

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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# Message from our Founders



## Tara & Jorge Garcia

As we reflect on 2024, our hearts are filled with profound gratitude and awe at what has been accomplished through God's grace and your unwavering support. This year marks an extraordinary milestone: we are entering our 10th year of serving Honduras' vulnerable children and families. It is incredible to see how far we have come together since Identity Mission began in 2015, with a vision to see children thrive in families rather than institutions. Together, we have prevented 157 children from entering orphanages—a testament to the transformative power of generosity and caring families.

This year has been one of moving forward, pushing through obstacles, and renewed vision. From expanding our Family Preservation efforts to empowering churches through our new Church Development training program, and seeing the foster care program reopen with renewed government collaboration, we have witnessed God's hand in every step. These achievements have only been possible because of your prayers, generosity, and partnership. As you turn the pages of this report, you will find stories that embody resilience, courage, and hope—these are not just numbers or initiatives; they are lives transformed by love, and they remind us why we do what we do. The true heroes of this story are the families who have opened their hearts and homes, the churches that have risen to the call to care for orphans and struggling families, and the supporters like you who make this work possible. You are an integral part of this mission, and we are profoundly thankful for the role you play in transforming orphan care in Honduras. As we step into our 10th year, we are filled with hope and anticipation for what awaits us ahead. The need remains great, but so does our resolve. We invite you to join us in this journey—to pray, to give, to advocate—so that together we can continue to bring hope to the most vulnerable. Thank you for walking alongside us and for believing in this mission. We encourage you to explore the following pages to see more of what your support has made possible, and we hope you are as inspired as we are by the incredible impact of this past year.

With gratitude and hope,

Tara Garcia  
Founders, Identity Mission

# 2024 Highlights

## 01 Advocates for Family-Based Care

- Training church leaders and orphanage staff to transform orphan care (training in Child development and positive discipline, trauma-informed care, TBRI, etc)
- Expanding the movement through the Identify Solutions Conference serving Latin America
- Speaking engagements in the U.S. & Honduras to inspire action and raise awareness

## 02 The Church at the Center

- Equipping churches to embrace their Biblical role in orphan care
- Launching the Church Development program and creating the Solución 1:27 curriculum to train and unite church leaders
- Collaborating and building relationship between the US and Honduran church to create lasting impact

## 03 Family-Focused

- Prioritizing family-based foster care over institutional care by operating two family-based care programs in two regions of Honduras
- Strengthening at-risk families to prevent separation by solving the issue at the root of the problem
- Providing resources, mentorship, and follow-ups to support and equip foster and biological families with the parenting strategies, problem-solving skills, and emotional resilience needed to navigate challenges and provide a stable home.

## 04 Local Leadership & Government Collaboration

- Empowering Honduran social workers, lawyers, and psychologists to drive sustainable orphan care solutions
- Training local advocates to support foster care and family preservation
- Partnering with SENAF (government welfare agency) to recruit foster families and shape policies that prioritize family-based care
- Investing in long-term, community-led solutions for lasting impact

# Family Preservation



**In 2024, our Family Preservation program served five families and 17 children—a smaller number than previous years, but for an extraordinary reason. At the end of 2023, we expanded our focus to include single mothers suffering from past or current abuse. Previously, our program served families facing extreme poverty as the main factor, but we realized that this approach excluded some of the most vulnerable families who were at even greater risk of losing their children to the system.**

**This shift has allowed us to reach families in their most critical moments.** These families require deeper support, navigating trauma, legal challenges, and providing holistic care to ensure the children remain safe while their mothers stabilize. The change has meant more intensive, one-on-one work from our dedicated caseworker, Keyrin Rivas, whose caseload was deliberately minimized to ensure she could focus deeply on each family's unique needs. Her efforts have included forming circles of support around each family—support systems designed to last long after our direct involvement ends, helping mitigate the risk of future separation. The work is challenging but essential. Stepping in before children are removed from their families makes all the difference. We know the devastating effects that institutional living has on children—from emotional and psychological trauma to developmental delays. By addressing these crises head-on, we can prevent these outcomes and keep families together, where children belong. Each family we supported this year represents a story of resilience and hope. These efforts go beyond immediate crisis intervention; they lay the foundation for long-term stability, empowering families to heal and thrive.

# Family Preservation

## *Highlights*

Delmi's story is one of unwavering perseverance in the face of adversity. A widow and single mother to an autistic daughter, Alejandra, Delmi lives in a remote mountain village in Honduras. For years, her family's livelihood depended on Delmi's work as a coffee picker, a physically demanding job. However, after developing scoliosis, Delmi was no longer able to continue, leaving her family in a precarious situation. The challenges were compounded by Alejandra's needs, which required Delmi to stay home and provide specialized care. Struggling to find a path forward, Delmi was introduced to Identity Mission through an autism school that had been a lifeline for her daughter. It was there that Delmi met Keyrin Rivas, our compassionate social worker, who walked alongside her to create a life plan that allowed her to both care for Alejandra and earn a stable income.

With additional support from Identity Mission donors, Delmi received training and resources to open a small store in her village. The store, named Alejandra after her daughter, quickly became a cornerstone of her community, providing essential goods and generating the income needed to sustain her family. Delmi's resilience and willingness to learn were pivotal to her success. She embraced the opportunity to grow, mastering business skills and finding joy in her work.

Today, Delmi's store is thriving, and her family is thriving alongside it!



# MARIA'S STORY

Maria's journey is one of resilience and courage in the face of overwhelming challenges. As a mother of eight children, she endured years of abuse, feeling trapped by the fear that leaving would mean losing her ability to care for her family.

Working closely with our team, Maria explored solutions to create a safe environment for her children. A pivotal moment came when an aunt offered to give Maria a piece of land. With the generous support of our donors, a small concrete home was built. This home not only provided stability for Maria and her children but also enabled her to flee the abusive situation and focus on rebuilding her future and caring for her family. Throughout the past year, Maria has faced her difficulties with remarkable bravery. She attended every trauma course offered, consistently worked on learning to manage her family's finances and household.

The transformation in Maria has been nothing short of extraordinary. When we first met her, Maria would rarely meet anyone's gaze, her eyes fixed on the ground. Today, she greets you with a beaming smile and confident eye contact. One thing, however, has never changed: Maria's warm and welcoming hugs. Maria's progress is a testament to the power of community. Her children have thrived thanks to Tiny Hope school, which has surrounded the school-aged children with love, support, and meals. Sala Evangélica Church has extended friendship and a sense of belonging, providing the kind of ongoing community that will remain critical for Maria's continued success. These layers of support have been instrumental in helping Maria and her children thrive. As Maria continues in the Family Preservation program, the focus remains on building a circle of support to ensure her long-term stability. The goal is for her to graduate from the program by the end of the year, equipped with the tools and relationships needed to maintain her progress and provide a bright future for her children. Maria allowed us to share her story, and it is a powerful reminder of what can be accomplished when we come together to support families in need. Her courage and determination inspire us all to believe in the transformative power of love, community, and resilience.



# Foster Care



**In our foster care program, a total of 16 foster families provided care for 19 children, including several with special needs and difficult medical conditions. Among these incredible stories of love and commitment, four children found their forever homes through adoption. We want to take a moment to celebrate the extraordinary foster families who care for children with special needs. These families face immense challenges, especially in Honduras, where resources are scarce, and medical care can be difficult to access. Despite these obstacles, our foster families rise to the occasion, often paying for doctor appointments and medications out of their own pockets. Their courage and unwavering commitment are awe-inspiring, especially knowing that adoption is rare for many of these children. Some foster families have dedicated themselves to raising these children into adulthood and beyond, ensuring they receive the love and care they deserve. Honduras' foster families are true champions, embodying resilience, compassion, and faith in action. We know no bigger hearts than theirs, and we are humbled by their example. While changes in government policy have continued to reduce placements into foster care this year, our mission has remained steadfast. In fact, we took a significant step forward by presenting to Congress a proposed addition to the adoption law that would prioritize foster parents for adoption of children in their care.**



# Foster Care

This change, if enacted, would greatly enhance the possibility of permanency for children, minimizing the trauma of additional separations. Our organization's representative lawyer spearheaded this effort, drafting the document and sharing the case for this critical improvement. We are currently awaiting Congress' response and research on the topic, but the work itself has already borne fruit by raising awareness of the importance of fostering and adoption within a culturally relevant framework.

We believe that if this law is passed, it will unlock new potential for foster care in Honduras, ensuring permanency for children and helping this life-changing model thrive like never before. We look to the future with hope, knowing that the seeds planted this year will lead to a better foster care program that puts the child first.

Additionally, we contracted our lawyer to focus on moving cases to permanency, ensuring that children in foster care have the best chance at long-term stability and love. This effort is critical in a system where delays can mean prolonged uncertainty for vulnerable children. By advocating for legal solutions and working closely with families, we are committed to seeing more children find permanent, loving homes.



# Foster Care

## Highlights

**Otoniel and Merlin Alvarez have been a beacon of hope and encouragement in the foster care movement in Honduras for the past seven years.**

Their testimony has inspired countless others, as they share their journey of fostering at conferences and churches, urging more families to open their hearts and homes to vulnerable children. When they first considered fostering, Otoniel and Merlin wrestled with uncertainty. With two biological daughters, they worried about how fostering might affect their family dynamics. However, their desire to give back, rooted in a deep sense of blessing and gratitude, led them to prayerfully seek the Lord's guidance. In amazing and affirming ways, the Lord answered their prayers, leading them to say "yes" to fostering. In 2018, they welcomed their first placement, a two-year-old boy. Though the initial adjustments were challenging, he quickly became an integral part of their family and flourished under their care.

Later that same year, they welcomed a newborn baby girl, a joy that the entire family delighted in. Over the years, the Alvarezes poured their love and energy into parenting with patience, grace, and intentionality. This past year brought a significant milestone and a bittersweet challenge. Both children, who had thrived in the Alvarez home, were assigned to international adoptions. While the family had hoped to adopt them themselves, the government's restrictions at the time did not allow for it. Despite the emotional difficulty, the Alvarez family worked tirelessly, alongside Identity Mission's caseworkers, to ensure a smooth and successful transition for both children into their new families. Their determination to see the children thrive, even beyond their home, reflects the depth of their calling and selflessness.

Through this experience, Otoniel and Merlin leaned deeply on their faith. They often remind others that the children are the Lord's, not theirs, and that even their biological daughters ultimately belong to Him. Their trust in God's sovereignty has been their anchor, enabling them to navigate the heartache and beauty of fostering with grace. Remarkably, their biological daughters have embraced the family's calling with open hearts. Despite the challenges, they speak fondly of their experiences as a foster family, seeing it as a vital part of their lives and faith journey.

Otoniel and Merlin's story exemplifies the transformative power of fostering. Their courage and faith inspire others to step into this sacred work.

# Church Development PROGRAM



## Equipping the Church to Answer the Call

2025 marks a monumental year for Identity Mission as we officially launch the Church Development Program, an initiative rooted in empowering local churches to reclaim their Biblical role in orphan care. This effort began May of 2023 through a partnership with Backyard Orphans, a Texas-based organization dedicated to equipping churches for orphan care ministry. Their investment in Honduras laid the foundation for this transformative work. It is with deep gratitude that we celebrate this milestone and look ahead to the profound impact this program will have on orphan care in our communities.

## A Journey of Preparation and Collaboration

The seeds of this program were planted in 2023, when our team, alongside Pastor Peter and Kathy Hearne of Linaje Escogido, began the meticulous process of translating and culturally adapting Backyard Orphans' training materials into Spanish. This was no small task. It was a labor of love that required countless hours of thoughtful reflection and collaboration. Pastor Peter and Kathy's dedication to this process exemplified their deep commitment to the cause of the orphan and their unwavering belief in the church's role in caring for orphans and vulnerable families. Backyard Orphans not only provided the framework for this training but also encouraged and inspired our partner pastors during their visit to Honduras in 2022. Their message resonated deeply, setting the stage for what was to come. Through their guidance and the steadfast support of their team, we are well prepared to equip churches like Linaje Escogido to step into this calling fully.

# Church Development

## The First Training: A Resounding Success

On December 7, 2024, we hosted our first official training with Linaje Escogido, Pastor Peter and Kathy's church! The day exceeded our expectations, with eight key leaders, including a designated ministry leader, participating in the program. The attendees' engagement and enthusiasm were nothing short of inspiring. They not only grasped the Biblical call to care for orphans but also embraced the practical steps needed to make their church a hub for orphan care in their community.

Pastor Peter's years of preparation—through initiatives like Domingo para el Huérfano (known as Pure Religion Sunday in the U.S.)—were evident in the readiness of Linaje Escogido's selected orphan care team leaders. His heart for the orphan has cultivated a church culture deeply aligned with the mission of this training termed: Solución 1:27. This training was not just a starting point; it was a culmination of years of faithful leadership and vision.



## A Vision for the Future

Solución 1:27 is more than a training program; it is a movement. It invites churches to join a network committed to being the solution for the orphan crisis, the mandate shared in James 1:27. Through ongoing support from Identity Mission, churches like Linaje Escogido, and the many that are supporting this program, we will lead the way in raising up and supporting fostering and adopting families, empowering at-risk families to stay together, and preventing children from entering orphanages. The ripple effects of their work will be felt across communities as the church takes its rightful place at the center of orphan care.

In 2025 it is our vision to expand Solución 1:27 to many more churches through our Church Development Program, equipping them to establish orphan care ministries that reflect the heart of God. With every church that says yes, we move closer to a future where foster and adoptive families multiply, and orphan prevention becomes a reality in every community.

# Church development

## A Heartfelt Thank You

We extend our deepest gratitude to all the partners who made this step possible. From Backyard Orphans, whose investment and training were foundational, to Pastor Peter and Kathy Hearne, whose faithfulness and collaboration brought this vision to life. And to all of our partners whose generosity keeps this mission growing. Most importantly, we thank the Lord for calling us deeper into His heart and giving us the wisdom and resources to support His church in this mission.

Through this journey, we have come to understand more fully the Lord’s desire for His church to be the solution. With proper support and guidance, we are confident that churches will rise to this call, encouraging a new wave of foster and adoptive families and empowering at-risk families to thrive. Together, we will scale up orphan prevention efforts and transform communities—one church at a time.

In 2025 it is our vision to expand Solución 1:27 to many more churches through our Church Development Program, equipping them to establish orphan care ministries that reflect the heart of God. With every church that says yes, we move closer to a future where foster and adoptive families multiply, and orphan prevention becomes a reality in every community.



# Advocacy and training

Throughout the past year, we have been actively engaged in training and advocacy alongside organizations, churches, and government entities to strengthen family-based care for vulnerable children. In 2024, we trained 154 orphan care workers, advocates, psychologists, and other professionals, equipping them with the knowledge and expertise we have gained through years of study and certification in orphan care. Our training programs provide essential support, preparing foster families, orphanage staff, government workers, and church partners to implement best practices that prioritize family over institutional care. Through these efforts, we are shaping a more informed and committed community dedicated to the well-being of children in need.



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Advocacy remains a crucial part of our mission, expanding our impact beyond in-person training. The Identify Solutions Conference reached 61 attendees, offering vital education on family-based care, while 12 speaking engagements across the U.S. and Honduras helped mobilize church communities to take action.

Additionally, we hosted three online Advocacy Classes for our U.S. and Canadian partners, ensuring that more individuals can access the tools they need to advocate for children to grow up in loving families. By engaging in both in-person and virtual advocacy, we are building a global movement that empowers churches and individuals to be part of the solution to the orphan crisis.

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# DISCOVER WAYS TO MAKE A GREATER IMPACT IN 2024...

Your collaboration in providing family care for orphaned and vulnerable children makes our work possible—thank you! You have been an answer to our prayers, and we pray that you continue to live out your calling to the orphan in James 1:27 with joy, experiencing deep spiritual growth.

We want to support you in this journey! Contact us at [info@identitymission.org](mailto:info@identitymission.org) to get started.

## 1 YOU ARE THE SOLUTION BECOME A CHAMPION



Join our group of monthly donors we call CHAMPIONS! 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 provide many opportunities to support you in walking out your specific calling to the orphan, and would love to join you in that journey today!

## 2 TAKE OUR ADVOCACY CLASS!

### LEARN AND UNDERSTAND GLOBAL ORPHAN CARE

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!

### MISSIONS THE RIGHT WAY

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.





# 2024 Income Statement

## Income Statements

Income

**\$389,949**

Expenses

**\$266,386**

Net Income

**\$123,563**

Program Services

**\$221,683**

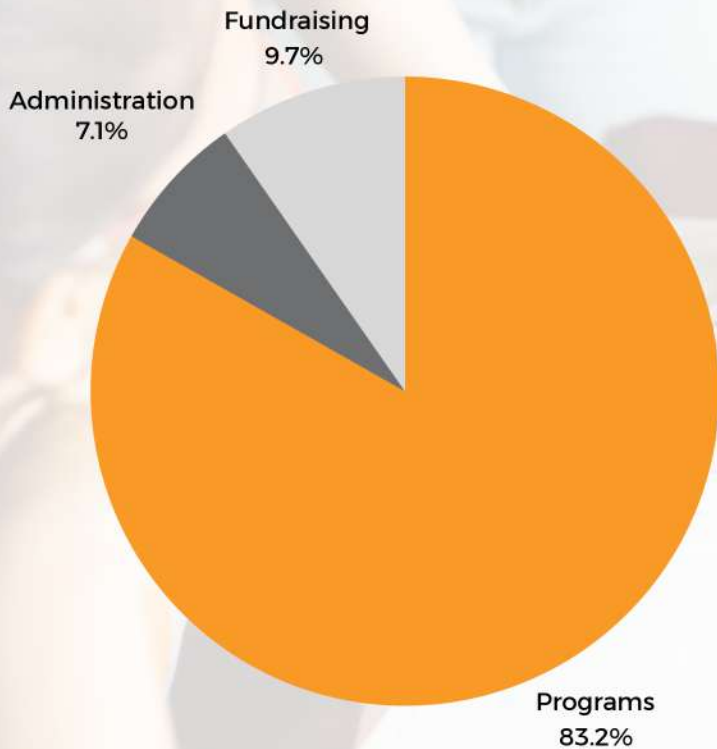
Administration

**\$18,912**

Fundraising

**\$25,791**

### Here's how your contributions were allocated



# IDENTITY MISSION

## *Next Steps 2025*

In 2025, Identity Mission celebrates 10 years of keeping children in families. With the launch of the church development program, we will equip churches to lead orphan care efforts, expanding a network committed to foster care, family preservation, and community outreach.

As government placements reopen, we'll grow our foster care program while strengthening family preservation efforts to keep families together. This milestone year marks a decade of impact, reinforcing our belief that the local church is the solution to the orphan crisis in Honduras—and now more than ever, after 10 years of evidence that children do not belong in orphanages.



# Acknowledgements

We are deeply thankful for the partner churches, individuals, and our dedicated Identity Mission team who have worked tirelessly throughout 2024 to ensure that as many vulnerable children as possible remain in families.

**65 New one-time donors in 2024!**

**79 total CHAMPIONS, which is our monthly partners!**

**10 Partner churches in the United States!**



# CONTACT US

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