

NO PLACE IS

TOO DARK FOR LOVE TO FIND YOU

Annual Report 2021

# It is Never Too Dark

Reflecting on an entire year is not a task for the faint of heart. It seems as though we tell oursleves that we must choose a label for the past twelve months, in order to properly classify the year and move on. In our experience, life is simply more complicated than that. This past year was filled with a nuance that could not be captured in a single word or phrase. Our teams are tired after working through yet another year of this pandemic. Our teams are also encouraged by the beautiful things we have witnessed. There have been moments of pain and of great celebration. I mean, we work with over 500 kids every single day! In all seriousness, although we cannot seem to wrap up all that has happened in the past 52 weeks into a tidy phrase, the common thread that we have experienced throughout has definitley been the **Love** that is Jesus.

We see it looking back at us in the eyes of the children we care for. We feel it, on icy mornings in Romania when we scoop them up to bring them somewhere safe and warm, or in humid Nicaragua when we hand them a plate heaping with food. We hear it in the laughter that fills the kids' homes in Mexico. Time and time again, we have seen **Love** cast out darkness. This does not mean that we are blind to the pain darkness causes, its rather the opposite: we tune into it because that is where we are needed most.

Our eyes and hearts are on the lookout for the darkest, most loveless places. This work has never been easy and that can be witnessed on the faces of our brave team members. In spite of that, the moment you get to hold, laugh with, and feed a hungry belly, though, is what reminds us that the weight of this work does not lie on our shoulders. **Love** is the true hero and we are simply its messengers. So as messengers of **Love** we are drawn to darkness.

We deeply appreciate your support, your prayers, your donations, all of it. It sustains all of us in this beautifully tiring, and rewarding adventure. Do not forget, as you will read later on in our sweet Erika's story,

NO PLACE JS TOO DARK FOR LOVE TO FIND YOU

**Genea & Jimmy Horner** Senior Leaders of The Mission





Children are orphaned in the world today. (UNICEF)



Children, worldwide, are child laborers. (ILO)



School-aged children and youth are not in school. (UNESCO)



Primary-school-age children attend classes hungry, across the developing world. (WHO)



# Orphanage

### 24hr Care • Mexico

Located on our campus in Tijuana, Mexico, the orphanage provides care to 51 children. The children live in family style homes, with two house parents in each. Some of the children have been with us for over half of their lives. It has been extremely important to us that each child's day-to-day routine reflects that of a healthy family unit.



# Jr. High & High School

### 12hr Care • Monday - Friday Mexico

Located on our campus in Tijuana, Mexico, the schools have 364 children enrolled. Public high schools are rare in Mexico, making it so that many children from lowincome families drop out of school to begin working. We have seen this happen to children as soon as the 6th grade.



# Elementary School & Family Care

### 12hr Care • Monday - Friday Mexico & Romania

These programs are located on both our campuses in Mexico and Romania, with a total of 407 enrolled in 2021. The combination of services that these two programs provide to our local communities is one of the key ways that The Mission is working to keep families together. Our goal is to not only restore children, but entire families. Accessible education and childcare are not widely available to underserved communities, and most families in our area have two working parents.

# Feeding Program

### 500 Meals a Week • Nicaragua

The Mission partners with a local feeding program in Dario, Nicaragua that serves aproximately 500 meals a week to children and senior adults in the community. The team serves meals to the children at the facility, and delivers meals to the seniors. We are proud to support and work alongside friends who are passionate about serving those who need it most.



# **Growing Up**

The Mission is committed to all of the children in our programs, forever. In our orphanage in Mexico, children do not "age out." Instead, when they turn 18, they have the option to move into one of our on-site transition homes. We will continue to support them as they plan out their next steps. In the past couple of years, we have had the pleasure of caring for a lot of teens! Here is what some of them were up to in 2021.

**JORGE** is 18-years-old and has been with us since 2007. He moved into our on-site transition home in 2021 and attended his first year of School of Missions. Jorge is dreaming of becoming a professional soccer player.

**EDWIN** is 18-years-old and has been with us since 2014. He is completing his first year of School of Missions, while still working on completing his education. Edwin lives in our on-site transition home. He also volunteers on our local church's production team and dreams of becoming a professional sound engineer.

**JOSEFINA** is 20-years-old and has been with us since 2008. She is completing her second year of our School of Missions and is doing so on The Mission's campus in Romania! Josefina is working on learning more of the Romanian language and would like to continue serving the children there. **LIDIA** has been with us since 2013. She is 18-years-old, lives in our on-site transition home, and serves alongside the Family Care Program team which cares for over 200 children each day. Lidia enjoys administration and helps the teachers prepare materials for their classrooms. She hopes to one day become a teacher herself.

**JOSE** has been with us since 2013. He is 18-years-old, and in 2021 he moved into our on-site transition home. Jose now works offsite at a local factory. He is enjoying learning how to save his own money, be part of a workplace, and buy his own groceries.

**IVETH** is 20-years-old and has been with us since 2014. She is completing her second year of School of Missions and is doing so on our campus in Romania! She is working on learning more of the Romanian language so that she connect more with the children she is serving there.

### **Cristiana** Age 4 Came into the program on Sep 14, 2020

Cristiana attends our preschool in Romania. She and her siblings have been part of our program since 2020. Her mother, two older sisters, and younger sister live in a small village near our campus. Their home is less than 10x10 square feet, and has no running water or bathroom. Despite all of this, Cristiana is very joyful, kind, and strong! Each morning, when The Mission team picks her up for school, she jumps out of bed as soon as she hears us knock on the door! She has never missed a day of school, loves learning, and even helps her classmates if they are struggling to learn a new concept. Her father has been in prison since last summer, so Cristiana and her sisters do their best to help with their baby sister. Many times, when staff from The Mission do a family visit, Cristiana will hold the youngest and entertain her or try and get her to stop crying so their mother can speak with our team.



### **Joe** Age 11 Came into the program on Aug 20, 2012

Joel attends our school and Family Care Program in Mexico. The Mission team has been caring for him for 10 years now, since he was just one-years-old! Joel is in the fifth grade and is dreaming of becoming a doctor. He loves reading, and legos. He truly has a wonderful imagination. The past few years have been difficult for Joel's family. In 2017, he suffered the loss of his father and in 2020, his grandmother passed away. Our team worked with Joel to process these painful experiences and over the past months we have seen immense growth in him and how he expresses his feelings. He is very patient and we are so honored to be able to help him and his family. Joel is a great friend to many of his classmates and even his teachers. He has an extremely generous heart and often brings snacks to share with his class.

# Rikasztory

It was 2005, Erika was six years old. She was living in a 10x10ft "house" with her biological mother and three younger siblings. It was a situation full of extreme neglect and sexual abuse.

"I didn't know who God was, but had prayed to Him my whole life. I asked Him to take us to a safe place...and if he couldn't take all of us, then at least just take my siblings."

Their biological mother was addicted to drugs and alcohol; she was a prostitute. When her biological mother needed money, she would take Erika out with her at night. Erika was only four years old when this began. Erika's prayers were answered when social services removed them from the situation and brought them to The Mission's orphanage in Tijuana. Once they arrived, it was very clear to The Mission's staff that the children were hungry for healthy love and affection. Each of them embraced our team, right away.

"I knew we were finally in a safe place. The feeling of fresh sheets and getting our own beds was, overwhelming. We lived in a clean house now; where there were toys and always enough to eat. I got to go to school. The Mission is my forever family."

In 2018 Erika graduated from the School of Missions. What a proud moment for all of us! In 2019, The Mission asked Erika to join the team in Romania, to care for children who have stories very similar to her own. Each day Erika helps them shower, brush their teeth, do their hair, and get ready for school. They do not have the means to do this at home, as most do not have running water or electricity.

"My hope for every child is that they know that WE are their safe place, forever family; that they are accepted no matter what."

Erika has decided to stay in Romania for an undetermined amount of time and is the preschool teacher to 22 Roma [Gypsy] kids. She is thriving! Many of the children she is caring for have found a safe place at The Mission, like she did at a young age. Neglect and abuse are a common occurrence in the villages the children are from and they are just as eager for love and affection as she was in 2005. Watching stories like these

unfold is a privilege we cannot even begin to describe. God heals the hurt and broken but not only that; He empowers them to heal the hurt and broken. Now, Erika is a strong and resilient young woman who is caring for and teaching children in Europe.

**"I TEACH MY STUDENTS THAT GOD** PLACE IS DARK OFIND YO HAS NO LIMITS BECAUSE I AM THE LIVING AND BREATHING **PROOF, THAT** LOVE FOR



# **A Few Testimonies**

### **Second Grade**

In Romania, we have 56 students in the mornings, before welcoming the children who attend our after school program in the afternoons. Because our team in Romania is small and the building is still undergoing renovations, we have added one grade at a time to our school. Three years ago we opened our preschool classroom and in 2021, we were proud to open a second grade classroom! Some of our second graders have been with us since preschool, and some are new to The Mission. One of the most exciting parts of our year are the "parent nights" that we get to host four times a year. The Mission team hosts a family dinner with the students and their parents, where the kids get to demonstrate something they have learned and we all get to worship together.

### Casa Valentía (House of Courage)

Just like in 2020, another one of the six orphanage homes, located on The Mission's campus in Mexico, was remodeled in 2021! It was originally built in 1991 and has had minor renovations since, but it was in need of a complete overhaul. From the roof, to the kitchen, windows, and bathrooms, we were so thankful to be able to give this home a much needed update. This project was only possible thanks to all of the donations made to The Mission's 2021 Aid Fund! Because of everyone's generosity, we were able to not only cover the costs of running our child care programs, but continue to work on projects like this. The 10 boys who live here are happily moved back into their newly renovated home!



# **The Advocate Program**

Would you help us by spreading the word about The Mission? What we need is more people, like YOU, who are willing to partner with us; more people willing to sponsor a child. Here is how you can help us make that happen.

### It's as simple as a text.

Becoming an Advocate for The Mission, is as simple as sending a text, or posting on social media. Our team has made it easier than ever to do that! When you sign up to become an Advocate, you'll be sent a unique URL (link) to share with your friends and family.

Plus, you can even track how many people sponsor a child because of your Advocacy!

### Step One

Join the program. Signing up is free and takes less than five minutes!

### Step Two

Advocate. Share with friends and family why you've chosen to sponsor a child from The Mission by sending your unique URL (link) via text, email or social media.

### **Step Three**

Track Impact. Log on to see how many children have been sponsored through your Advocacy!

# **Meet The Team**



**GENEA HORNER** Senior Leader & Romania Base Director



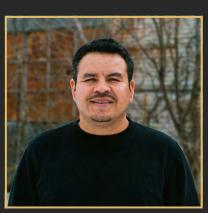
JIMMY HORNER Senior Leader & Sustainability Projects



KARINA ROCHA Senior Associate Leader & Mexico Base Director



SANDRA LOPEZ Senior Team & Finance



LEO LOPEZ Senior Team & Worship Pastor

# **Board of Trustees**

GENEA HORNER The Mission

JIMMY HORNER The Mission

BRAD BENTLEY Inspire Clean Energy ERIC JOHNSON STUDIO

CANDACE JOHNSON STUDIO **SARAH SMITH** 

**PHIL SMITH** 



# So Many More

The Mission staff team is made up of 105 incredibly generous and good-doing humans. We are so grateful to have them.



In 2021, Marcelina celebrated her 21st year as a staff member at our campus in Tijuana! Marce works in our Family Care Program and cares for ages three and under. She is amazing at what she does! Marce worked at a local factory in Tijuana before joining The Mission's staff team. We are incredibly honored that she has chosen to serve alongside us for so many years. Over the years it has been an absolute privilege to have not only Marce, but her entire family be part of what we are doing. Marce's two children, Luis and Laura, attended school and the Family Care Program at The

Mission. Her youngest, Laura, just graduated from University with a degree in Psychology! We are proud to not only provide resources, like our programs, to local families, but also jobs and opportunities for community.

# **How it Helped**

Transparency matters to The Mission. Over the past 35 years, we have made many, many friends who have been incredibly generous to us. Being good stewards with what people choose to invest is a top priority for our entire team. Review The Mission's financials for 2021 to see just how impactful each gift is.

# 2021 At A Glance

TOTAL REVENUE IN THE PAST FISCAL YEAR

TOTAL INCOME	\$2,203,772.11
TOTAL RAISED <b>\$2,077,724.72</b>	TOTAL EARNED \$126,047.39
TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXPENSES INVESTED	\$2,137,918.18
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & <b>\$201,552.87</b> MAINTENANCE	ADMINISTRATION & FUNDRAISING EXPENSES \$371,935.97
PROGRAMS SERVICES: TO CLOTHE, FEED, EDUCATE & <b>\$1,564,429.34</b> PROVIDE FAMILY FOR CHILDREN AND PEOPLE IN NEED.	
2021 FIXED ASSETS 2020 FIXED \$3,396,179.14 \$3,367,27	
	MISSION INC / RDSN, USA (501C3); MEXICO; MISUNEA GLOBALA, ROMANIA.

# You Made it Possible

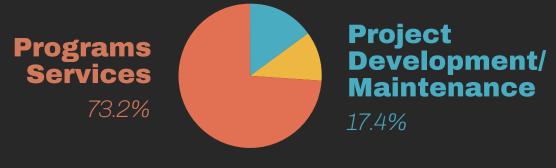
What could we even say? For the second year in a row, The Mission's supporters gave above and beyond what was asked. In August of 2021 The Mission announced that we were in need of \$400,000 and launched our Aid Fund campaign. We decided to request that amount becuase our hope was to not only cover the costs associated with caring for over 800 children each day, but also to continue building what began in 1987.

# As of December 31st, 2021 **\$412,000** was given by **116** people from **5** different countries!

Thank you to all who gave, prayed, and helped us spread the word. It is because of you that we were able to take care of our kids, teams, and continue building.

## Breakdown of Operational Expenses.

The Mission is unique in the sense that all of our operations teams are located on The Mission bases; we have no U.S. administrative headquarters. This significantly lowers our operational expenses and also helps us achieve one of our main goals: empowering and equipping directly impacted people. It has been a privilege to work alongside missionaries who have left their homes to serve, as well as citizens of these beautiful nations, who are fiercely fighting for their local communities.



### Admin/Fundraising 9.4%



### CHILDREN WERE PART OF THE MISSION FAMILY IN 2021



### HAVE BEEN PART OF THE FAMILY SINCE 1987

Give the gift that transforms nations, today.

Give Now