

AME International

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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**LOVE**  
*~ amor & esperanza ~*  
**HOPE**



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# A LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

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Dear Friends,

After a two year break, on October 22nd, 2022 we were finally able to host our 6th annual Love. Hope. Dine. Fundraiser. It was a huge success and raised a total of \$28,637! Whether through corporate sponsorship, making a raffle basket, hosting a table, volunteering your time or simply attending, we are so grateful to all of those who supported this event. It was so nice to connect with donors and friends and share about all that has happened over the last two years.

The highlight of the night was Brenda. Brenda came to Love and Hope when she was just 4 years old, and she has been blazing a trail ever since. She has always been dedicated, determined, and ambitious. Brenda graduated in December with honors from Cleveland State University with a degree in Business Administration and a major in Accounting. She also applied and was approved for OPT (Optional Practical Training) and is already working for an accounting firm in Cleveland. I am so very proud of her!

Back in El Salvador, we celebrated Erika's High School graduation on November 18th. We are grateful for the extra support shown by two of her sponsors who traveled down to El Salvador to be there for this important day! Every graduation is a testament to the investment our donors have made in the lives of these kids. They couldn't do it without you!

As you know, our family moved back to the States in June 2022. While it's great to be "home", it's also hard to be away from "home." I'm grateful that there are so many ways to stay in touch, and that reaching out to the kids, or having them reach out to me, is as easy as picking up the phone. That said, there is no substitute for being together and we are already making plans for another visit as soon as possible!

As always, I thank you for your support, and invite you to stay with us on this journey in the coming year. When I look at Brenda graduating from college, or Erika graduating from High School, I know that I'm seeing the fruits of the seeds so many of you helped to plant many years ago.

With love and hope,



Rachel Sanson

Founder and Executive Director



# MINISTRY OVERVIEW

**LOVE & HOPE CHILDREN'S HOME CARES FOR ORPHANED, ABUSED, ABANDONED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN BY SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS IN A FAMILY SETTING.**

## MISSION AND VISION

Our home provides a strong spiritual environment in which children can come to know Jesus personally and seek after Him with their own lives. Through our staff, volunteers, counselors and guests we seek to provide solid examples of Godly living. We believe the best way to impact the children is to build relationships with them, invest in their lives, and guide them through their struggles. We recognize that every person must travel a different road to salvation and we want to walk beside each child, in love, for however long it takes.

Beyond every child at Love & Hope lies a family. We believe our mission extends into those families and that each child has the potential to become an agent of change in their own family. When a child enters our home, often their relationship with their family is dysfunctional, strained or broken. We work to restore broken relationships through counseling, therapy, visitations, and by providing ways for the family to be included in the children's lives even while they are separated. Our goal is for the children who enter Love & Hope to have a healthy and happy relationship with their families. We provide shelter, safety and support until they can be reunited.

We know that education is one of the most valuable assets we can give a child. We aim to be holistic educators by providing solid academic instruction as well as exposure to a wide variety of activities, opportunities, people and cultures. We want each child to understand their world and the world around them. We teach respect for one's own culture and the culture of others, but above all a respect and commitment to the culture of Christ. Academically, we want children to find the classroom a positive and rewarding place. Each child is matched with an educational environment that fits their individual learning style and cultivates an atmosphere of success. Our goal is to help each child reach their full potential and the place in life to which God has called them.

*We want to walk beside each child, in love, for however long it takes.*

Love & Hope is the work of God's Kingdom here on earth and we want to share that work with all who wish to serve. We view the home and its network of sponsors and supporters as a family. We want to create an environment in which sponsors can develop meaningful and lasting relationships with the children they support. We know that for all the needs the children may have, God has given them something to share with all of us.





# OUR CORE VALUES

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## **FAMILY**

God created us to live in loving, healthy relationships with one another viewing each individual as more important than the organization.

## **SIMPLICITY**

We believe when it comes to material items, less is more.

## **RESPECT**

We are created in God's image. We value the worth and dignity of each individual by showing genuine regard for their life and culture, and for God's creation by being good stewards of His earth.

## **GENUINE**

We strive for transparency, accountability and integrity in all of our words and actions

## **FAITH**

In all we do we seek to glorify God. We base our work on Biblical principles and our relationship with Jesus Christ while respecting and welcoming people of all faith backgrounds.

## **TEACHABLE**

We believe always seeking to learn more and broadening one's knowledge provides the tools for reaching one's full potential and for becoming a productive member of society.

# OUR PROGRAMS

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## LOVE & HOPE CHILDREN'S HOME

Over the last 19 years, Love and Hope has been home to over thirty-five children. In 2022 Love and Hope Children's Home began the year with six young people in our home. By the end of the year four of them had turned eighteen and moved into our transition program, Horizon Home.

I first became involved with Love and Hope Children's Home in 2005. Throughout the years, I have had the opportunity to volunteer in various capacities, including assisting in medical check-ups of the children. My wife and I currently support through financial contributions.

I am Salvadoran and have seen personally that the general framework within the country at children's homes such as these is very institutionalized and compartmentalized. In other words, when the child turns eighteen or leaves for various reasons, he is left on his own. The children who are raised in these homes are expected to survive independently without any additional support from the system that helps raise them. Love and Hope Children's Home realizes that this it is nearly impossible for a young person, for any person, to thrive without any support or encouragement. Love and Hope Children's Home realizes that a person does not become completely mature, independent and capable on their eighteenth birthday, without the love and support of a family. So Love and Hope Children's home provides what other homes in El Salvador often do not: a family, a place to go when there is no other place to go, and spiritual, emotional and financial support.

As a pediatrician, I also believe in the importance of addressing the individuality of each child. This is another area where Love and Hope Children's Home stands out, supporting each child as unique, with his or her own experiences and personalities and they nurture those differences.

The children that I once lifted into and out of high chairs have grown into successful and kind adults who continue to be supported and loved by the staff and volunteers of this wonderful organization, a testament to the strength and efficacy of this model.

Manuel Torres, MD

# OUR PROGRAMS

## HORIZONTE- THE HORIZON HOME

The Salvadoran government does not permit young people under eighteen years old to be in the same facility with young adults who have turned eighteen. The purpose of the Horizon Home is to provide a safe, supportive environment for our young people who have turned eighteen, are still in school, and need a little more assistance before they can be completely independent. Most young adults still lean on their parents during college and the years after. The Love and Hope kids are no different. We're here to support them and guide them through the transition into adulthood.

Moises is a great example to all the young adults at Horizonte. He takes every opportunity that comes his way and the result has been many doors opening for him. In 2022 Moises participated in the Creating Hope program from the Renacer Foundation. This foundation in El Salvador, funded through the Intercontinental Hotel, gives young people coming out of residential care twelve months of training in technical skills such as English, computing, programming, personal finance, as well as soft skills such as communication, teamwork, time management and psychological support during the process. Participants are placed in Salvadoran companies where they acquire real job experience, expand their abilities and hopefully land their first job. Moisés was able to complete this program while continuing his university studies in computer science. He has worked so hard and earned good grades. He also learned to drive and uses this skill to help out at Love and Hope whenever needed. After graduating from the Creating Hope program Moises was offered a job at the company where he had his internship. He is currently working on his second year of a 5 year degree in Computer Science.



As our young people grow and desire more freedom, some of them choose to move out. This is not only permitted, but encouraged! As long as they are achieving good grades and are keeping in touch, Love and Hope continues to support their education. It's bittersweet to see them finally reach the point we've been working towards all these years: independence.



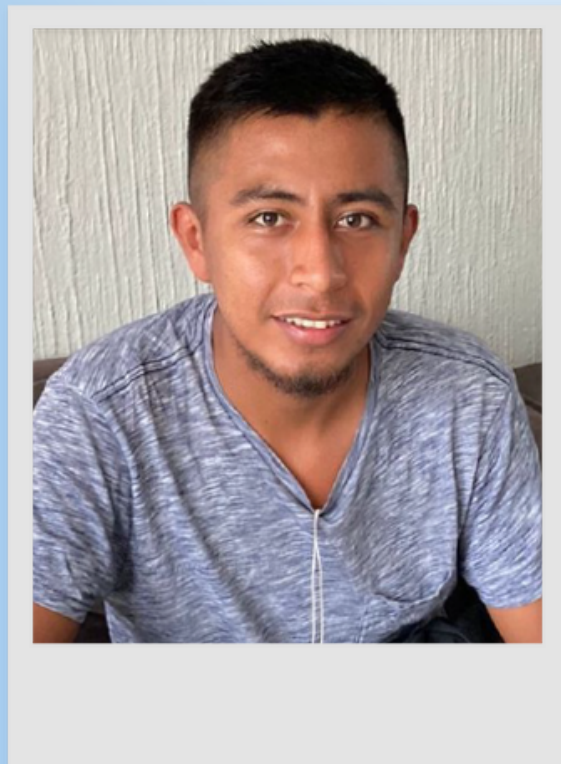
# OUR PROGRAMS

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## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In 2019 Gilberto Flores who worked for us for 10 years but had retired in 2013, came to visit Love and Hope with his grandson Edgar. When Edgar was young he often visited Love and Hope with his grandpa. But little Edgar was now graduating from high school at the top of his class. His grandfather was so proud of him. Rachel asked Edgar what his plans were for the following year and Edgar said he would begin searching for a job. When she asked if college was something he had considered, Edgar said it was a dream of his, but it was financially impossible for their family.

Love and Hope began supporting Edgar immediately and within a couple of weeks he started his college career. He has worked hard for over four years and at the end of 2023 Edgar will complete his five year program and graduate with a degree in Business administration.





# OUR PROGRAMS

## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Throughout 2022 Love and Hope continued to support families in need through monthly food and hygiene packs. We want to come alongside these families to help break the cycles of poverty.

This year we extended our donations to Antonia Salazar. At 75-years-old Antonia lives with her husband, her son and daughter-in-law and her two grandchildren in a humble home outside of Quezaltepeque. It's a long ride up a dirt road and through gang territory to reach the Salazar family.

This family is not new to Love and Hope. It was Antonia, Irene's grandmother, who came to Love and Hope asking for help when Irene was just ten months old and needed a safe home. After Irene came to Love and Hope most of our support went to Irene's mother, Roxana. While we still give monthly food and hygiene packages to Roxana, we discovered that Antonia was also in great need and in poor health. Love and Hope is sharing the Love of Jesus to Antonia and her family by helping out with the monthly cost of groceries for their household.





## 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

After three years we were able to bring back our annual Love. Hope. Dine. Fundraiser is 2022. It was such a beautiful night to celebrate all that God continues to do in the hearts and lives of the young people at Love and Hope.

Brenda, our special guest, did an amazing job telling her story. Here is a little piece of what she shared.

— “ —

*"The first day I came to Love and Hope - it was the first day I got to become a kid. It was also the first time I forgot I had brothers - not because I didn't like them but because they were always more my children than my siblings. Before I came to Love and Hope I was a mother to my brothers. I would find food for them, would teach them when they were wrong and hug them when they cried. In my eyes, they were my kids. But the day I came to Love and Hope I got to walk around and enjoy. That day I was a kid. That day I was Brenda - a sister who needed love and support. And Love and Hope gave me that. They gave me my childhood back."*

— ” —

In December Brenda graduated Summa Cum Laude from Cleveland State University with a degree in Business Administration. She was already offered a job with an accounting firm in Cleveland. We could not be more proud of all she has accomplished.

# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

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Erika also graduated in December from high school! She was excited to have a couple of her sponsors come to support and celebrate with her. Erika is excited to be starting the long journey of medical school. She dreams of being a pediatric neurosurgeon.



# IMPACTED LIVES



## HERBERTH

Herberth is in eleventh grade at the Panamerican School. He loves to play soccer and enjoys drawing. He would like to study Economics and go to college in another country. One of his favorite quotes is, "Every winner is a loser who never gave up." One of Herberth's goals for 2023 is to get a girlfriend!



## SALVADOR

Salvador "Chambita" is currently in sixth grade at La Rioja Training School. Apart from academic skills, he is also learning carpentry, sewing and cooking. Chamba would like to increase his computer skills and also be certified by the Ministry of Labor as a person with disabilities and be able to get a job using his computer skills. He hopes to one day work at a hardware store. Chamba would like to increase his English skills in 2023. His favorite Bible verse is Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."



## MOISES

Moises is currently in his second year of a five year program to earn a degree in computer science. After completing a twelve month internship/job prep program called "Creating Hope" Moises was offered a job at Fedicredit. He would like to be an engineer and work for a large company. He dreams of traveling by plane.

# IMPACTED LIVES



## JEFFERSON

Jefferson is almost twenty years old and is in his fourth year of University studying Graphic Design. He has been working at Starbucks for over a year now and would like to become a manager. He hopes to graduate from his five year University program in 2024. Jefferson recently took a big leap towards independence by moving out and is currently rooming with the twins. In his limited free time he enjoys reading and playing soccer. His favorite verse is Psalms 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."



## JACOBO

Jacobo is almost twenty-one and is in his fourth year of his five year Marketing and Publicity Major. In spite of his busy scheduling with work and school, he has maintained excellent grades and hopes to improve even more next year. He plans to earn his degree and get a job in his field of study. He would like to start his own business and have a family. He enjoys anime and likes to workout. A quote he believes in is "Eventually you become talented if you put in the hard work."



## ESAU

Esau is in his third year of University studying Economics. Esau enjoys working out and spending time with friends. He has recently become an avid reader and also values meditating. This year he has started writing a book. Esau and his twin brother, Jacobo, rent an apartment together. One of his favorite quotes is "Start by doing what's necessary, then do what's possible and before you know it, you'll be doing the impossible."

# IMPACTED LIVES



## ERIKA

Erika graduated in December of 2022. She is nineteen years old and is in her first year of medical school at the Evangelical University. Her goal is to become a pediatric neurosurgeon. In her free time Erika loves to swim and be active. One of her dreams is to travel to the U.S. One of her life quotes is "When you get knocked down, get up, don't give up."



## IRENE

Since Irene graduated in 2020 she has been learning different skills including baking. She also graduated from an Internship program through the Poma Foundation of the Intercontinental Hotel. There she learned about managing personal finances, skills in customer service, computer literacy as well as English. This year Irene began a course at the Fransisco Gavidia University for Interior Design. One of her goals for this year is to get good grades and continue working at La Despensa de Don Juan, a local grocery store where she is a cashier. Irene's favorite verse is Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."



## VANESSA

Vanessa graduated from high school in December of 2021. She is currently studying English and hopes to earn a scholarship to study in the United States. She wants to earn a degree and work in order to buy a home and be able to support a family. One of her favorite life quotes is "Focus on your purpose and you'll find your destiny." This year, one of her goals is to prepare more in order to be a successful person.

# IMPACTED LIVES

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## LINDA

Linda is 22 years old and is in her fourth year of college studying early childhood education. Her favorite Bible verse is Luke 1:37 "For with God nothing is impossible." Linda enjoys listening to music, taking walks and dancing. In 2023 she hopes to learn how to drive and someday would love to buy her own car.



## DANIEL

Daniel is seventeen and in 10th grade. He enjoys playing soccer with friends. He would like to do well in school this year and learn English. His favorite Bible verse is Isaiah 41:10 "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."



## ELISEO

Eliseo is a handsome fifteen year old. He lives with his biological mom, and Love and Hope supports his education as well as food for his family. He says he enjoys playing soccer and wants to do well in school and enjoy the year. One quote that inspires him is "Things don't turn out when desire and effort don't cooperate." He is working hard in school and hopes to one day be able to work to help support his family.

# THE LOVE AND HOPE STAFF

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Love and Hope would not be the same without out our tireless and dedicated staff. For years, they have poured themselves into our children and helped them navigate everything from home to friendships to all of life's biggest questions.



Sonia Rivera, Julio Ramirez, Larixa Parada and Paula Menjivar make up our caregiving staff.



Berencia Alberto - Social Worker, Rebeca Henriquez - Operations Director and Helen - Psychologist.



# AME BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**DAN LARLHAM**  
**PRESIDENT**

Dan was immersed in athletics from a young age, and quickly became infatuated with the game of football. After playing in high school, he finished his playing career at Baldwin Wallace College where he met a pretty girl that would later become his wife, Candace. After college, Dan became a high school teacher and football coach and has been doing the same coaching ever since.



**CANDACE LARLHAM**  
**VICE PRESIDENT**

Candace is a high school health teacher in Northeast Ohio. Her passion for Love and Hope started back in 2003 during Rachel's commissioning service. That service inspired her to visit Love and Hope many times, which has led to a deeper love for the people of the Home, the country, and the culture. She and her husband Dan have four boys and are foster parents, as well. Traveling to Love and Hope as a family is one of her greatest joys.



**RACHEL ROUTLEDGE**  
**SECRETARY**

Rachel has a passion for Love and Hope after first visiting in 2018. The ministry of AME inspired her so deeply that she now serves on our board. Rachel lives in Atlanta, GA with her husband, Chris, and 2 boys ages 8 and 6. She and her husband are also part of their local foster care community in Atlanta.



**RACHEL SANSON**  
**VOICE**

Rachel is the Founder and Executive Director of Love and Hope Children's home and serves on the board as a non-voting member. She is able to bring insight to the board on what is happening day to day in El Salvador and at Love and Hope. Rachel and her husband, Justin, have four children.



**SUSAN HUGHES**  
**BOOKKEEPER**

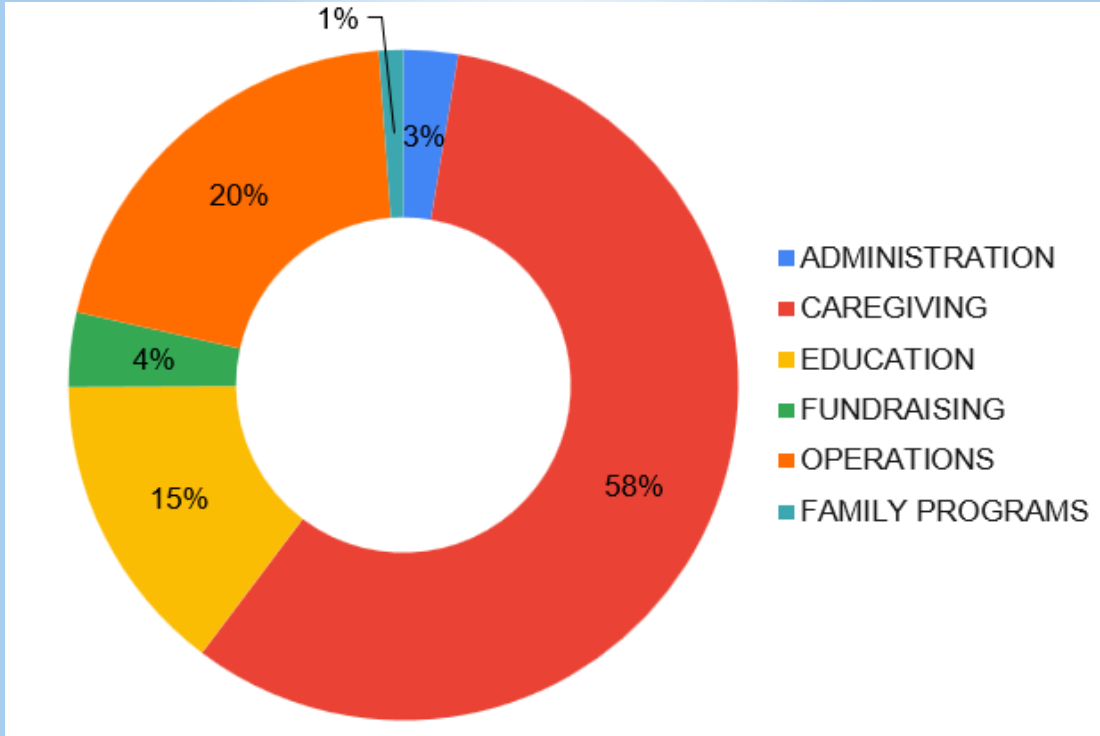
Susan has been volunteering for 12+ years and is responsible for recording and maintaining AME's daily financial transactions. She enjoys traveling, hiking, gardening and reading.

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Love and Hope works hard to make sure that our resources are directed towards programs and services that have the biggest impact on our kids, their families, and the community around us.

## HOW YOUR MONEY IS USED

96% of money spent by AME goes directly to the care of individuals.



## Funding Trends

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Monetary Donations to AME	\$339,932.86	\$385,609.07	\$303,175.67	\$257,007.36	\$187,032.68
In-Country (El Salvador) Donations	\$15,987.50	\$19,219.15	\$28,212.58	\$21,043.95	\$22,774.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$355,920.36</b>	<b>\$404,828.22</b>	<b>\$331,388.25</b>	<b>\$278,051.31</b>	<b>\$209,806.70</b>

In-country donations include both valued items and monetary donation that go directly to the Home but do not come through AME International. Other organizations and people in El Salvador believe in and support the ministry, and we are thankful for the generous support of individuals and businesses in the country we are serving.

# FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

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The days at Love and Hope are long.

I'm not sure I've ever been more tired than during a stay in El Salvador. My wife, Candace, and I have been to Love and Hope on mission nearly 10 times. We have organized the trips, the activities, the schedules. And we have followed those in leadership. We have stayed for one week, 10 days, two weeks, and a month. We have been down there to celebrate Easter, Christmas, during the dry season and during the rainy season. We've slept next to a volcano, dove through waves of the Pacific, and watched our friends eat cow eyeballs (I can explain). We've taken our boys, the children of others, and we've been able to watch the kids of Love and Hope grow from babies to grownups, from diapers to apartment leases, from the innocence of a child, to the challenges of an adult.

And the more things change with each trip and the passage of time, I find that the one constant is the seemingly longer Salvadoran day.

I'm sure the day is still 24 hours long in Santa Tecla, it just feels longer. A morning devotional or quiet time feels inadequate unless you were awake until the early morning sharing how you saw God work that day. And a solid night of sleep seems impossible on the thin mattresses covering the horizontal steel bars of the bunk beds from early in Love and Hope's existence. The beds are nicer now, but there are so few of them as the kids grow and transition and reunite with family.

And in between the early morning chores and the earlier morning reflections, the to-do list is incessant, never-ending, and vital to both our local community and the lives inside the walls of Love and Hope.

If you've never been to Love and Hope, I share that to help you picture a day in the life. If you have been to Love and Hope, I share that to help you remember those days fondly.

Whether singing along with toddler voices or driving to the grocery store to buy provisions, your day is full of "working for the Lord and not man." And, thus, it is filled with joy; maybe not always happiness or without challenge, but absolute joy.

And so, while the days are long, they seem too short. I need more time at the community serving rolls and hot chocolate. I need more crazy games played at risk of life and limb followed by a sharing of the Gospel. And I need more of the deep times in prayer that, at least for me, seem to only come when I am with my family in El Salvador.

Quite frankly, the days at Love and Hope are too short.

Dan Larlham  
John 3:30

# THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

**You are all part of our story.  
Your generosity makes an immediate  
and eternal impact on the children of  
El Salvador and their families.**



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