

MISSION TO EL SALVADOR



2023



ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED BY DANIELLE SNYDER

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WHAT'S YOUR MISSION
TO EL SALVADOR?

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Once again, we find ourselves giving thanks to God and to our faithful donors for another year together! No year is ever easy when we are facing down addiction, human trafficking, generational poverty and the shame and trauma that come with those issues. Despite the hardships, we have seen victories as our team has come together and grown this year. So many of the people that we are privileged to serve have taken big steps forward in their lives. We are so humbled to be a part of this process and we are grateful to have you as part of our mission!

We thank you not only for investing in this work with your giving dollars but for believing enough in our clients and in our residents to join in alongside of them in their process of healing, growth and change. We thank you for deciding to make your "mission to El Salvador" a personal one. Our hope is that as you read through these pages you will rejoice over the impact that you have had in 2023 and that you will dream with us about greater impacts to come in 2024!

For Freedom,



DANIELLE SNYDER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





MISSION & IMPACTS FOR GROWTH

Our mission is to empower Salvadorans to find freedom to realize their dreams and pursue their futures.

This year we had so many great impacts! Check out the five biggest **impacts for growth** that we had!

12 clients made the decision to enter our “Level System” program in the Lighthouse Resource Center and focus on a committed process of change and growth.

Support groups were consistent and growing all year long with both men and women committed to group therapy, social support, and other groups focused on healing.

Five youth graduated from the New Dawn Residential Program finishing their process of rehabilitation from addiction and moving into the follow-up phase.

Our spiritual resources were attended by an average of 20 clients each week who came ready to learn more about God’s word and receive spiritual support and discipleship.

Strategic connections were made in our community with local churches and other community organizations offering external resources for our clients and graduates.



INITIATIVES

We are **committed** to taking a holistic approach in all of our initiatives. We address issues of the heart instead of focusing on outward problems because we believe true solutions can be found when we are **reconciled with God and reconciled with others**.

The areas where we are working include **poverty, addiction, and trauma**. Poverty has so many layers, including emotional and mental ones. Addiction is generational and widespread in our community and confronting trauma includes facing years of exploitation, trafficking and abuse. We are confronting these

issues in the lives of vulnerable members of our community. We also want to live out our core values of **love, dignity and respect** through each of our initiatives by creating teams and programs that embody these Biblical values.

Finally, **our hope** is to see our staff fulfilling our mission in their lives as well as local churches here in El Salvador. We have worked to **train our staff** this year and **partner with the local church** in as many ways as possible in addition to our ongoing efforts to **serve our community**.

New Dawn Residential Program

Family Program:

The family program at New Dawn included **family visits, therapeutic interventions** and **family meetings** to help families understand more about addictions in general. The whole family must change in order for each graduate to reintegrate into a safe and healthy environment after graduation. This year there were 11 family meetings with residents, staff and families together.

Education:

Some residents did distance learning this year and others enrolled in a flex learning program called EDUCAME where they prepared to level up in their exams. **Three residents passed subjects and moved ahead and 2 others will take tests in 2024.**



Seal of Best Practices:

The program received the “Seal of Good Practices” from the Anti-Drug Commission once again and was recognized in a special ceremony.

Special Activities:

The residents participated in activities like a camping trip and special celebrations throughout the year.

75%

Long-term rate of success and sobriety among graduates from the program.





Graduations

were celebrated this year for five of our residents and were attended by their families and some of the previous graduates.

3 New Residents

started a recovery process over the past year and are set to graduate in 2024.

Workshops

this year included life skills, human sexuality, art, welding, graphic design, electricity, and English. These workshops helped the residents prepare for work and dream about life beyond addiction.

Psychiatric Care

was provided on an outpatient basis for our residents so that they could have access to medical interventions as needed.

Individual Therapy

addressed emotional, spiritual, and family issues as well as addiction issues. We have an emotional therapist and an addiction therapist on our staff who each conducted individual sessions with residents. This year our staff received training in the areas of substance abuse intervention, as well as trauma-informed approaches.

Group Sessions

were run by our two therapists each week to address addiction issues as well as emotional issues. Healing in community is important for recovery from addiction and trauma.

Lighthouse Resource Center

Level System:

Our program within the Lighthouse is dedicated to steps of committed change as clients “Level Up.” This year we saw **more clients than ever before interested in joining the Level System** and working toward personal goals like a stable job, recovery from substance abuse, healing from mental health and family reunification. Our team has worked hard to strengthen our resources and make them welcoming and accessible.

Community Networking:

Our team spent more time on the street getting to **know our community and connect them with more resources**. We were able to connect with external support to find ways to work together with others in our neighborhood and to offer external referrals for our clients who needed it. By doing things like bringing the health department to our site we connected vulnerable members of the community with care they need.

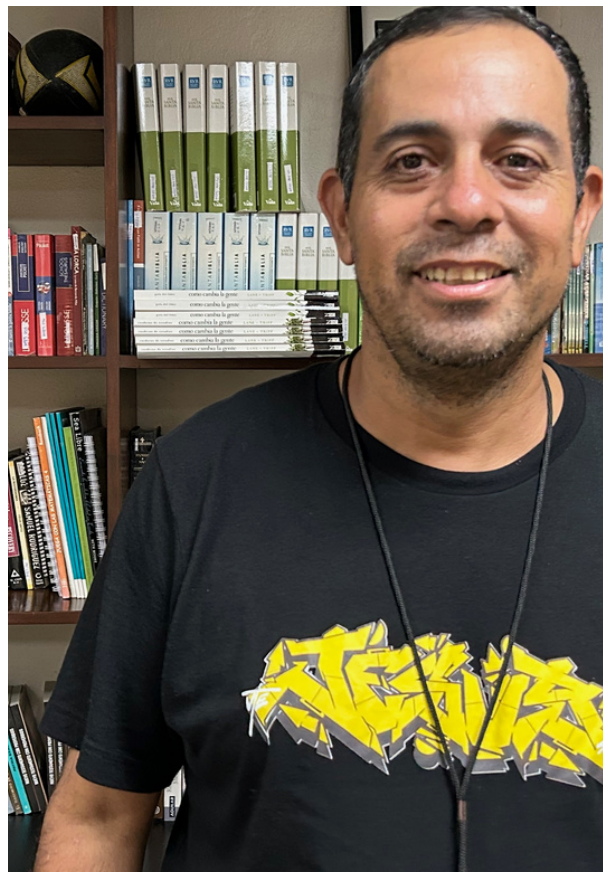
Team Building:

We added a social worker to our Lighthouse team this year and we provided more training to our staff in the areas of contextualization and community development to deepen their ability to connect with the population in our neighborhood. The response has been **increased numbers of clients making use of our resources** throughout the year.

Social Support:

Social support has been shown time and time again to heal trauma and aid in recovery from addiction. This year we saw deeper relationships formed as our clients grew to support one another more and more in their processes of healing and growth. A major highlight was consistent attendance at our weekly support groups.

“Before I was on the street, but being here has given me strength and helped me keep moving forward. The Lighthouse has helped me with many things.”



INITIATIVES: LIGHTHOUSE RESOURCE CENTER



LEVEL SYSTEM

- **12 new clients** joined the Level System
- Total number of **19 clients** participated
- Clients in Level System faced **poverty, addiction, exploitation and abandonment** or a combination of many issues

EDUCATION AND JOB TRAINING

- **29 clients** participated in workshops like art, gym, sports, and more
- **3 survivors of human trafficking** graduated from our sales class
- **19 women** participated in our partnership program with Free The Girls where they could start their own small businesses
- **5 of our clients** were involved in our quilling card project during the year
- **10 clients** were helped in finding **steady employment** outside of our center
- We had **13 different educational workshops** on topics ranging from nutrition to mental health to teach our clients more about themselves and others

THERAPY

- 8 clients received **individual therapy**
- **21 different women** attended our women's support group
- **72 different men** attended our men's support group
- An average of 14 clients participated in our **weekly addiction support group**

SOCIAL SUPPORT

- Social support in community is **key to healing** from trauma and addiction
- **11 different parties** and special activities happened to mark **holidays** throughout the year
- Celebrated with **12 birthday parties** with one per month
- Organized **7 different field trips** and **community activities**

MEETING NEEDS

- A total of **8,477** sit down meals were served to our clients
- **12 clients** utilized **shower** and laundry facilities when needed
- Connections with **local public health clinic** for vaccines and health screenings
- **Five older adults** reunited with family members or referred to long-term care

Community Outreach



We are invested in reaching out to our community beyond our programs and we do that in several different ways:

- Weekly Meal Distribution
- Street Outreach
- Substance Abuse Prevention
- Medical Care
- Emergency Relief

This year we also expanded our reach even farther with the **addition of a clinic in the department of Santa Ana**. In previous years, we have partnered with the Latin American Children's Fund and this year we received ownership of the property. LACF will continue to partner with us to support the work at the clinic. We are grateful for the opportunity to **expand our impact** in El Salvador!



SPIRITUAL GROWTH

We want to see members of our community **restored to God, restored to their families, restored to others in their community**, and living with a **restored perspective of creation**. We also believe that there is healing for mind, body, and soul by studying the Scriptures and meditating on the words that are there. Because we value these things, we offer spiritual resources as an option within our programs. Our clients are not required to attend the Bible studies, but many choose to do so. **This year, we had an average of 20 clients per Bible study in the Lighthouse Resource Center and over 60 people professed faith in Christ.** We have been working to help them

to **connect with local churches** so they can be encouraged to keep growing in their faith.

“One of the resources that has helped me the most is the Bible studies.”

We start each morning with a time of devotion and reflection. Our Spiritual Life Coordinator leads a time each week in New Dawn and coordinates our Bible study times in the Lighthouse. We invite local pastors and visiting volunteers to share as well. In addition, our staff are discipling our clients through **ongoing and intentional relationships**.





STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

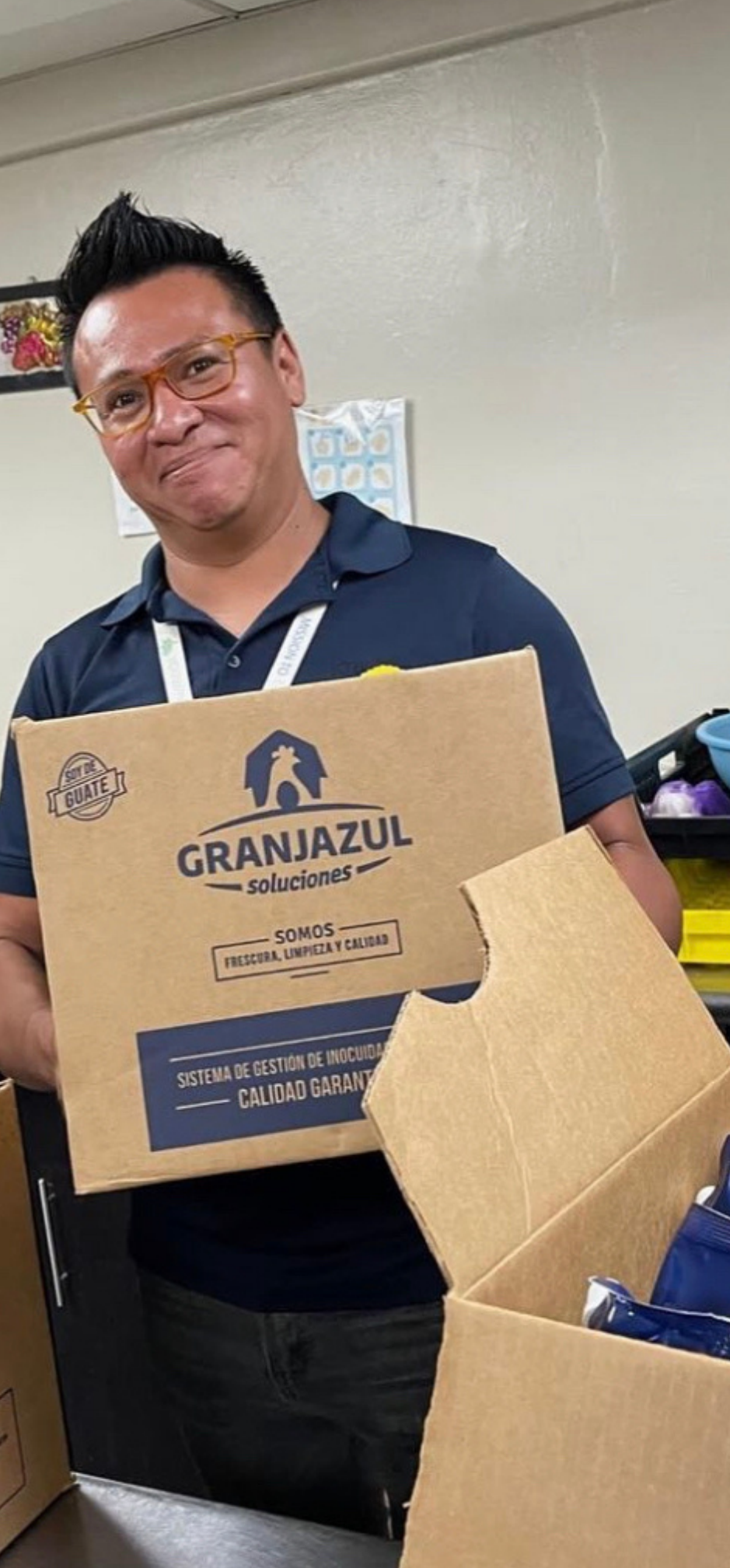
This work takes a network of partners! We are grateful for those who have joined this network and we count on our partners in the following five areas:

- Local and Global Church Partnerships
- Financial Donors
- Local and International Volunteers
- Donations of Gifts in Kind
- Partnerships with Government and Non-Government Institutions

Our work is dependent upon financial donations and you can find information on our finances in the “Financial Highlights” section of this report. Apart from finances, we also rely heavily on “Gifts in Kind” which include donations of food, clothing, personal hygiene items, medicine and more to provide for basic needs in our

community. **We could never do all of the work we do without volunteers** who help us each week locally, and without volunteers that come each year to assist with special projects and encourage our staff. We also receive volunteer **interns** who add great value to our team as they serve.

This past year we received **trainings** in trauma interventions, drug and alcohol treatment, and specific addiction interventions for women because of partnerships with local institutions. One of our international partners continues to support us in providing reintegration for survivors of trafficking and a new NGO is partnering with us to provide training in sewing for women facing poverty.



- 14 Global Church Partners
- 2 National Church Partners
- 20 National Donors
- 145 International Donors
- 6 Learning and Serving Teams
- 13 International Volunteers
- 3 National Student Interns
- 8 Local Volunteers
- 1 International Intern
- 8 Partnering Organizations
- 13 Donors Giving Gifts in Kind

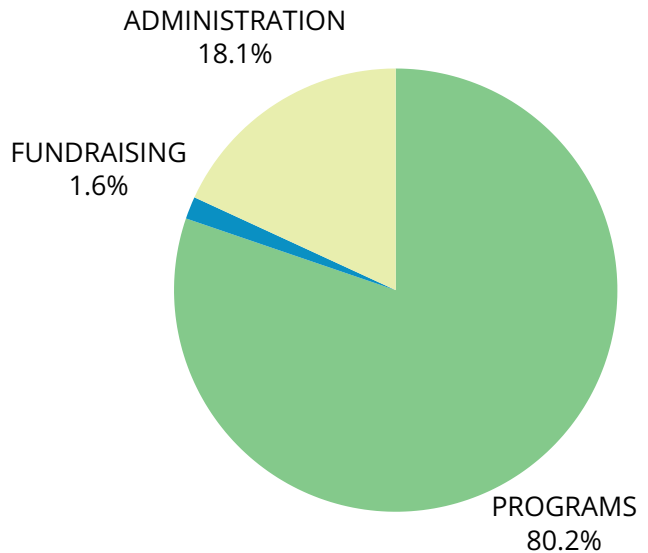


FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Around the world, 2023 proved to be a difficult year with inflation affecting economies everywhere. We were no exception and we struggled with our in-country costs rising because of El Salvador's dollar-based economy.

You can see the information below regarding our finances and see the **breakdown of how our funds were spent** in the graph to the right. Here are our 2023 financial highlights:

- Our total revenue raised through 2023 was \$400,468.92
- We continue to receive Bitcoin donations as well as gifts in kind
- Our total expenditures for the year came to \$415,804.77
- Approximately 7% of our total income came from El Salvador
- The remaining donations came primarily from the U.S. and secondarily from Canada
- Our main source of income remains the financial support of church partners and individuals



In 2023, we once again received the **Platinum Seal of Transparency** from Candid, also known as GuideStar. This is the world's leading source of information on non-profit organizations. Platinum is the highest possible rating of financial transparency and in order to receive this rating we needed to submit information about our finances, board, policies, metrics, and strategies.

If you would like to request our full and detailed Financial Review please contact us to do so.



GOALS FOR GROWTH

We are consistently growing, changing and moving forward as we work to impact our community.

As a team, we set **organizational goals** for what we want to see happen in the next year. We have identified **key areas for growth** as we look forward to what God has for us in 2024.

- Continue deepening the knowledge of our staff through **training**. Last year we did that in the areas of mental health and trauma and this year we will focus on **addiction and community development**.
- Reach more Salvadorans who need to be **connected with the care** that we offer through our programs and see those programs grow in the numbers we are serving. We want to see New Dawn full at 6 residents throughout the year and the Lighthouse serving 50 clients a day.
- Focus on **leadership development** for members of our team who have the giftings and desire to lead.
- Widen our **platform** to include more international and national volunteers and donors in our mission.



WHAT'S YOUR MISSION TO EL SALVADOR?

We invite you to join our mission! We were founded with the goal of **being a bridge** between those who are vulnerable and those who want to make an impact in the lives of Salvadorans.

There are **so many ways that you can join our mission** in El Salvador no matter where in the world you are!



- **Pray** for the work
- Become a **sponsor** by supporting the New Dawn Residential Program each month and receiving updates on how the residents are doing or by sponsoring the Lighthouse
- **Give** on a regular basis whether through a yearly gift or monthly gifts
- **Advocate** by spreading the word in your social circle about what's happening in El Salvador
- **Volunteer** by helping with mailings or fundraisers
- Come to El Salvador to **learn and serve** alongside our team



CONNECT WITH US!

Follow along on our social media, read our blogs and subscribe to our newsletter to stay connected with us all year long!

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