, encouraging players to develop their skills in preparation for our biweekly soccer leagues.

These meetings strengthen the participants' faith, biblical understanding, and athletic performance, while fostering teamwork, community, and a sense of belonging.







They also provide the perfect space to implement our social programs, creating holistic transformation that touches every aspect of their lives.

### SIMPLE STEPS, LASTING CHANGE

Since 2024, our Church Liaison has built a meaningful connection between a group of pastors in the department of Escuintla and Champions in Action. From that moment, multiple visits and meetings have taken place to strengthen relationships with local church leaders and continue expanding the outreach of new mentors and future soccer teams in the area.

### N E W GROUND

These visits have focused on guiding pastors in the recruitment of new volunteer mentors — individuals who are willing to invest their time, resources, and hearts to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with youth in need throughout Escuintla.

As part of our vision to establish a new regional site, our goal is to form a team of at least 32 **committed mentors**, allowing us to officially launch the soccer league with all necessary divisions and teams. After months of training and mentor recruitment, we joyfully received the news that the first group of mentors had already formed two active teams, preparing to attend their first Champions in Action camp.







Throughout this year, the work in Escuintla has continued with faith and determination. We are now closer than ever to formally establishing our new site and launching the Escuintla Soccer League at the beginning of the 2026 season, bringing hope, community, and the Good News of Jesus to even more youth.



Champions in Action continues to faithfully carry out its Food Support Program, aimed at sharing essential food supplies with the families of children and teenagers in greatest need. Throughout this year, we have conducted careful social assessments to understand each family's context, ensuring that every food package is distributed fairly and effectively.

Since last year, we have been blessed with a generous donation of egg cartons, which has allowed us to reach even more families and provide an extra level of support to help strengthen their household economy.

Each month, we distribute an average of **20 food bags** across our two sites, rotating the beneficiaries to ensure that all identified families receive assistance throughout the year. Additionally, the monthly distribution of **240 egg cartons** has been a tremendous blessing—sometimes given to families alongside food bags, or alternated to extend the reach of our help.

The Food Program runs from February to October, coinciding with our soccer season, except during June and July, when we focus on our summer camps. However, thanks to the generosity of a dedicated donor and God's continued provision, the egg donations have continued beyond the soccer season, extending our support to November and December.

Despite ongoing challenges, the faithfulness of our monthly donors has allowed us to keep this program strong and consistent. And now, God has opened a new door — thanks to a generous \$10,000 donation, in 2026 we'll be expanding our food program to reach even more families in need. We're preparing to extend our impact, bringing nourishment, hope, and the love of Christ to new communities across Guatemala.

This effort not only meets a physical need—it's also a reflection of **God's love** and care for every participant we serve.







It is thanks to all our donors that this program continues to thrive. Every gift — big or small — plays a vital role in keeping our mission alive and ensuring that we can keep reaching those in need. We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has directed their support toward this program, and we'd like to make a special mention of **Super Mayen** and **Chris Pierce**, who have been integral to the growth and consistency of this program.































### GOD MULTIPLIES EVERY ACT OF GENEROSITY













In addition to our food programs, our compassion fund focuses on giving children, their mentors, and their families immediate support; nevertheless, assistance is constantly required, and we aren't always able to offer a particular kind of support.

### **COMPASSION FUND**















We've been more intentional this year by giving mentors or kids in need immediate assistance. From medical emergencies to financial difficulties, our compassion fund aims to address those particular needs.

We also received in-kind donations from soccer cleats, food at the league, mentor recognition, prizes for kids at the league or mentor school, and more. We hope to grow this unique fund to help more people in need.



### A WEEK THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING

One of the most meaningful pillars of Champions in Action is our Boys' and Girls' Summer Camp Season, held every June and July.

These camps take place in El Faro, Punta de Palma, Izabal — a beautiful setting where, for one unforgettable week, we bring youth closer to the Word of God through Bible teaching, motivational talks, fellowship with international volunteers, soccer tournaments, and plenty of sunshine, beach, and fun.

This year, we had the incredible blessing of hosting over **161 participants** at our **Boys' Camp in June** — including 95 teens, 20 mentors, 30 volunteers, 10 translators, and 6 staff members.

Girls' Camp in July was equally successful, welcoming

158 participants — 71 teens, 16 mentors, 57 volunteers, 8 translators, and 6 staff members.

For many of our adolescents, this is a life-changing experience. Some have never traveled outside their community, slept in a comfortable bed, or enjoyed nutritious meals each day. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, every participant receives three daily meals, snacks, team uniforms, hydration, and constant care — all as expressions of God's love.

These camps are far more than a week of soccer; they are a spiritual retreat, a moment of transformation, and a living testimony of what God can do through love, service, and community. Each camp leaves a lasting impact, strengthening faith in Christ Jesus and restoring hope, joy, and self-worth in every young heart.

God moved powerfully in the hearts of our young boys and girls this year:



At the Boys' Camp 2025, **56 accepted**Jesus Christ as their Savior, **35 reconciled** their lives with God, and **41** took the step of faith through **baptism**.

At the Girls' Camp 2025, 43 accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior, 28 reconciled their lives with God, and 32 took the step of faith through baptism.



### 235 HEARTS TRANSFORMED LIVES RENEWED



A special highlight from our 2025 Summer Camps was the generous sponsorship from **Smart Solve**, a company deeply committed to **God's creation** and to making a difference. Their support provided custom team uniforms for every participant, creating not only a cherished memory but also setting a meaningful precedent for future camps.

Their partnership is a beautiful example of how faith in action can multiply impact — empowering youth, protecting God's creation, and honoring Christ in all they do.









### THANK YOU!

As we look back on this year, it's impossible not to pause and reflect on all that has been accomplished and the incredible impact we've been able to make together in the lives of so many children and adolescents.

This year has been one of growth, connection, and renewed purpose — a time filled with new friendships in Christ, strengthened relationships, and remarkable moments of transformation. Whether you have been with us since the beginning, recently reconnected, or joined us for the first time this year, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for being part of this journey.

None of what we do would be possible without the faithful and generous support of our donors. Every project completed, every program that changes lives, every soccer match that brings joy, and every meal shared is a reflection of your love, commitment, and faith in God's work through Champions in Action.

You are the foundation upon which this mission stands. Your generosity not only helps us reach our goals but also sows seeds of faith, hope, and purpose in the hearts of God's children across Guatemala.

We are profoundly thankful for each and every one of you. Whether your support comes through a monthly gift, participation in our camps, volunteering, or simply sharing our mission with others — please know that your involvement makes a difference. Because of you, we can continue spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ and bringing His love to communities that need it most.

#### From the bottom of our hearts — thank you!

Thank you for believing in this mission, for walking beside us, and for being a vital part of what God is doing through Champions in Action. You are the true champions, and through your kindness, we see His love at work every single day. May the Lord bless your life abundantly and multiply the fruit of your generosity. Through your support, a future full of hope and transformation is being built for every child and adolescent we serve.

With all our gratitude and love, The Champions in Action Family



#### THANK YOU!

Thanks to our donors, all of this is possible. Today, we want to give special recognition to those whose generosity makes each project a reality. Every contribution shines as a light of hope and an act of love that transforms lives.

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Zachary Cutman

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### BE PART OF THE STORY **GOD IS WRITING IN GUATEMALA!**

When you give, serve, or pray with Champions in Action, you're not just helping others—you're becoming part of God's work of transformation. As Luke 6:45 reminds us, our actions reflect the love within us, and through that love, both the giver and the receiver are forever changed.

**GET CONNECTED-EXPLORE OUR** programs, mission trips, and stories of impact!











