

AME International

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



LOVE
~ amor & esperanza
HOPE



-  contact@ame-intl.org
-  contact@loveandhopechildrenshome.com
-  loveandhopechildrenshome.com
-  facebook.com/LoveHopeHome

AME International
PO Box 670631
Northfield, Ohio 44067

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A LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

It has been one of the greatest privileges of my life to watch the children of Love & Hope grow—not only in age but in resilience, faith, and character. Over the years, I've witnessed God move in profoundly powerful ways. We've seen His provision in supernatural ways—financially, emotionally, and spiritually—and it is nothing short of miraculous. I've seen children who came to us broken and hurting, healed from the most horrific experiences. The changes we've witnessed in their lives are inexplicable by human standards, and the only answer is that God has been fighting for His children every step of the way.

As our young people transition into adulthood, our focus has shifted toward mentoring, discipling, and preparing them for independence—particularly through education and career development. It is inspiring to see them rise to new challenges, grounded in the love of God and the community that has supported them. I am continually reminded that He is the one who sustains us, who has brought us this far, and who will continue to guide us in the years to come.

Though my family and I no longer live in El Salvador, we remain deeply connected to Love & Hope. This past year, I had the privilege of spending over six weeks reconnecting with our Love & Hope family, seeing firsthand how God is moving and building new partnerships that will continue to strengthen our mission to care for “the least of these.” Each visit reinforces my belief in the truth of Psalm 68:5: “He is a father to the fatherless,” and we are humbled to be a part of that divine calling.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of so many people who have walked with us over the years. Your continued commitment is helping to shape the lives of these young men and women, empowering them to become all that God has called them to be. Our work is not finished, and I'm so thankful you are with us as we continue to walk this path, trusting that God will provide and lead us every step of the way.

With deep gratitude,

Rachel Sanson

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

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 2024, Love & Hope transitioned from our previous childcare model to focus exclusively on supporting young adults. With the completion of our childcare program, we no longer provide residential care for minors. Our last resident, Herberth, turned eighteen in April 2023 and successfully moved to the Horizon Home, where we now focus on mentoring and empowering young adults as they take steps toward independence. This transition marks a significant shift in our ministry, and while we no longer operate two homes, we remain deeply committed to supporting children, youth, and young adults in El Salvador. We continue to explore new ways to make an impact ensuring that Love & Hope's mission remains as strong and relevant as ever.

HORIZON HOME

The Horizon Home is a place of support, growth, and opportunity for the young people who have aged out of Love and Hope Children's Home. For some, the Horizon Home serves as a stepping stone from childhood to adulthood—a stable, nurturing environment where they can continue their education and start building their careers. For others, it provides a long-term home when they are unable to live independently due to cognitive disabilities or mental health obstacles. No matter the path, the Horizon Home is a place where these young people can find support, stability, and the tools they need to thrive.

The Horizon Home is currently home to five young people who grew up at Love & Hope Children's Home. Depending on where they are in their journeys towards independence, Love & Hope provides a range of support. As they near independence, they are asked to take on responsibility for certain expenses such as personal care products and transportation. Those who are working are asked to save 50% of their income while they reside at the Horizon Home. Many of the kids have used these savings to purchase a vehicle or to cover the first couple of months of rent when they move out. It also teaches them the importance of budgeting and saving while their expenses are still minimal.



LOVE & HOPE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

As our young people grow and desire more independence, some choose to move out. This is not only permitted but encouraged when they're ready. As long as they are achieving good grades and are keeping in touch, Love & Hope continues to support their education. Four from our Love & Hope home are living independently and continuing to receive full scholarships to continue their higher education journey.

Over the years, some kids have been placed back with their biological families by the Salvadoran child welfare system. Although they leave our home they will always remain part of the Love & Hope family. We continue to support their education by sending them to private schools near their homes, and providing uniforms, school supplies, transportation and other needs so they can successfully continue their academic journey.

When a child is placed back into their biological family and placed in a safe, private school, we give the family the opportunity to have any other kids in their household attend the same school. Johanna, whose cousin Aly grew up at Love & Hope, has been a scholarship recipient since 2018. She graduated from high school this past December and will continue to receive support as she begins her college career in pursuit of her dream of becoming a nurse.

When Love & Hope identifies a hardworking, gifted student who lacks the financial ability to pay for college, we love to give them the opportunity. In 2024, we offered scholarships to four young people from underprivileged communities. We are passionate about the opportunity 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, as well as personal hygiene items and cleaning supplies. 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.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

AME Board Vision Trip

This year, the AME Board of Directors had the invaluable opportunity to visit El Salvador to see the ministry of Love & Hope firsthand. During their short but impactful four-day trip, board members spent time with the young adults and staff at the Horizon Home, witnessing the positive impact of our programs. The trip also included visits to key partners, such as My Safe Place and the opportunity to meet some of our scholarship students, as well as potential future collaborators, further strengthening our network of support.



The visit provided our board members with a deeper understanding of the work Love & Hope is doing on the ground and the significant difference it makes in the lives of those we serve. This experience has deepened their commitment to the mission, enhancing their ability to support and advocate for the organization as they are now more directly connected to the people and programs they are helping to support. It also reinforced the importance of having board members who are fully informed and invested in the ministry's ongoing work and future growth.

2024 High School Grad

At the end of 2024 Herberth graduated from high school at CEFAS Christian School. He was awarded a 50% scholarship to The American College based on his excellent grades. After two years he will graduate with an associate degree in Business Administration. He is thrilled to have this opportunity which he hopes will open a door to finish his college education getting a bachelor's degree at a university in the U.S.



Expanding our Scholarships Program

This year, we are proud to welcome Natasha as one of our new scholarship students. At 19 years old, Natasha is pursuing a degree in International Relations. She dreams of one day using her education to support her parents and give back to those who have supported her throughout her life. Natasha's commitment to her studies and her strong sense of responsibility make her an inspiring example of the potential we see in so many of the young adults we support.

Mi Lugar Seguro

In 2024, Love & Hope continued our valued partnership with My Safe Place, a daycare and kindergarten dedicated to supporting children from very poor families. Through our annual "Love. Hope. Dine." event and additional fundraising efforts throughout the year, we were able to contribute to the first phase of My Safe Place's expansion. This phase included the construction of two new classrooms, two bathrooms, an office space, and a multipurpose area enabling My Safe Place to accommodate more children and further enhance the quality of care and education provided. We are excited to see this growth and are grateful for the continued partnership. Looking ahead to 2025, we remain committed to supporting My Safe Place as it further impacts the lives of young children and their families in Zaragoza, El Salvador.



THE LIVES YOU'VE IMPACTED

HORIZON HOME RESIDENTS



Linda Henriquez

Linda, 24 years old, is studying Early Childhood Education and Preschool Teaching and plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in the same field. She currently works at States Diner, balancing a busy schedule with her passion for education. Linda's future goal is to secure a job related to her studies, become independent, and eventually purchase her own home. She is dedicated to building a better future for herself and her family.



Moisés Chávez

Moisés, 21, is studying Computer Science Engineering and attends classes Monday through Friday. In addition to his studies, he supports Love & Hope by driving, assisting with grocery shopping, and taking the kids and staff to appointments. Moisés is determined to graduate and work in his field, using his skills to contribute to his community and secure a stable future.



Herberth Joya

At 19, Herberth is pursuing a degree in Business Administration at American College. He volunteers teaching English classes at the college and is passionate about education. His future aspirations include studying abroad and obtaining a degree that will help him secure a good job. Herberth is focused on his personal and professional growth and is determined to make a positive impact through his career.



Salvador Henriquez

Salvador, 20, participates in the "Visión Inclusiva" (Vision Inclusive) Program to enhance his cognitive abilities and life skills. He engages in a variety of activities to strengthen his logic, reasoning, and adaptability. Salvador also enjoys playing soccer and making bread on Saturdays for the Love & Hope family to enjoy. One of his aspirations is to work in a bakery, and he is determined to build a future that brings him joy and stability.



Erika Joya

Erika, 22, is an active volunteer at the Red Cross and participates in kickboxing and art classes. She is planning to begin pursuing a degree in medicine in June with the goal of becoming a doctor. Erika is dedicated to her personal growth and is focused on achieving her dream of helping others through a medical career.



Irene Sanchez

Love & Hope connected Irene with Mater Filius, a Catholic charity that offers a safe space and support for single women during pregnancy and through the first 8 months after birth. Irene's special needs make it challenging for her to provide Noely with adequate care, which led Love & Hope to offer the Horizon Home as a safe and supportive place for Irene and Noely to live. Irene is 21 years old and works in food prep at Papa John's.

THE LIVES YOU'VE IMPACTED

LOVE & HOPE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Esau Chávez

Esau, 23, is studying Economics and works at FUSAI as a researcher and project developer. In the future, he plans to pursue a master's degree in Mathematics or Physics and eventually a Ph.D. in Economics or Sociology. Esau is committed to furthering his education and career, with personal aspirations to grow and live a fulfilling life while contributing to his field.



Jacobo Chávez

Jacobo, 23, is studying Marketing and Advertising and takes virtual classes on Fridays. He works at Mercaplan during the week and on Saturdays, gaining valuable professional experience. Jacobo aims to obtain his professional degree, continue working in his field, and grow personally. His goal is to develop new hobbies, live life to the fullest, and continue to excel in his career.



Eliseo Pérez

Eliseo is a 16-year-old high school student. He spends his mornings at school and is also actively involved in volunteering. As part of his community work, he participates in a program that teaches soccer to children from first to sixth grade, helping young players develop their skills and passion for the sport. His commitment to both academics and volunteer work highlights his dedication to personal growth and supporting others.



Jefferson Molina

Jefferson, 22, is studying Advertising & Graphic Design while balancing work at an English-speaking call center. He attends classes from Tuesday to Friday in the early mornings, dedicating himself to both his education and work. In the future he would like to be a tattoo artist and is eager to develop his skills in that art form.



THE LIVES YOU'VE IMPACTED

EXTERNAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Natasha Ponce

Natasha, 19, is studying International Relations and helps her mother sell juice and pastries in the afternoons at a nearby park. With a strong desire to support her family, Natasha is working hard to build a successful future. She is focused on finding a good job that will allow her to help her parents thrive and continue her studies in the field of international relations.



Yerardy Luna

Yerardy, 23, is in her seventh semester of Business Finance studies and is also learning English at the European Academy. She is passionate about developing her skills and aims to work as a financial manager at a bank. Yerardy dreams of opening her own financial consultancy to help businesses and individuals with financial planning.



Johanna Brizuela

Johanna, 19, is a nursing student dedicated to her education and community service. She is a freshman in college pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. Passionate about maternal and neonatal care, Johanna aspires to graduate with honors and specialize in this field. In addition to her academic commitments, she actively volunteers with the Red Cross, where she takes on night shifts every Monday from 6:00 PM to 6:00 AM. Her dedication to both learning and service reflects her commitment to making a meaningful impact in the healthcare field.



Edgar Flores

In 2024, Edgar graduated with a degree in Business Administration, marking a significant milestone as the first in his family to earn a college degree. He is deeply grateful to Love & Hope for providing him with the opportunity to pursue his education and achieve this accomplishment.



THE LIVES YOU'VE IMPACTED

LOVE & HOPE ALUMNI



Raquel Vasquez

Raquel is a devoted stay-at-home mom to her two children, Fiorella and Matteo. Five-year-old Fiorella is in kindergarten and sweet baby Matteo was born in February 2024. With Nestor working, Raquel is able to focus on raising their beautiful kids and managing their home. She has also made passing down her English skills to her kids a priority.



Jocelyn Flores

Jocelyn has a degree in Language and Translation and works from home for an English-speaking call center. She and her partner, Gustavo, have a beautiful three-year-old daughter, Camila. Jocelyn is such a wonderful, loving mother and manages work and parenting with great dedication.



Michell Molina

Michell, 25, works for an English-speaking call center. Passionate about fitness and health, she stays active through daily workouts and soccer and loves practicing healthy nutrition. Beyond work, she gives back by volunteering to teach English to underprivileged children, combining her skills with her commitment to helping others.



Vanessa Molina

Vanessa works at an English-speaking call center and enjoys listening to music in her free time. Living near Love & Hope, she takes advantage of the proximity to visit often and helps out wherever she can.



Brenda Albert

Brenda met Dominic Albert while completing her accounting degree at Cleveland State University, and the two were married in 2023. She now works as a senior tax accountant at Meaden and Moore Accounting Firm. The Alberts recently purchased a home in North Royalton, where they have settled in with their two cats Whelkie and Cherry Pie.



Ezequiel Joya

Ezequiel is 22 years old and is studying Systems Engineering at the Pedagogical University. He attends classes in the morning and works at Concentrix in the afternoon. Ezequiel loves to attend all our "family gatherings" and visit with his Love & Hope family.



Isaac Vasquez

Isaac, 25, works for a small transportation company and lives with his father and grandmother. A passionate foodie and avid gamer, he enjoys exploring different cuisines and spending free time playing video games. His all-time favorite game is Super Smash Bros which he started playing as a young boy at Love & Hope.

MEET THE LOVE & HOPE STAFF

Love & Hope would not be the same without 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



Larixa



Berenice



Rebeca

Sonia Rivera, Caregiver

Sonia Rivera de Ramos is a caregiver at Love & Hope with a degree in Social Work. She enjoys traveling and sharing experiences with her family. She is dedicated to her walk with the Lord and loves to spend time with her family. She has been working at Love & Hope for nine years. She is passionate about the organization's Christian values and its focus on helping young people succeed.

Larixa Parada, Caregiver

Larixa works as a caregiver at Love & Hope. She enjoys cooking, particularly making desserts and birthday cakes. With over 17 years of experience, Larixa has been a dedicated support and mentor for the kids at the Home, taking pride in their growth. She is grateful to God for the opportunity to be part of the team, which has helped her achieve milestones such as buying a house and finishing her education. Working at Love & Hope has been a blessing, especially during the difficult time of losing her mother, when the kids provided great support. Larixa believes God placed her in this role to guide and teach positive values.

Berenice Alberto, Social Worker

Johanna Alberto is an administrative professional and head of scholarship programs at Love & Hope. She holds a degree in Social Work and enjoys music, family time, and learning new things. Her achievements include completing her degree, building a family, and learning soap-making. She views her role at Love & Hope as a way to serve others and grow spiritually, helping young people and families progress toward their goals.

Rebeca Henriquez, Operations Director

Rebeca is the Operations Director at Love & Hope and has a degree in Public Accounting. She enjoys family trips, gardening, reading, and watching documentaries. Her achievements include earning a scholarship to complete her degree, fostering a God-centered family, gaining the trust of program participants, and promoting teamwork. She finds fulfillment in supporting those in need and transforming lives through the love of Jesus Christ.

AME BOARD OF DIRECTORS



DAN LARLHAM
PRESIDENT

Dan is a high school math teacher and football coach in Northeast Ohio. His first trip to Love & Hope was in 2007 and he has been leading teams of high school students ever since. Trips to Love & Hope always include his wife and boys as the Larlhams consider the wonderful people of El Salvador to be family. Playing basketball with the locals in the park and a plate full of pupusas are some of Dan's favorite experiences in El Salvador.



CANDACE LARLHAM
VICE-PRESIDENT

Candace is a high school health teacher in Northeast Ohio. Her passion for Love & Hope started back in 2003 during Rachel's commissioning service. That service inspired her to visit Love & 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 & Hope as a family is one of her greatest joys.



RACHEL SANSON
VOICE

Rachel is the Founder and Executive Director of Love & 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 & 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 three kids, to the Love & Hope family.



SUSAN HUGHES
BOOKKEEPER

Susan has been volunteering for 14+ years and is responsible for recording and maintaining AME's daily financial transactions. She enjoys traveling, hiking, gardening and reading.



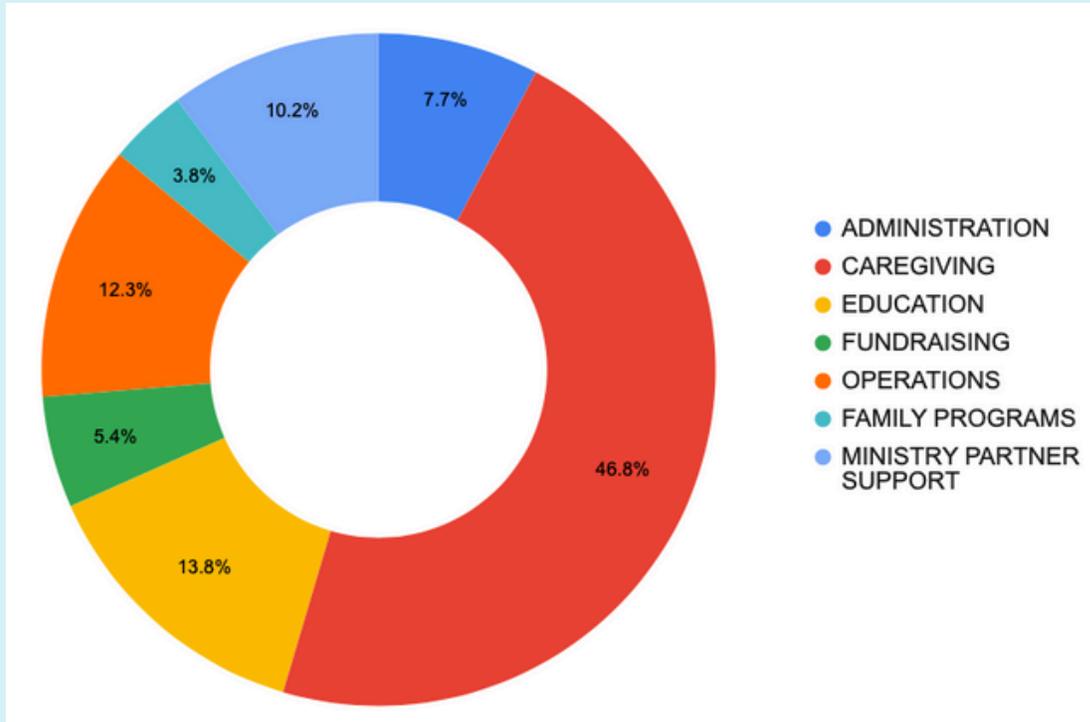
JUSTIN KLUBNIK
VOICE

Justin is a computer programmer with a passion for problem-solving and innovation. Having served at Love & Hope in El Salvador for many years, he brings a valuable perspective to the AME Board. He and his wife Rachel (founder of Love & Hope), have four children. Justin enjoys reading and spending time outdoors.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Love & 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



Funding Trends

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Monetary Donations to AME	\$385,609.07	\$303,175.67	\$257,007.36	\$187,032.68	\$157,326.49	\$149,584.21
In-Country (El Salvador) Donations	\$19,219.15	\$28,212.58	\$21,043.95	\$22,774.02	\$19,163.67	\$15,549.25
Total	\$404,828.22	\$331,388.25	\$278,051.31	\$209,806.70	\$176,490.16	\$165,133.46

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



Throughout the last 20+ years of Love & Hope in El Salvador, it would be an understatement to say that the hands and feet God entrusted with His work were exhausted. To be sure, some of the Godliest people I know have dedicated their lives carrying out His call to love the beautiful hearts and minds of Love & Hope Children's Home, the communities of El Tanque and Quetzaltepeque, the homeless populations of Santa Tecla and Nejapa. But these Godly people get tired; they get frustrated, overwhelmed, and afraid.

Nevertheless, they sought His wisdom, leaned into His providence, and trusted in His peace that surpasses all understanding. As the days ran together, I'm sure there were more than a few thoughts of "will it ever end?" But God's soldiers carried out the mission with no earthly end in sight. Diligently, carefully, and obediently.

For those of you who have partnered with us for some time now, you realize, however, that we are at a bit of an end in Love & Hope's path. Gone are the days of diapers and high chairs, homework and middle school crushes, endless renditions of Alabaré, and graduation parties. Love & Hope still ministers to those same sweet hearts and minds, of course. Now it looks like resume building, apartment seeking, wedding planning, and baby showers.

And as the Board of Directors helps those familiar faces navigate into adulthood, we are faithfully seeking the next name on our list of who to love. This past summer, you may remember, our Board was able to visit Love & Hope and some of its like-minded partners. Our team was able to get our boots on the ground, visiting with four different partners in a short time. Those visits were followed by reflection and discussion, prayers and plans. Your generosity helped make that trip a possibility as we were able to rekindle, foster, and create relationships with beautiful Salvadorans that, quite simply, look like Jesus.

Jesus made it very clear: Love God, Love Others. So, whether it is single moms at House of Life or impoverished children at My Safe Place, Love & Hope will continue to stretch our resources to the limits of God's possibilities.

I speak for the rest of the Board when I say that we are so excited to watch God work in the coming years. Of course these changes are bittersweet as transition often is. Yet, there is a palpable excitement knowing that the next big breakthrough isn't even on our radar yet.

To be fair, each completed day was a huge milestone in the early days of Love & Hope. And I'm hopeful that God saw our faith was in Him and strengthened each day. But now, as we have been faithful with little, God's word says that much will be entrusted to us.

So now, with God on the move again, I'm hopeful "it will never end."

With Love & Hope,
Dan Larlham