

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023



# Message from our Founders

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Entering our 9th year as part of this remarkable organization, Identity Mission, we stand in awe of the milestones achieved and the lives transformed. Serving as directors has been a privilege, and the journey has been nothing short of remarkable. We are humbled by the collective effort of the church body, our staff in Honduras, our dedicated board, and our generous partners, without whom our work would not be possible.

Together, we celebrate the monumental impact we've had on the lives of a total of 151 children who have been spared from entering orphanages, thanks to the steadfast support we've received. This achievement is a testament to the power of unity and compassion within our local and international community.

The partnership we share is not just a financial one but a commitment to a shared vision – a vision of a world where every child has the opportunity to grow in the love and security of a family. Through God's grace and the many prayers offered, we have witnessed miracles unfold, families restored, and hope reignited. Thank you!



# FAMILY PRESERVATION



Our family preservation program has made an incredible impact over the past year, **servicing a total of 18 families and 35 children**. By addressing emergency needs, providing essential food supplies, offering school support, facilitating life planning, conducting parenting classes, engaging in discipleship, and providing counseling, we successfully prevented families from breaking apart and shielded the children from potential removal by the welfare office due to poverty or perceived neglect.

## NEXT STEPS 2024

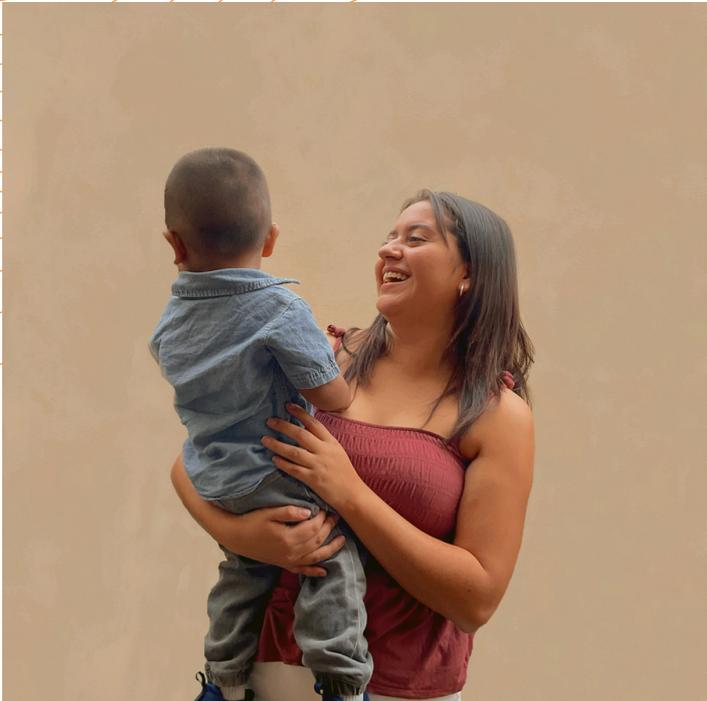


This year, our primary goals revolve around the continued support and graduation of the two current very large families in our family preservation program. We are committed to working alongside them until they achieve independence and stability.

Simultaneously, we aim to expand our impact by identifying and assisting new families teetering on the brink of separation due to poverty. By welcoming them into our program, we seek to strengthen their familial bonds and prevent the devastating effects of separation.

Through our comprehensive approach, we focused on building a strong social support system around each family, ensuring that they not only survived crisis situations but thrived beyond them. **Remarkably, four families graduated from our program, having achieved independence and eliminated the risk of separation.** These families secured stable employment, and, more importantly, experienced emotional and spiritual growth, emerging stronger and more resilient as united entities. Our program is not just about preserving families but empowering them to break free from the cycle of crisis and build a future filled with stability and hope.

# FOSTER CARE



In our foster care program update, we want to share that due to ongoing changes in the government's approach, there have been no new foster care placements. **However, our dedicated team has spent a full year advocating tirelessly for the 26 foster children under our care.**

**Four of these children successfully transitioned to adoption or family reintegration, and two more already began the transition process therapy with our staff.**

Operating in a developing country and the complexities of these processes continue to present challenges and uncertainties for both families and children. The steadfast support provided to our foster families and children has been crucial in preventing further trauma and guiding families through the emotional journey of saying goodbye to a long-term foster child as they move on to a different adoptive family. Despite the obstacles, our prayers persist that Honduras will embrace the concept of foster-to-adopt as an integral part of this transformative program.

## NEXT STEPS 2024



As we step into 2024, we are committed to persistent advocacy efforts through meeting with our government offices. Currently, we have four potential new foster families eagerly awaiting certification from the government.

Simultaneously, in 2024, we are dedicated to refining our internal processes. To achieve this, we are currently undergoing a comprehensive assessment of our programs, processes, and procedures by a reputable orphan care organization with extensive experience.

# CHURCH PARTNERSHIP



## NEXT STEPS 2024



Our goals for the church partnership program in the upcoming year include the comprehensive training of at least four churches upon completing the assimilation of all training materials. Beyond this, we are actively cultivating a network that empowers pastors and churches to take ownership of this initiative, spreading awareness and fostering collaboration with other churches. We plan to recruit and train volunteers as well to take up the cause of seeing the church rise up as the solution for the orphan crisis.

**In 2023, we partnered with a total of 15 churches in various projects, providing vital assistance to preservation and foster families, marking the year with the most church partnerships to date!**

In an exciting update, we are thrilled to share a transformative shift in our approach. Going beyond merely presenting opportunities for partnership, Identity Mission has delved into a level of partnership deeper than ever before. Our focus is not just on encouraging collaboration but on **empowering and equipping the local church to operate its own foster care or family preservation program.**

Taking the initial steps, we have successfully completed our certification to provide training to churches. Also, translating the curriculum materials provided by the esteemed Backyard Orphans organization. This God-led direction evolved from the initiatives already underway with our church partners, gaining clarity and inspiration from the impactful work of Backyard Orphans. This aligns seamlessly with our core belief that the church is the solution to the orphan care crisis. After surveying churches to gauge their reception of this idea, we commenced the actual implementation last year.

# ADVOCACY AND TRAINING



Throughout the past year, our organization has been actively engaged in a dynamic array of training and advocacy initiatives, fostering collaboration with various organizations, churches, and government entities. In 2023, we achieved a significant **milestone by training a total of 251 orphan care workers, advocates, psychologists, and other professionals.**

This accomplishment represents our commitment to sharing the wealth of knowledge and expertise we have acquired through years of study and certification in orphan care practices. By offering expert classes, we aim to empower others to enhance their care for vulnerable children and families.

Our training programs encompass a broad spectrum, providing valuable support for foster families, staff in orphanages, government workers, and church partners.

Through these endeavors, we are actively contributing to the dissemination of best practices in missions and orphan care, ultimately working towards a more compassionate and informed community dedicated to the well-being of those in need.

## NEXT STEPS 2024



In 2024, to engage the U.S. church and our partners, we plan to introduce quarterly virtual classes, sharing best practices in missions and orphan care tailored to the perspectives of the U.S. church. Our commitment to family welfare remains unwavering, with ongoing training sessions for the families in our programs. We will also extend our outreach to other organizations and government offices, responding to calls for training, and aspiring to establish an online presence through a dedicated webpage in Spanish.

**WITH THE SUPPORT OF  
IDENTITY MISSION,  
OLGA RISES UP TO  
FINISH HER NURSING  
DEGREE SO SHE CAN  
CARE FOR HER SIBLINGS  
AND YOUNG SON...**



**After the shocking murder of her parents, Olga was not only orphaned but left in charge of her two younger brothers. The continued care and provision of her parents that had allowed her to make the valiant choice to keep her own son, was also stripped from her.**

**A situation that has forced many to resort to placing their loved ones in orphanages, stood Olga in the face, but she refused to be split from her son and brothers. She reached out for help.**

**The Unión Bíblica, a local organization in Honduras, contacted Identity Mission so that Olga could receive the assistance she needed to rise above this family crisis. After meeting the family's emergency needs, Keyrin, Identity Mission social worker pictured on the right, helped Olga dream beyond her current situation. Olga decided to continue studying nursing but it took the financial and emotional support of several people for her to be able to finish.**

**The Evangelical Hospital, where Olga did her professional practice, allowed them to live on the facility for many months and many others in the community collaborated to keep this family together! Pictured above is Olga receiving her degree!**



**AFTER HEARING THE MESSAGE THAT VULNERABLE CHILDREN THRIVE BEST IN FAMILY, PETER AND KATHY, PASTORS OF LINAJE ESCOGIDO CHOOSE TO RISE UP!**

**In a remarkable demonstration of commitment to orphan care, pastors Peter and Kathy Hearne of Linaje Escogido Church decided to transcend conventional efforts and collaborate with Identity Mission to extend their impact. Recognizing the pressing need for sustainable solutions, this church from Honduras ventured to Texas to undergo certification along with our Identity Mission staff, becoming equipped to train other churches in establishing their own orphan care ministries.**

**Now armed with the knowledge and tools, this church, in partnership with Identity Mission, stands at the forefront of a movement to empower Honduran churches to be proactive solutions for orphaned children within their communities. By breaking the cycle that often lead children to orphanages due to lack of local support, they are setting an inspiring example and paving the way for a future where every child finds love, care, and belonging within their own communities.**

**Throughout the past year, the dedicated team, working closely with Identity Mission directors, has tirelessly translated training materials. This collaborative effort ensures that in 2024, they can commence the training of local churches, raising up a multitude of establishments to undertake the critical work of orphan prevention, mirroring the impactful efforts of this pioneering church and Identity Mission.**



# How you can grow in 2024...

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**Without your collaboration in this cause to provide family-care for orphaned and vulnerable children, our work would not be possible. THANK YOU! As you have continually been an answer to our prayers, our prayer for you is that you are able to live out your calling to the orphan found in James 1:27 in joy and see tremendous growth in your own spiritual walk. It is our desire to provide you with opportunities to do just that! Contact us at [info@identitymission.org](mailto:info@identitymission.org) to get started!**

# 1

## **BECOME AN IDENTIFIER!**

Join our group of monthly donors we call The Identifiers! This is a group that has committed to stand with us and support the annual efforts of seeing more kids in the healthy care of family. We share special updates in our Facebook group and meet quarterly via zoom!

# 2

## **TAKE OUR ADVOCACY CLASS!**

We have designed an online class specifically to equip you with the knowledge you need to make the biggest impact possible in the arena of orphan care. Ready to learn more? Contact us to sign up for an upcoming class!

# 3

## **COME ON A VISION TRIP!**

Doors are open once again to visit our beautiful country of Honduras. Come and see what the Lord is doing first hand during a 10-day, vision trip designed to show you the everyday life in the workings of Identity Mission.

# 2023 Income Statement

Individual donors	\$192,419
Churches/Ministries	\$59,472
Grants	\$20,000
Businesses	\$8,166
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$280,057</b>



Foster Care	\$94,957
Family Preservation	\$45,279
Other Program Expenses	\$36,696
Administrative	\$34,341
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$276,409</b>

# Acknowledgements

We are extremely grateful for the partner churches, individuals, and our Identity Mission staff that strove all year in the endeavor to keep as many vulnerable children in families as possible.

**68 New one-time donors in 2023!**

**7 Joined the Identifiers, monthly partners, in 2023!**

**9 Partner Churches in the United States!**

We thank you for working with us to put **churches and families** back into orphan care!



## Contact Us:

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