





AME International

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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*amor & esperanza*  
**HOPE**

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# A LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

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Dear Friends,

The beginning of each new year always reminds me of how faithful God has been to Love & Hope. In 2023 we reached a significant milestone in our journey - the youngest member of our Love & Hope family turned 18! This marks the end of an incredible adventure and cherished chapter as the Children's Home aspect of our organization will no longer be operating. While this may signify an end, it is also a new beginning, a turning of the page to embrace the opportunities that lie ahead.

For years we have been praying and asking for wisdom for what lies ahead for Love & Hope. I am so excited about how God is guiding us through this transitional time and opening doors that we hadn't considered to impact more lives than we could have imagined.

One initiative Love & Hope is expanding is our scholarship program. For over a decade, we have been serving an underprivileged community in El Salvador called "El Tanque," and now we are extending educational opportunities to young people from this community. Education has the power to break the cycle of poverty and empower individuals to pursue their dreams and achieve their goals. Through our expanded scholarship program, we aim to instill hope and create a brighter future for these young souls.

Love & Hope is forging meaningful partnerships with other like-minded organizations in El Salvador. We recognize that we cannot do this work alone; it takes collaboration and unity to make a lasting impact. By joining forces with these organizations, we can leverage our resources and expertise to serve even more effectively.

We are so grateful to our generous donors for their unwavering support of Love & Hope. Your contributions directly impact the lives of those we serve, creating a ripple effect that will resonate for generations to come. Your faithful support is the cornerstone of our mission, and we couldn't fulfill the calling without you. Thank you for partnering with us to spread love and hope in El Salvador.

With love and hope,



Rachel Sanson

Founder and Executive Director



# MINISTRY OVERVIEW

## MISSION AND VISION

*Love & Hope shares the love of Jesus with the people of El Salvador  
by embodying family ideals and prioritizing education*

Our ministry provides a strong spiritual environment in which individuals 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 make an impact is to build relationships, invest in lives, and guide individuals along their journey. We recognize that every person must travel a different road to salvation, and we want to walk beside each child, young person, or adult in love, for however long it takes.

Beyond every young person at Love & Hope lies a family. We believe our mission extends into those families and that each young person has the potential to become an agent of change in their own family. We work to restore broken relationships through counseling, therapy, and by addressing some of the needs and struggles that each individual faces. Our goal is that the young people at Love & Hope have a healthy and happy relationship with their families.

We know that education is one of the most valuable assets we can provide. We aim to be holistic educators by offering solid academic instruction as well as exposure to a wide variety of activities, opportunities, peoples and cultures. We want each student 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. We aim to provide students with the opportunity to pursue their individual dreams, goals, ambitions, and aspirations regardless of their economic circumstances. Our goal is to help each student reach their full potential and the place in life to which God has called them.

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 donors as a family. We want to create an environment in which supporters can develop meaningful and lasting relationships with the individuals they support.



# 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.

## **HUMILITY**

In material and posture, we believe that less is more.

## **RESPECT**

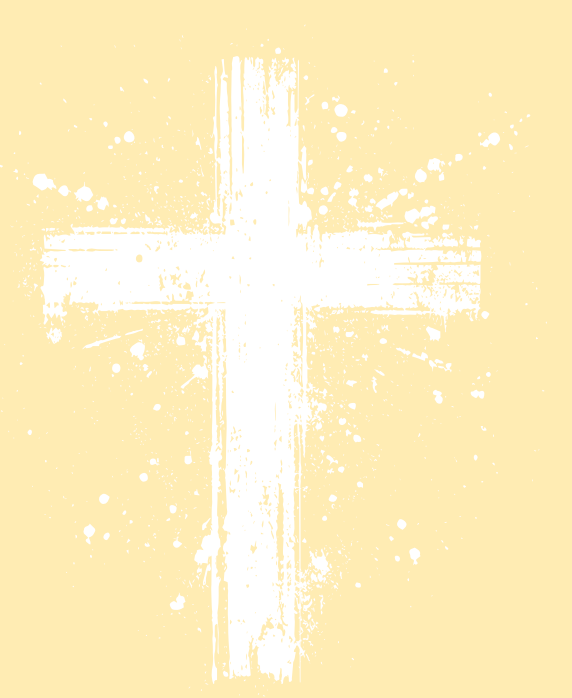
We are created in God's image. We value the worth and dignity of each individual by showing genuine regard for their life and culture, and for God's creation by being good stewards of His earth.

## **AUTHENTICITY**

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.



# OUR CORE PROGRAMS

## LOVE & HOPE CHILDREN'S HOME

In 2023, Love & Hope Children's Home began with just one remaining resident. Herberth turned eighteen in April and transitioned to the Horizon Home, signaling the end of our childcare program. This marked a significant shift in our ministry as we decreased from two homes down to one. While we bid farewell to our childcare program, we remain committed to supporting youth in El Salvador and exploring new avenues for impact and service.

## HORIZON HOME

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. Just like a typical family, it is our goal to see all the young people who grew up at Love & Hope Children's Home become successful, independent adults. Each one of them is unique, and they each have their own gifts, talents, struggles and obstacles. The Horizon Home is currently home to five young people who grew up at Love & Hope Children's Home and are on this journey towards independence. Due to different circumstances and disabilities, total independence may not be feasible for all the kids at the Horizon Home, and we continue to ask God for provision in order to care for them as long as needed.

## LOVE & HOPE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

As our young people grow and desire more independence, 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 & Hope continues to support their education. In 2023, four of the young people who previously lived at Love & Hope but are now living independently, continued to receive full scholarships to continue their higher education journey.

Over the years, other kids have moved out, not by choice but because they are placed back with their biological families by the Salvadoran child welfare system. These kids may leave our home, but they will always remain part of the Love & Hope family. We continue to support their education by sending them to private schools near their home, as well as providing uniforms, school supplies, transportation and whatever else they need to successfully continue their academic journey.



# OUR CORE PROGRAMS

## LOVE & HOPE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

When Love & Hope identifies a hardworking, gifted student who lacks the financial ability to pay for college, we love to give them this opportunity. In 2023, Love & Hope took strides to expand our scholarship program, aiming to reach more young individuals in need of educational support. We formalized our application process and extended invitations to the youth of El Tanque Community, broadening our scope of impact. As a result, we awarded half-scholarships to two young ladies and a full scholarship to another young woman. They commenced their classes in January 2024. This expansion reflects our commitment to empowering youth through education and creating opportunities for personal and academic growth within underserved communities. We are excited about the potential of these scholarships to transform lives and uplift communities, embodying our mission to spread love, hope, and opportunity.



## FAMILY OUTREACH

Love & Hope Family Outreach goes beyond providing academic opportunities; our highly trained and educated staff assess families to identify needs and determine the most effective ways to address them. Through personalized support, we aim to empower families to overcome challenges and achieve their full potential.

Love & Hope provides funds to ensure families have access to adequate healthcare. In some cases, this includes covering expenses for doctor's visits, transportation to appointments, and necessary medications. By prioritizing their health and well-being, we strive to enhance the overall quality of life for the families we support.

We understand the importance of nutrition and basic household necessities for families in need. That's why Love & Hope offers food baskets containing essential staples like rice, beans, milk, eggs, bread, and meat. Additionally, we supply personal hygiene items such as toilet paper, toothpaste, soap, as well as cleaning supplies like laundry soap, dish soap, and floor cleaner. These provisions alleviate financial burdens and promote a healthier living environment.

Furthermore, Love & Hope provides ongoing support and counseling services to families facing various challenges. Our dedicated social worker maintains regular communication with families, meeting with them monthly to address any issues they may encounter. In times of greater need, families have access to professional counseling services, ensuring they receive the comprehensive support needed to thrive.

# 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

## All Grown Up!

After 21 years of dedicated service, Love & Hope Children's Home recently celebrated a significant milestone as our youngest child in the home, Herberth, reached the age of eighteen. Though Love & Hope Children's Home will no longer operate, our ministry remains active and committed to serving the youth of El Salvador. We are excited about many new opportunities ahead and grateful for the continued support of our donors and partners as we transition into this next chapter.

## Another Renacer Grad

In December 2023, Chamba graduated from Renacer. Funded by the Puma Foundation, Renacer provides essential training and job experience to young people in El Salvador who have grown up at Children's Homes, empowering them for the transition into the workforce. Chamba joins many other graduates from Love & Hope Children's Home who have benefited from this same program. Love & Hope is grateful to have the support of the Poma Foundation in creating meaningful pathways to success for young people like Chamba.

## Thanksgiving Reunion

The Love & Hope family experienced a heartwarming reunion over Thanksgiving, with nearly all our "children" in attendance. Several of them have transitioned into parenthood themselves, bringing their own little ones along. It was an evening filled with joy as we laughed, shared memories, and got caught up on everyone's lives. As we look ahead, we eagerly anticipate continuing to nurture these relationships, watching the young people who grew up at Love & Hope and their families flourish and grow.



## Mi Lugar Seguro

As the culmination of Love & Hope Children's Home approached, we spent a lot of time praying and reflecting on how we can continue to utilize the resources and experience we've gained to address the needs in El Salvador. One area we felt passionate about was providing a daycare and after school program for kids whose parents work and cannot afford child-care. Many parents in this situation are either forced to leave kids alone at home, take them along with them to unsafe workplaces or leave them with unreliable caregivers.

We began taking initial steps to establish a daycare program in Santa Tecla. Through discussion with our board in El Salvador and meeting with the Mayor's office of Santa Tecla, we learned about a national initiative requiring daycare programs in workplaces with over 100 employees. Understanding that daycare facilities across the country will be increasing, we pivoted our approach. Instead, we opted to forge a partnership with an established NGO already fulfilling the very mission we envisioned.

Mi Lugar Seguro (My Safe Place) is a daycare, now expanded to include kindergarten and 1st grade, situated in an underprivileged community in Zaragoza. We are enthusiastic about this collaboration and eager to contribute to the meaningful work already underway.



# THE LIVES YOU'VE IMPACTED

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## HERBERTH

Herberth is 18 years old and is a senior at CEFAS high school. On Saturdays he attends English classes at the American School. Herberth's dream is to graduate from high school with good grades and obtain a scholarship abroad. He wants to study Finance.



## SALVADOR

Salvador is 19 years old and studying to be a baker at the Agasal Academy. He also attends a Life Skills program at the Inclusive Vision Center for Training and Development, where they work on different areas to stimulate, develop, and prepare him for life. Salvador is doing an internship at a nearby tailor shop on Thursdays and Fridays. One of Salvador's dreams is to have his own bakery business.



## MOISES

Moisés is 20 years old and is in his second year in his pursuit of becoming a Computer Science Engineer. He studies at Don Bosco University. After completing an internship, Moisés was offered a part time job in customer service at Credicomer. Moisés' dream is to graduate from university and obtain work in his field as a computer engineer.



## JEFFERSON

Jefferson is 21 years old and is currently in his fourth year of the Advertising Graphic Design program at Francisco Gavidia University. All bachelor degrees in El Salvador are five year programs, so he has one year to go. Jefferson is doing social service for the Ministry of Labor in creating advertising and content on social media for different entrepreneurs. Jefferson also works part time at a call center called TELUS.

# THE LIVES YOU'VE IMPACTED

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## JACOBO

Jacobo is 22 years old and is currently in his fourth year of a five year degree in Marketing and Advertising at Francisco Gavidia University. He is working as a marketing assistant intern for a corporation that owns two restaurant franchises (Los Ranchos and Puyas). One of Jacobo's short-term dreams is to complete his degree with honors, grow in knowledge and experience, both personally and professionally and enter the world of marketing. He would like to do this in another country to make his growth more enriching.



## ESAÚ

Esaú is 22 years old and is currently in his second year pursuing his Bachelor's degree in Economics at the Central American University José Simón Cañas. After completing an internship at a nonprofit called FUSAI, Esaú was asked to come on staff as a Junior Economic Researcher. Esaú hopes to excel as an economist and also aspires to write insightful books that explore the intricacies of human interaction with the economy and society at large.



## ERIKA

Erika is 20 years old and graduated from high school in 2021. She is currently studying English at the American School. She hopes to start medical school at Matías Delgado University very soon. Erika volunteers at Monteforte Kindergarten in the homework club. It is Erika's dream to become a neurosurgeon.



## IRENE

Irene is 20 years old and is currently taking baking classes through the Marte Filius Home for Single Moms where she awaits the birth of her baby girl.

# THE LIVES YOU'VE IMPACTED

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## LINDA

Linda is 21 years old and is in her third year of Early Childhood Education and Kindergarten at the Specialized Institute of Higher Education "El Espíritu Santo." She is working part-time at States Diner restaurant in customer service. Linda's dream is to finish her degree, be independent, and have her own house.



## MICHELL

Michell is working at TELUS Call Center and also taking French classes. She hopes that becoming fluent in French will allow her to get a more lucrative position in the Call Center. Michell also plays soccer for one of the National Women's teams in El Salvador.



## ELISEO

Eliseo left Love & Hope to be reunited with his mother when he was 9 years old. Because of the poor quality of education in the small rural school near Eliseo's family's home, Love & Hope has provided him with a scholarship to attend a private school a few miles away. Eliseo is now fifteen years old and is in ninth grade. His short-term goal is to finish ninth grade with good grades and to start tenth grade next year.



## EDGAR

Edgar is currently completing his thesis and will graduate in December from the Panamerican University with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Edgar is 22 years old and works part time as a driver. Edgar's short-term goal is to finish his university studies and in the long term, to have his own business or company to put his knowledge into practice.

# THE LIVES YOU'VE IMPACTED

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## JOHANNA

Johanna is 18 years old and is in her final year of high school. Johanna is completing a program where she is specializing in primary health care at the Catholic Educational Complex Doctora María Julia Hernández. Johanna's dream is to study medicine and become a doctor.



## DAYANA

Dayana is 20 years old. She is currently a first year student of Industrial Engineering at Don Bosco University with a half-scholarship from Love & Hope. Dayana's dream is to complete her degree and have a good job where she can continue to progress.



## MÓNICA

Mónica is 18 years old. She is studying her first year in Fashion Design at Francisco Gavidia University with a full scholarship from Love & Hope. Mónica's dream is to be a successful Fashion designer.



## YERARDY

Yerardy is 22 years old. Upon graduating high school she began college but after two years was forced to stop due to her economic circumstances. In 2023 Yerardy applied for a scholarship from Love & Hope to continue to pursue her dreams of earning a degree in corporate finance. She was given a half-scholarship and is now half-way through her third year at Dr. José Matías Delgado University. Yerardy's goal is to achieve a rewarding job in the professional field of finance. Additionally, she hopes to have the opportunity to acquire her own home, explore different destinations by traveling, and enjoying some of life's comforts.

# MEET THE LOVE & 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.



Bernice Alberto (Social Worker), Sonia Rivera (Caregiver), Larixa Parada (Caregiver),  
and Rebeca Henriquez (Operations Director)

# 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 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.



**KATIE SMITH**  
**SECRETARY**

Katie joined the board in 2023. With experience in marketing, communications, and international business, she works part-time as a Communications Manager with the City of New Franklin and volunteers with a few organizations near and dear to her heart. She looks forward to introducing her own family, her husband and 3 kids, to the Love and Hope family.



**SUSAN HUGHES**  
**BOOKKEEPER**

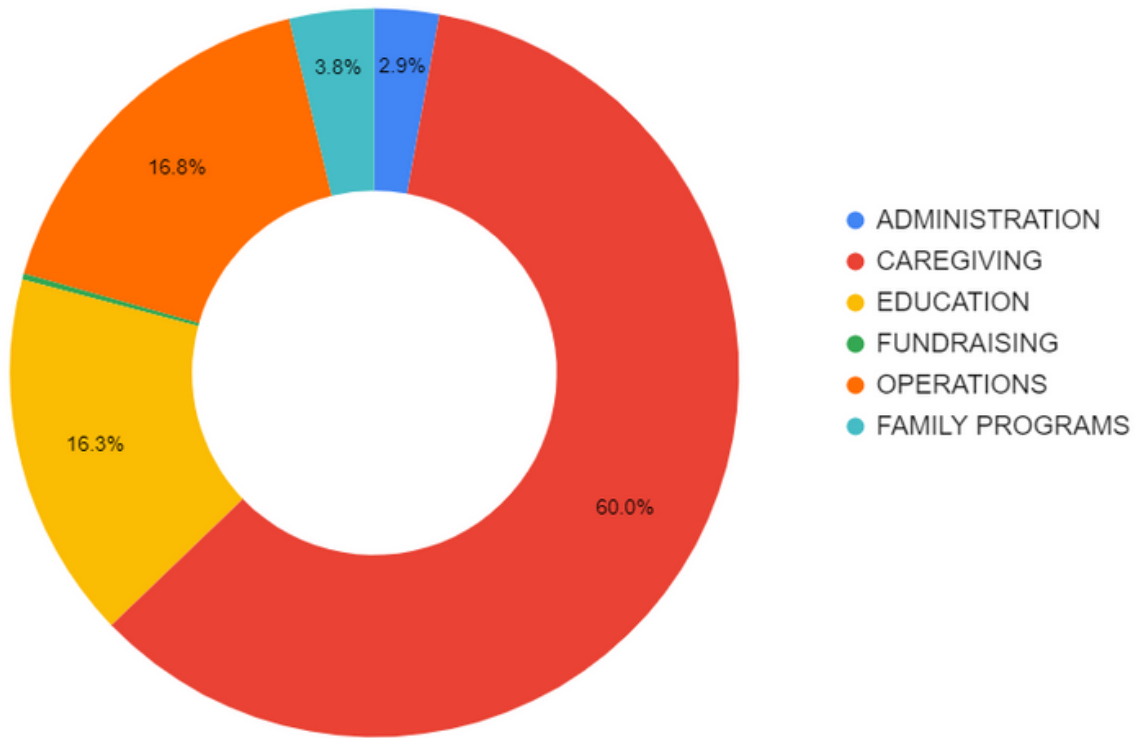
Susan has been volunteering for 12+ years and is responsible for recording and maintaining AME's daily financial transactions. She enjoys traveling, hiking, gardening and reading.

# 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	2023
Monetary Donations to AME	\$339,932.86	\$385,609.07	\$303,175.67	\$257,007.36	\$187,032.68	\$157,326.49
In-Country (El Salvador) Donations	\$15,987.50	\$19,219.15	\$28,212.58	\$21,043.95	\$22,774.02	\$19,163.67
Total	\$355,920.36	\$404,828.22	\$331,388.25	\$278,051.31	\$209,806.70	\$176,490.16

In-country donations include both valued items and monetary donations 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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In January of 2020, my wife and I were celebrating the birth of our fourth boy as we were putting the finishing touches on the plans for a trip to Love & Hope mid-March. We would again be leading a team of high school students and again be traveling with all of our boys. It would have been the first time that we traveled as a family of six, and Abram's big brothers were excited to show his newborn eyes all about their favorite place and people.

Then, of course, Covid happened. In fact, it was a mere week before we were scheduled to depart when the Salvadoran government closed their borders and we were left wondering when we would return. The trip had become an annual tradition for the Larlhams, so it makes sense that the only thing keeping us from heading back was a global pandemic

Over the last few years, our family has seen some changes, and our family vacation to El Salvador has been sidelined. But, as I promised my wife Candace the first time we drove away from Love & Hope together in 2007, "we'll be back."

And so, my now four year old little boy is old enough to excitedly tell everybody he meets that we are going to El Salvador this summer. He doesn't understand how a calendar works, so he follows that up by asking one of us, "Is it summer yet?"

To be clear, my family, along with the other members of AME's Board of Directors, are excited to announce that we will be in El Salvador this summer exploring and planning some of Love & Hope's next steps.

Very personally, the Larlhams are using some time prior to the arrival of the entire Board to rekindle some old relationships and visit with our Salvadoran family members. It's been too long. But, when you promise people that "we'll be back," they don't forget.

Abram's big brothers, Gideon, Judah, and Titus have peppered me since 2020. Candace, as patient as anyone I know, seemingly gave up hope that our family would return.

But as Love & Hope transitions and seeks new ways to tell people about Jesus, this trip for our Board Members marks a key step in the process. And I'm so excited to see the eventual fruits of our labor.

It's time to roll up our sleeves and get to work. It was shared with me once, "if you're going to pray for rain, you better till the field." After all, 20 years of growth doesn't happen by accident. Hard work, unending prayers, and boundless grace have preceded God's inimitable and indefatigable providence.

So then, in 20 years, my own boys may be planning trips like this summer. And they will be answering and re-answering the same questions hundreds of times as the tiny little hands of their own children look for El Salvador on a globe.

To us, "we'll be back" is more than a promise; it's a practice. And I'm thankful you'll be able to join us along the way.

With Love & Hope,  
Dan Larlham