

helping people and changing lives

WHAT COMMUNITY SERVICE MEANS TO THE LAW FIRM OF MICHAEL T. GIBSON, P.A.
By Attorney Michael T. Gibson

At the Law Firm of Michael T. Gibson, P.A., we believe in putting family first and that means supporting our local communities. This past year has been an exciting time for our firm in this endeavor. As both lawyers and citizens in the community, we are dedicated to serving the areas where we live, work and play. We also believe in putting time and energy into the causes and people that need them the most. Recently, this has come in the form of our firm's mission trips, which aim to help developing communities around the world. With the help of our firm's dedicated team members, various churches, and local pastors, we have been able to feed the hungry, clothe and educate school children, provide medical care and food donations, and empower churches to bring hope to their communities.

Here is a recap of our firm's 2023 community endeavors and what we are looking forward to in 2024!



It's Back-to-School Time and Our Firm is Here to Help

Hundreds of free backpacks filled with pencils, notebooks, crayons, and other supplies were donated and distributed at each of these events ensuring Central Florida children had everything they need to start the school year off on the right foot. Special thanks to Pastor Escobar at Distrito Iglesias Adventistas de Poinciana and his group of volunteers, for such an impactful community event.



Certificate of Service Award for 2023
Yesenia Laboy, our firm's Intake Department Manager received the Certificate of Service Award for 2023, in recognition of our firm's commitment to community service in Longwood, Florida.

Our firm's Marketing Representative and Director of Community Relations and Outreach, José Barreto in collaboration with New Life Church in Sanford, FL., were able to bless 50 families with much needed food.



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si Dios lo permite

Por Juan Jose Rodriguez, Abogado de Enlace

Muchas personas se han acercado a mí para comentar sobre las columnas que publicamos en nuestra publicación mensual, o lo que se conoce en inglés como newsletter. Los lectores han notado que utilizo con frecuencia SI DIOS QUIERE o SI DIOS LO PERMITE (GOD WILLING IN ENGLISH). Inclusive, estas frases son parte de mi vocabulario oral, ya que también con mucha frecuencia menciono esas frases al hablar.

La realidad es que estas frases las aprendí de la Biblia. En el libro de Santiago, capítulo 4, desde el versículo 13 al 16 que dice lo siguiente:

¡Vamos ahora! los que decís: Hoy y mañana iremos a tal ciudad, y estaremos allá un año, y traficaremos, y ganaremos; cuando no sabéis lo que será mañana. Porque ¿qué es vuestra vida? Ciertamente es neblina que se aparece por un poco de tiempo, y luego se desvanece. En lugar de lo cual deberíais decir: Si el Señor quiere, viviremos y haremos esto o aquello. Pero ahora os jactáis en vuestras soberbias. Toda jactancia semejante es mal.

Veán como dice que, porque no sabemos lo que el mañana nos trae, deberíamos decir, Si Dios quiere viviremos y haremos esto o aquello.

Por ejemplo, en este nuevo año 2024, en nuestro bufete de abogados tenemos varios viajes misioneros planeados. EL primero a Cuba, se continúa con un viaje a la Cumbre en Bogotá, y posiblemente, SI DIOS LO PERMITE, regresamos a Honduras o a Ecuador. Un segundo viaje a Cuba no está descartado. Pero la realidad con todos los planes y compromisos que hemos hecho con los ministerios en estos países se podrán dar si viviremos, tal y como dice el escritor Bíblico, ya que nuestra vida es neblina, que aparece un poco de tiempo y luego se desvanece.

Como no sabemos si mañana estaremos aquí en este mundo, debemos vivir nuestra vida con propósito. Yo he sido testigo de personas que han muerto en los 60 o 70 años, y hablando con los familiares, nada significativo hicieron en sus vidas. ¿Usted se puede imaginar al ministro o sacerdote, tratando de dar un resumen de tu vida en el sepelio y que tenga que utilizar términos genéricos de un Manual de ministro, ya que no había nada significativo que mencionar durante su funeral?

Hay ocasiones que nos tenemos que detener y meditar sobre nuestra vida, cual es el propósito, y si morimos hoy, si dejamos este mundo en mejor condición que cuando llegasteis. Aun si hicisteis el bien, con que propósito lo hicisteis, para que hablaran bien de ti y dijeran que bueno fue este hombre o esta mujer, o simplemente porque tenías compasión por los necesitados, con un deseo ardiente de ayudar a tu prójimo. En mi opinión, estamos viviendo un mundo materialista, en donde nuestras prioridades están equivocadas. Si las personas supieran cuan placentero y vigoroso es ayudar a otros, tendríamos una sociedad mas compasiva. Que Dios los continúe bendiciendo. ■

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Helping Feed Those in Need & Donating to Local Food Distribution Events

Our firm's Attorney Liaison and Marketing Director, Juan José Rodríguez, and his wife Dalmaris Rodríguez, have helped people facing hunger in our local community this past year. Food distribution events were held at the Church of God Pentecostal MI on Fortune Road and at Johnson University. Our firm was honored to be a co-sponsor of these events.

Special thanks to Pastor Rev. Evangelista Ruiz, Pastor Norberto Fonseca, and the Advance Community Center.



Christmas Outreach Event

Our firm's Marketing Representative and Director of Community Relations and Outreach, José Barreto with the help of church members at Iglesia Metodista Unida Cristo purchased and put gifts together for families in need during the holidays.



Our firm is proud to have been part of this great missionary trip to Honduras. Congratulations to Pastor Raúl Rosado, his wife Wanda, Pastora Milady Castellano and the great team of Centro Internacional de la Familia!



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the Gibson family holiday recap

By: Attorney Michael T. Gibson



Just like everyone else, the Holidays are a busy time of the year, both for the firm and for our family. And this past Holiday season certainly was no different. We kicked off the same with our annual Firm Holiday Dinner. One Friday night, we closed up an hour early and headed to Sixty Vines in Winter Park, to celebrate another successful year. It was a great night. I always enjoy catching up with the spouses and loved ones of our team members. It was a great way to cap off another successful year. Unfortunately, the Monday following the party, Jen and Eme were in an accident, while on the way to Eme's school.

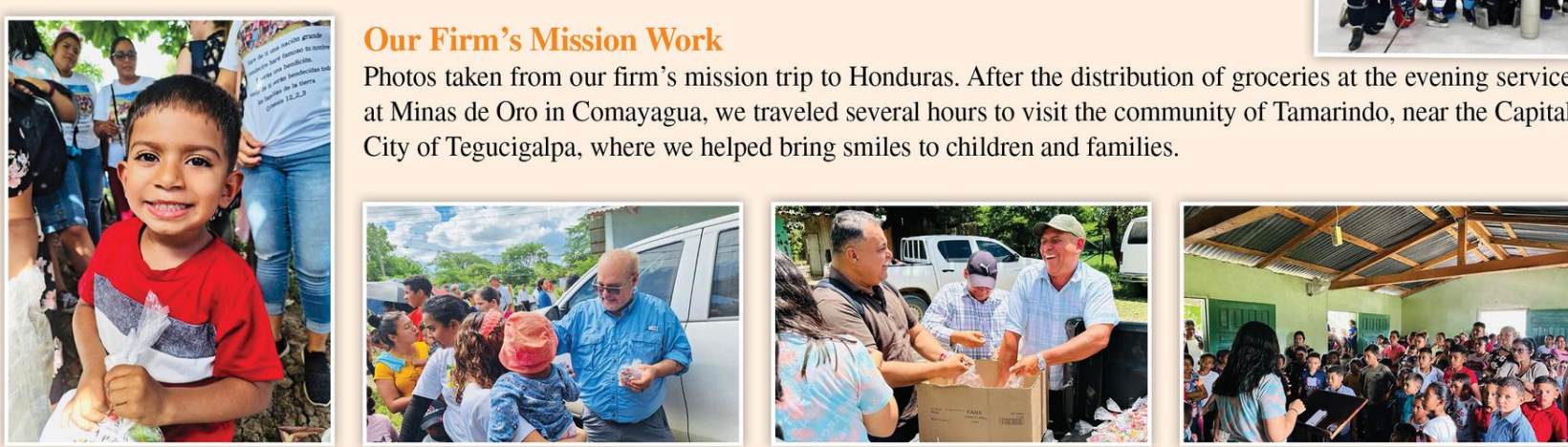
Someone pulled out of the gas station and straight into Jen. Fortunately, both Jen and Eme were fine, and did not suffer injury. Jen's SUV wasn't as lucky though, and as I am writing this, it is still in the shop. So, if you ever wonder if we have experience in guiding you through your accident case, and resolving your property damage claims, now you can see that we have dealt with the same issues ourselves. Then came Christmas. This was Jen and I's first year hosting Noche Buena at our home. And Jen did not disappoint. We had all the authentic Cuban food you could wish for, and a fun night of food, family, games and presents. We look forward to hosting again next year. As for Christmas, for the most part, we are done with toys. In fact, this is the first Christmas since having kids that I did not spend the entire day assembling toys. Now, the kids are mostly into electronics and clothes. Brady got his gold chain with his jersey number on it. And Eme, all the collectibles she was hoping for. It was a nice day, and I enjoyed not having to assemble and reassemble things all day. Lastly, I am a champion on the ice, again, as my 35 plus team brought home the cup. This was our second championship in 2023, and it is the fifth title I have won, including four in the last two years. We had a terrible Spring season, losing eleven consecutive games at one point. To go from worst to first and win it all again was an awesome experience. This was a great group of guys, and I am so happy we got to win one together. We hope that you and your family enjoyed the Holidays, and made some memories that will last a lifetime. ■



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Our Firm's Mission Work

Photos taken from our firm's mission trip to Honduras. After the distribution of groceries at the evening service at Minas de Oro in Comayagua, we traveled several hours to visit the community of Tamarindo, near the Capital City of Tegucigalpa, where we helped bring smiles to children and families.



Our firm's Attorney Liaison and Marketing Director, Juan José Rodríguez, and his wife Dalmaris Rodríguez, are already preparing for mission trips for 2024, the first one being to Cuba. We would like to thank Hector Rodríguez, Pastor Rev. Anibal Calderon from Iglesia Casa de Refugio Zion and to the organization CityServe for their donations to these missions.

For more information about our firm's community involvement efforts, visit the [Michael T. Gibson, P.A. Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/michael.t.gibson). ■

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THE AUTO JUSTICE COMMUNITY HERO OF THE MONTH Nereida and Demetrio Javier

By: Attorney Michael T. Gibson

Harmony Foods Outreach Center, Inc., was founded by Nereida Javier, with the support and blessing of her husband, Demetrio Javier. Nereida and Demetrio have been together since Nereida was 23-years old. They have raised two children together, after uniting in a blended family and marrying in 2005. Moving to Florida from Chicago, they began a successful carpet cleaning business, only to sell it off piece by piece after a confirmation of God's calling to do the Lord's work and beginning with only the obedience of God's word. Prior to Harmony Foods, they found their calling in the Lord's work by feeding those who were displaced. After many visits, they found themselves wanting to assist every human being with a need to give them hope for a better tomorrow. After leaving their successful business and working in an area that was surrounded by those in need, they witnessed the transformation of those who accepted the word of God and saw the possibility of a restored life. It was then that Harmony Foods Outreach was born.

Since that time, Harmony Foods has been able to provide food, clothes, resources and the word of God for a brighter future, all made possible by the donations of many generous donors, businesses and vendors. In addition to those who have donated their time and tangible donations, Harmony Foods spent a little over 4 years donating their time at a methadone clinic for those faced by the trials and tribulations of addiction. They were able to feed them monthly, which later progressed to twice a month. However, more than food, they gave them the power of love, the feeling of family and guidance and strength of prayer. Since launching, Harmony Foods has been able to host various events feeding the hungry throughout Orlando, providing the less fortunate with turkeys on Thanksgiving, toy drives during Christmas, table set giveaways for children in need, and daily food drop offs to elderly communities and those who were displaced and in need. Harmony Foods also participated in two mission trips, one to Cuba to uplift women in need and another in Nicaragua to spread the word of God by preaching for 4 days. Their love for the Lord spreads only by the ability of those in our community who give with their heart and use Harmony as a vessel to spread kindness and a love of the Lord.

For all they have done and continue to do to make Central Florida a better place for all of us, we salute and congratulate Nereida and Demetrio as our Auto Justice Community Heroes of the Month.

Sadly, as were publishing this, Demetrio passed away and went home to be with the Lord. All of us here at the firm, as well as the entire AutoJustice Community wish to extend our deepest condolences to Nereida. Know that in this difficult time, there is a large community thinking and praying for you, and we are all so grateful for the work Demetrio put in to make this world a better place for all. ■

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