



Annual Report 2024

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Freedom to Grow
(Libertad para Crecer)

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As we wrapped up 2024, we took a moment to reflect on the goals we set for ourselves last year. We are excited to share that we met those goals! As an organization, we focused on training our staff through a series on Christian community development as well as enrolling many of them in a peer to peer community trauma healing project. We expanded our network to find new community partners to connect our clients and graduates with additional resources for education, stable housing, and church involvement. We deepened our investment into our national leaders as we saw more Salvadorans step into leadership roles this year. We added local donors and volunteers. We also partnered with national high schools and universities for students to complete their social hours through involvement with our work.

This year we updated our website, officially inaugurated our health clinic and saw many clients and residents come to know Christ through our programs. We have seen growth in new and diverse ways and we are so grateful for the faithfulness of our donors who make this work possible!

My hope and prayer as you read through this report is that you will be truly encouraged! It is amazing to see the way that God has worked through the donors, board, missionaries, volunteers, interns and staff of Mission To El Salvador since the organization began 15 years ago. Our whole team is humbled to be a part of this mission and we are incredibly thankful for all of you who have joined us along the way. We can't wait to see what is in store in 2025!

For Freedom,

Danielle M. Snyder



Danielle Snyder
Executive Director

OUR MISSION

We exist to empower Salvadorans to find freedom to realize their dreams and pursue their futures.

IMPACTS FOR GROWTH

1.SUPPORT GROUPS

Through our groups our clients and residents know that they are not alone. Group therapy, Bible studies and drug and alcohol dependency groups grew as key resources throughout the year.

2.GROWING IN NEW DAWN

This year the New Dawn Residential Program had 3 graduations and all 7 residents took big steps forward. The program also has become more well known around the country.

3.COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

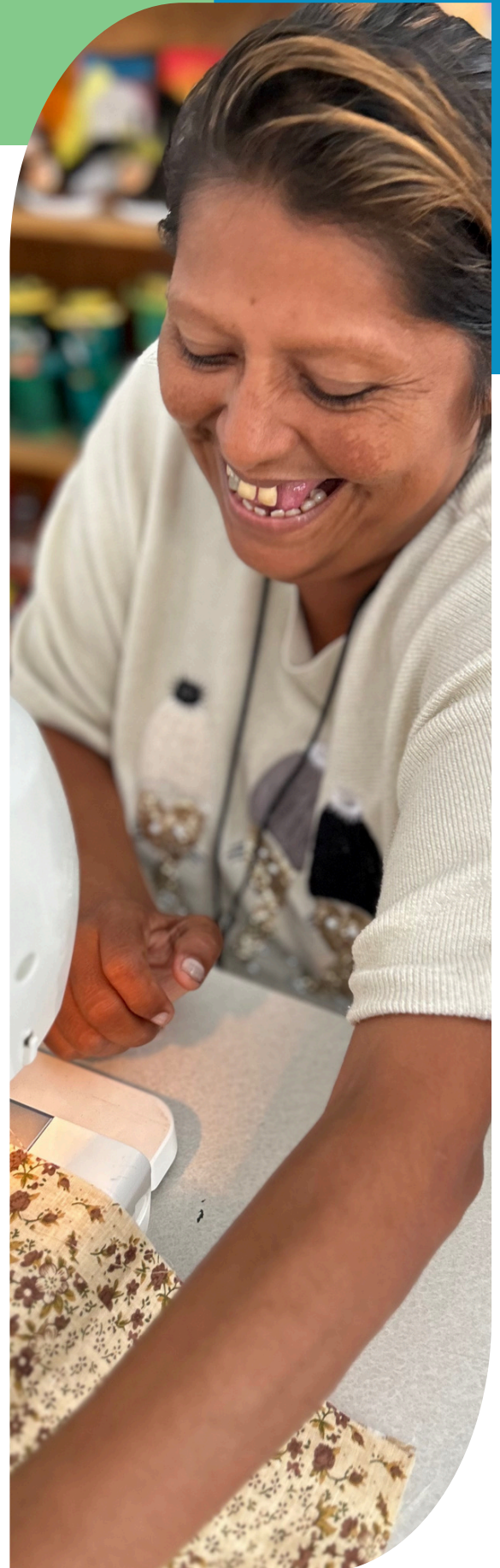
New relationships in the community helped us to gain volunteers and grow in partnerships. Connections this year have helped us to gain access to health care, stable housing, spiritual discipleship, and educational options for our residents and clients.

4.NEW WORKSHOPS

Sewing, computer, welding, awareness of community issues and more all made an impact as these workshops provided opportunities for life and work preparation.

5.LEVEL SYSTEM GRADUATION

Nine of our clients in the Lighthouse Resource Center graduated from the Level System program and took a big step forward to change their lives this year!





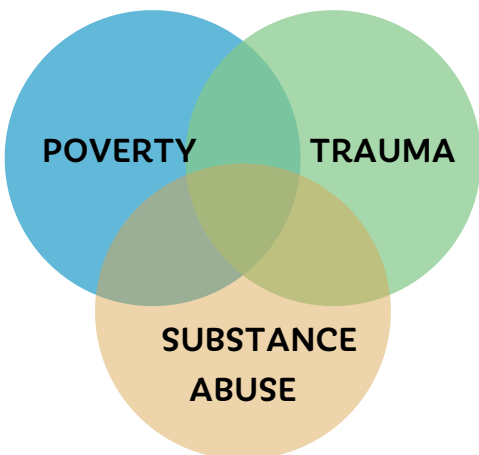
OUR INITIATIVES

Building Programs and Resources to Cultivate Community

Our strategy includes finding the good in our community, identifying potential and accompanying our neighbors toward reconciliation with others and with God. Our initiatives are focused on healing from trauma, growth out of poverty, and recovery from addiction and exploitation. We work to create opportunities for group support, dignifying work and a hand-up instead of a hand-out.

Our initiatives are directed toward fulfilling our mission of “freedom to grow” by creating sustainable solutions for spiritual development and an atmosphere where physical, emotional, mental and social needs can be met. We are walking alongside of those most vulnerable to the defeating consequences of poverty, addiction and exploitation in El Salvador with the hope of bringing full restoration to bodies and souls.

Holistic Focus To Facilitate Reconciliation and Healing



We have a focus on poverty including material poverty but also spiritual poverty, poverty of family, poverty of opportunity and other ways that poverty creates barriers.

We address substance abuse and addictive behaviors which destroy lives and tear families apart. Our staff are well trained in handling these unique issues.

We focus on addressing trauma and the ways it affects those who have experienced abuse and exploitation. In addition, we consider the effects of societal trauma.

New Dawn Residential Program



Early Intervention

The New Dawn Residential Program is the only residential treatment program for minors struggling with addiction and substance abuse in El Salvador. Our program was close to maximum occupancy all year long. We received residents who were referred from private families, government institutions and other professionals in the field.



Residents and Graduates

We had a total of 7 residents rotate through the program in 2024. Three residents graduated during the year and the others are on track to graduate in 2025. We continued to follow-up with previous graduates. After graduation, we have an open door policy for those who want to check-in with us.



Education and Workshops

Residents continued their education through distance learning and participated in vocational workshops to learn job skills. Workshops included welding, video editing, resume design, web design and English classes. They also learned about addiction and recovery through the program.



Life Skills and Therapy

Residents also studied various aspects of life this year including human sexuality, grief, self-care, health, spiritual growth and more. They participated in Bible studies, devotions, recreational activities, arts and crafts, and sports. Each week they also had individual and group emotional and drug-dependency therapies.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- 7 RESIDENTS
- 3 GRADUATES
- 12 FAMILY MEETINGS
- 12 WORKSHOPS
- 9 LIFE SKILLS SESSIONS
- 15 STAFF TRAININGS
- 1 CAMPING TRIP
- 5,760 MEALS SERVED
- 1,225 SNACKS SERVED

ACTIVITIES:

The program includes rituals to mark phases of recovery including a welcome ritual, burning of the moral inventory and a farewell ritual. Milestones in sobriety are also important which were celebrated in the lives of residents.

Other special activities included a trip to the movies, visits to the park, Children's Day, Thanksgiving, Independence Day, games during vacation weeks, a camping trip and Christmas. A church partner did special activities on a regular basis with residents to encourage their spiritual development. Volunteers and visiting service teams prepared crafts and games for residents.

FAMILY PROGRAM:

Once a month families gathered for education in the areas of addiction, mental health, the stages of change, family dynamics and more. They also were able to support one another. Family visits, family therapy, and family interventions are all key parts of the program. Working with the entire family has contributed to the long-term success of many graduates.



STANDARD OF CARE:

The New Dawn Residential Program continues to be recognized with the Seal of Best Practices from the Anti-Drug Commission of El Salvador.

GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT:

New Dawn has a 75% success rate for long-term sobriety. Some of our graduates finished high school this year, others have jobs, and one of our graduates is engaged to be married. Daniel (pictured) is starting university after finishing high school. Early intervention truly makes a difference!



Lighthouse Resource Center



Addressing Homelessness

The population served in the Lighthouse Resource Center is transient; facing homelessness because of financial issues, addiction issues or family breakdown. This year our case coordinator worked with community partners to move several of our clients into stable housing and off of the streets. Others were referred to public dormitories.



Fighting Poverty in Many Forms

Poverty can mean hunger, loneliness, a lack of connections. or a combination of things. To create connection and address the “poverty of relationships” we had activities like birthday celebrations, Thanksgiving, Love and Friendship Day, Christmas, and more. We also provided a “Life Project” course for graduates of the Level System.



Facing Extra Challenges

We faced many challenging cases in the Lighthouse this year including an elderly population that is on the streets because they have been abandoned by family members. Many of them also have mental health issues from the civil war. Other cases with a challenging element included those who have been deported or recently incarcerated.

ANTI-TRAFFICKING WORK AND RESOURCES:

Prevention

Central Americans, especially the populations that we serve, are extremely vulnerable to exploitation within and outside of the region. Our prevention efforts this year included workshops on how to recognize the strategies of traffickers as well as the dangers of irregular migration.

Identification

Poverty, life on the streets, and the commercial sex industry are all high risk factors for trafficking. Our staff completed a human trafficking simulation to better understand the choices victims make. Our staff also received training on how to recognize trafficking through the program intake process.

Reintegration

Our goal is to see survivors of trafficking and exploitation find economic freedom and healing from trauma. We provided sales training, as well as a workshop on the difference between dignified and undignified work. In addition, we facilitated an empowerment and autonomy course for women.



Program Highlights:

- 10,800 MEALS SERVED
- 4 WORKSHOP SERIES COMPLETED
- 7 PUBLIC HEALTH SEMINARS
- 5 EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS
- 2 FIELD TRIPS
- 11 SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS
- 12 BIRTHDAY PARTIES
- 1 MARKET FOR OUR CLIENTS TO SELL PRODUCTS
- 100+ CLIENTS IN GROUP THERAPY
- 5 CLIENTS IN INDIVIDUAL THERAPY
- 10 TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS IN AFTERCARE

RESOURCES:

This year we addressed the needs of various high-risk members of our community including those facing homelessness, poverty, exploitation, substance abuse, and those who have been deported or abandoned. The ages we served ranged from 18 to 80. We encouraged members of our community to become “clients” who make a commitment to a process of change and growth. Those who committed to a process of measurable goals, therapy, workshops and steps toward life change joined our Level System program. This year 9 clients graduated from the Level System after working hard to meet their goals!

The resources provided at the Lighthouse included meals, gym workouts, aerobics, soccer, basketball, group and individual therapy, addiction recovery support, Bible studies, case management, life skills, vocational workshops, art classes and more! We also partnered with other organizations to provide health care, stable employment and secure housing solutions.

OPPORTUNITIES:

Economic freedom and dignified work are important pieces of healing from trauma and recovery from addiction. We offered opportunities on site to help clients work toward this goal through sales classes, resume assistance, small business coaching, sewing classes and micro enterprises. Five clients formed part of our artisan team and made cards which can help them generate an income. These opportunities help our clients to eventually find steady income outside of our center.



9 clients graduated from the Level System

▶ 15 clients found stable employment outside of the Lighthouse



Quinta Dolores Medical Clinic



This year we completed the process of registering the Quinta Dolores Medical Clinic with the Ministry of Health so that it could be certified by the government. The services provided included prenatal care, geriatric care, family medical care, family planning, reproductive consultations, wound care, first aid, ultrasound, echocardiogram, injections and prescriptions.

The clinic is staffed in partnership with Latin American Children's Fund. This year our doctor completed a training course in ultrasound technology. We also hosted a menstrual health workshop in partnership with MePower United and we began exploring ways to begin community development efforts in the community around the clinic.



CLINIC PATIENTS:

- 111 WOMEN
- 22 MEN
- 35 GIRLS
- 52 BOYS

COMMUNITY IMPACT:

- Distribution of backpacks and school supplies
- Women's menstrual health workshop
- Re-inaguration of the clinic with presentation of credentials to the community

Community Outreach



Healthcare Outreach

Those who are in vulnerable situations often struggle to access basic health care. We worked with the local health department to arrange two clinics for routine vaccinations, as well as other care to those who most need it. Health care services included pap smears, cancer screenings and preventive education, and discussions on sexually transmitted diseases.



Weekly Street Outreach

Each week we distributed meals to people facing food insecurity. We built relationships with those dealing with homelessness, exploitation and substance abuse and let them know that we have resources to help them if and when they are ready to take a step toward healing.



Substance Abuse Prevention

We met with a public school administrator to discuss the importance of drug and alcohol prevention, and we conducted our prevention program in one private school this year. We also joined an international organization dedicated to lowering drug and alcohol abuse in our country and region. One of our staff members was voted to the board of the national chapter of that organization.



Emergency Response

El Salvador is a country that is vulnerable to natural disasters. We prepared and administered emergency response to heavy rains in our community during this past year.





SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Spiritual growth is a key aspect of our work. We are a faith-based organization and all of us are working to grow together in our relationship with God. We want to see those that we are serving be restored to God, restored to others, and living with a restored perspective of themselves and the world around them. Our core values of love, dignity and respect come from our faith. Because of these values and our mission to see everyone in our community find freedom, we offer resources for spiritual healing, connection and growth.

This year, our resources for spiritual growth included prayer, discipleship, devotions and Bible studies. Our clients were not required to participate in these resources, but many of them chose to do so. We worked with local churches who helped to support this work through volunteers and encouragement. We also partnered with global churches who sent groups to serve with us and who provided financial and prayer support. For these churches, our partnership was a meaningful part of discipleship for all involved. An activity with a local church is pictured above.

BEING TRANSFORMED TOGETHER:



- New Dawn Residential Program staff and residents participated in daily devotionals, as well as a weekly large group devotional. This year one of our residents came to Christ.
- Lighthouse Resource Center clients participated in Bible studies several times a week with between 7 and 25 clients attending each session. 62 clients made a new decision for Christ this year, and 83 made decisions to reconcile with God and renew their relationship with Him.
- We hosted a prayer breakfast for local pastors and ministry leaders in the city and we had 20 in attendance, pictured on the left.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS



WHAT DO OUR PARTNERSHIPS LOOK LIKE?

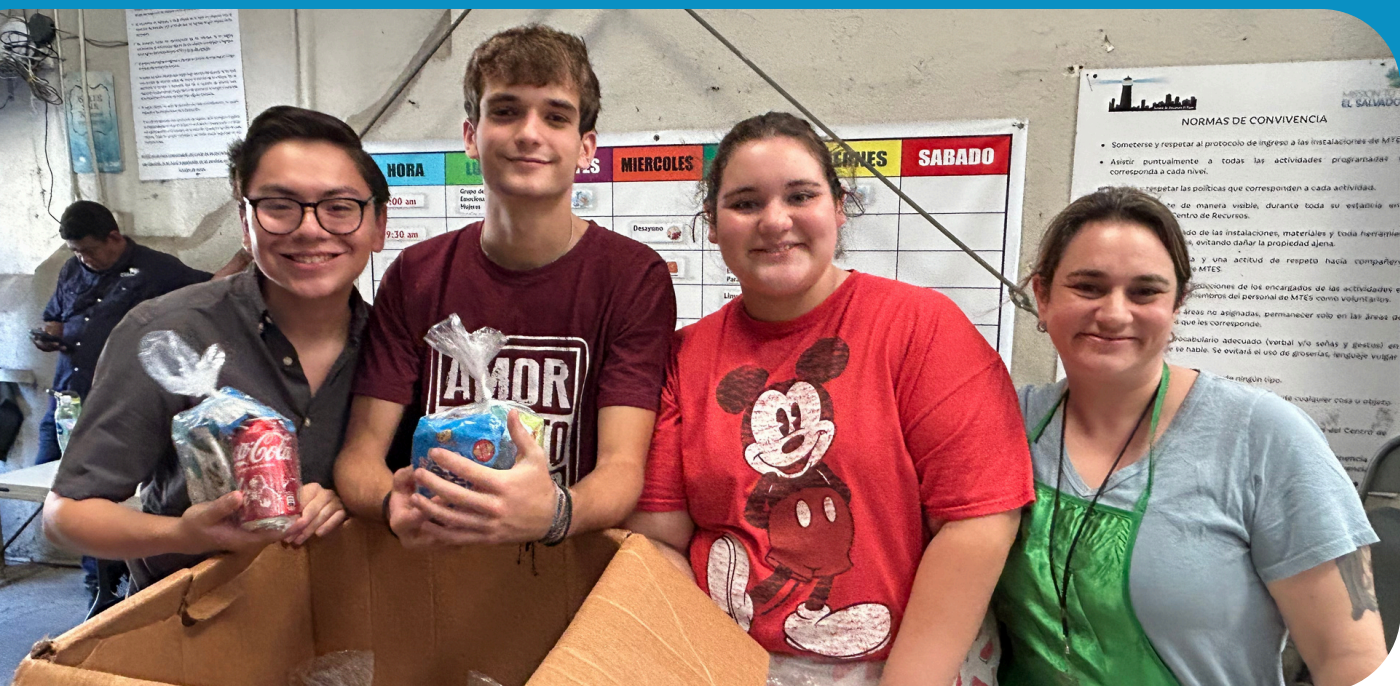
 LOCAL AND GLOBAL CHURCH RELATIONSHIPS

 FINANCIAL DONORS

 DONATIONS OF GIFTS IN KIND

 LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS

 ALLIANCES WITH GOVERNMENT AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS





PARTNERS MATTER:

Our impact is greater because of relationships with partners in our city, our community, and around the world. Our work is dependent upon financial donations to cover our staff salaries and costs. We also rely heavily on gifts in kind which allow us to provide things like food, clothing and medicine.

Local and international volunteers make a huge difference as they serve each day and invest in bigger projects as groups. We received excellent trainings this year through several partner organizations which have a ripple effect on our work with clients and residents.

Several of our partnerships helped small business development for our clients. Pray support and encouragement kept us going each day. Every single one of our partnerships matter!

PARTNER IMPACT:

16

Local organizations donated gifts in kind throughout the year

15

Local individuals and organizations donated their time to serve

2

National churches partnered with us by serving and donating

13

Global churches partnered with us through regular financial support

1

International intern participated in our internship program

7

International volunteers served with us

5

Learning and Serving Teams were hosted

12

Partners helped with capacity building by donating services, training, and/or professional development



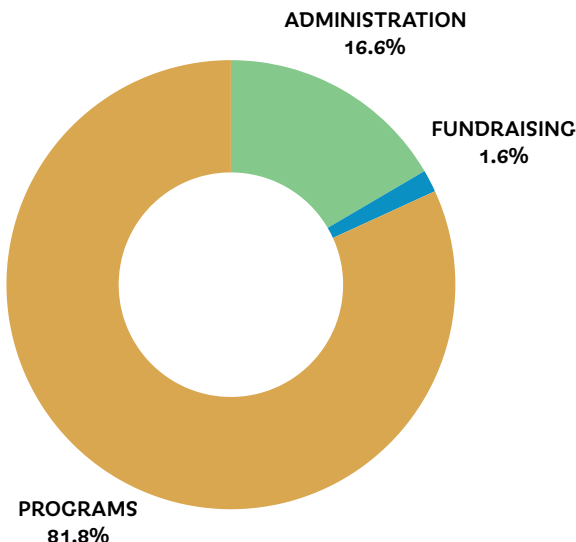
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

During 2024, the price of goods rose steeply in El Salvador due to inflation and the dollarized economy. This was a significant financial challenge as our costs went up for things like food and cleaning products. We also saw a greater need for our resources like meals and clothing as the poverty rate has been on the rise. In addition, our programs have been full meaning that we need a full staff to run them throughout the year.

We are working at fundraising within the country of El Salvador, as well as developing initiatives that can generate income. However, due to the nature of our work, we are an organization supported by the generosity of donors. You can see an overview of how we spent those donations reflected in the graph below.

Here are some of the highlights from this year:

- Our total financial revenue raised through donations was \$451,000. We received additional donations of gifts in kind in the approximate value of \$15,000.
- Our total expenditures were \$403,543.
- 6% of our budget needs were raised within El Salvador.
- We had 154 international donors and 26 Salvadoran donors this past year.
- Our income showed an additional “paper gain” from the sale of Bitcoin that was donated to us as well as the completion of the donation of the property where the Quinta Dolores Medical Clinic is located.
- Our main source of income remains financial support from our church partners and from individuals.
- In 2024, we once again received the Platinum Seal of Financial Transparency from Candid, also known as GuideStar, which is the world’s leading source of information on non-profit organizations. Platinum is the highest possible rating of financial transparency and requires that we submit our board information, strategies, metrics and program information in addition to our financials.
- Each year we conduct a full Annual Financial Review through an outside third party. This review is available upon request.



GOALS FOR GROWTH 2025



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Every day we work to reconcile people with what is broken in their lives and that means that we need to do the same hard work. This year we have a key focus of helping our staff to grow spiritually so that they can accompany others well. We want everyone to focus on what it means to walk in our values of love, dignity and respect.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

A major goal this year is the continued development of Salvadoran leadership. We will have a key focus on providing training for national leaders on how to manage their teams, as well as in the areas of work that our organization engages in each day.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

We have a goal of deepening our community engagement this year. We will do that through increasing visibility of our programs to build networks, mapping community resources, identifying existing assets and strengthening existing partnerships.





YOUR MISSION TO EL SALVADOR

We are working to cultivate community, provide dignifying work, and facilitate healing and recovery. We are also committed to working toward being transformed together. We invite you to join us in all of this! El Salvador is a beautiful and resilient country, but it is one that has suffered. All of us can be a part of this mission of hope and healing in this precious country filled with amazing people!

There are so many ways that you can be involved in joining our work no matter where in the world you are! Maybe you feel a call to pray or write notes of encouragement to our clients and residents, or perhaps you want to sponsor our programs by giving monthly. Or maybe a project or need grabs your heart, and you want to reach out with a one time gift. Perhaps you want to advocate by inviting others in your circle to give alongside of you. You might even feel a call to action by volunteering to serve where you are or coming to join us in El Salvador. No matter what mission is in your heart, we can work together to see it grow! Together we can do more than any of us can ever do alone!



PRAY



GIVE



SERVE

CONTACT US

One of our goals from last year was to widen our platform and we did that by updating our website. We hope that you will check it out and visit our blog throughout the year for updates. You can also subscribe via our website to receive monthly e-updates in either Spanish or English.

We can join us by following along on our social media platforms so that you can keep up with everything happening at Mission To El Salvador! We love hearing from you so please feel free to contact us at any time!



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Mission To El Salvador



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MAKE A DONATION:

You can make an impact in 2025 by making a one time or recurring donation! There are several ways to give easily and securely to Mission To El Salvador:



Use our online platform at www.missiontoelsalvador.org/donate to donate using your credit card whether you are in the U.S. or Canada or find information for a bank transfer if you are in El Salvador. Scan the QR code to access our donor platform quickly.



Donate using Bitcoin or other cryptocurrency via the same online platform.



Send a physical or electronic check to:

Mission To El Salvador
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Wexford, PA 15090