



## Haven of Hope Bolivia July - September 2021



Welcome, Spring!

September is a special month in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Temperatures rise, flowers bloom and celebrations abound. September 21<sup>st</sup> not only marks the official beginning of spring; it also is Student's Day and the Day of Love. September 24<sup>th</sup> is a regional holiday to commemorate Santa Cruz's Independence Day.

To celebrate Student's Day, the children at HOHB enjoyed a day off of school with prizes, refreshments, games and, one of their favorite activities, an evening bonfire. They took advantage of their second day off of school that week with a barbeque at a local park to celebrate Santa Cruz Day.



As we welcome spring here at Haven of Hope, we also reflect on God's goodness and faithfulness over the last few months. We wait in eager anticipation for the completion of the fulfillment of His promises in the upcoming months and years. And we also send our heartfelt thanks to you for celebrating these advances and achievements with us and for supporting this ministry to the children of Bolivia.

## EQUIP - School

The majority of schools in Bolivia continue with virtual learning. However, Light and Life School is allowing the elementary students to meet for class in person at the school while middle and high school students continue online classes.

Second quarter grades show that the children, especially the older ones, have been making important advances at school. Tutors have been coming to campus every day to help the children who are still struggling to catch up with their peers.



Brittany and Estefania at their study station in the library.



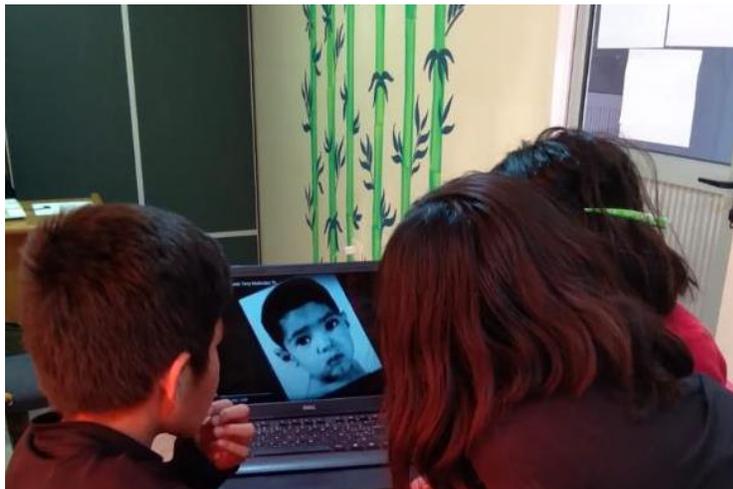
Our 7<sup>th</sup> graders work on homework in the cafeteria.

## EQUIP - Workshops

The Psychology and Social Work Departments joined forces to create programs and workshops for the different groups of children and adolescents at Haven of Hope.

Facilitators this past quarter included staff members such as psychologist, Jose; social workers, Nelly and Lilly; boys' educator, Placido; and administrator, Graciela as well as special guest speakers including local pastors: Johnny Aguilera, Elmer Tambare, Reny Guevara, Jeffer Ruth, and Pamela Canido; international digital business owner and accountant, Fabian Marino; psychologist and government worker, Eva Morales; and Nigerian missionary to Bolivia, Vindra Oghenekparabo.

While the our most recent and youngest additions to the family form part of the "Adaptation Program", which assists them in adjusting to life at Haven of Hope, children between 10 and 11 years old make up the Transition Program which helps them learn about their legal rights and responsibilities, prepubescent physical and psychological changes, character and temperament, emotional self-control and conflict resolution.



Children in the Adaptation and Transition Programs participate in various workshops.

The program for girls ages 12 – 14 years old is called **“Created in the Image of God”**. Workshops for them included spiritual topics such as repentance, forgiveness, internal healing, God’s holiness, general knowledge of the Bible and intimacy with God as well as practical themes such as the importance of personal hygiene and physical activity. Psychological topics like physical and emotional changes, resolution of conflicts, attraction, cutting, stress management, character and temperament were also covered.



“My Identity in Christ” is a program for boys ages 12 – 14 that helps them discover who they are in Christ, how to achieve a manly posture, how to have greater intimacy with God as well as social skills like the art of conversation and conflict resolution. They also learn more about personal hygiene, character and temperament, attraction, the importance of physical activity, sexual education, stress management and more.



Our young women ages 15 - 18 participated in the program entitled “Youth with a Purpose”. They explored the health topics like exercise, sexual education, health and sickness. They also worked on social skills such as overcoming timidness, self-esteem, empathy and assertiveness. Spiritual themes included understanding sexual morality, serving with love, and spiritual maturity. How to design a life project was also covered along with conversations about dating, family and marriage.



## EQUIP - English Classes Re-initiated

After a lengthy pause after the pandemic, English classes reinitiated in July. The focus is to review the topics the children are studying in school and to add more content as students are ready.



## EQUIP - Military Service Requirement

Ruddy started his one-year military service requirement. He is our first young man to participate in this program while living at Haven of Hope.



## Family reunification – Aida and Jose

Bolivian laws uphold every child’s right to a family, so courts tend to rule in favor of qualifying families that request custody. Custody of Aida and Jose was granted to family members who had been regularly visiting them and had completed the required processes. As can be expected, there were tears at their departing, but pictures Nelly shared from their meal with their family on the way to their new home showed that they were already adjusting.

What a wonderful opportunity to serve as a “Haven of Hope” for children in need: Rescuing, loving, restoring and equipping them while they are under our care and trusting that their Heavenly Father will continue to hold them in His hands when they must leave ours. We appreciate the faithful support of our child sponsors who generously invest in the lives of the children at Haven of Hope.



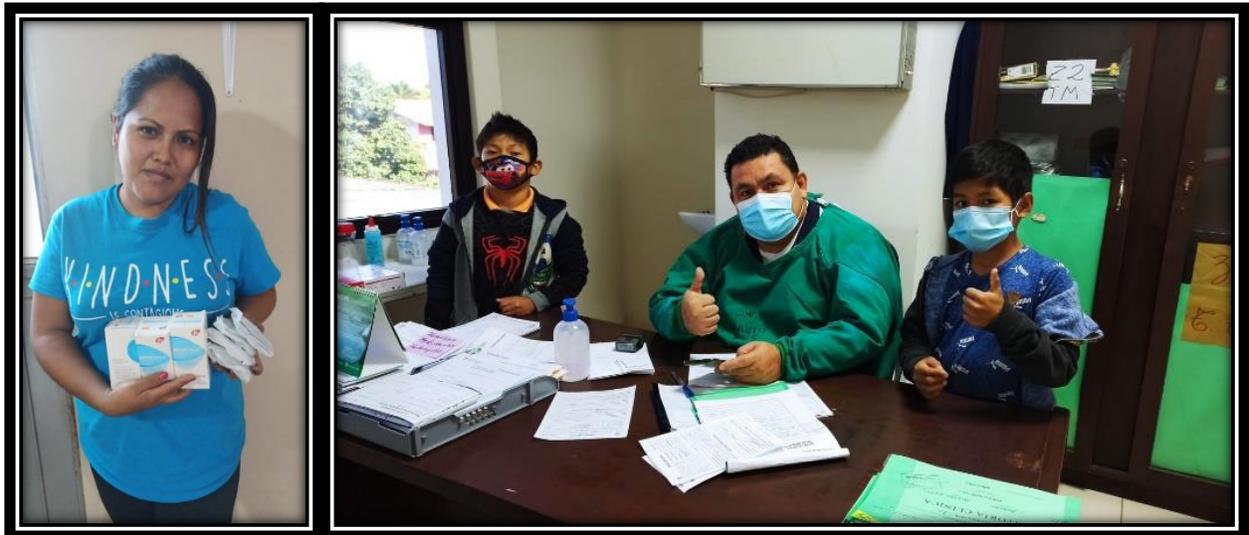
## ONGOING CARE

It has been said to “enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things”. The accumulation of “little things”, which we often take for granted, creates the “felt safety” environment that our children need for true restoration. The directors and staff at Haven of Hope know this and make sure our children are properly cared for every day, whether it is providing seasonally appropriate clothing or staying well-groomed for a healthy self-esteem.





“Little things” like teaching the children about cleanliness and order create habits that will accompany them their whole lives. “Little things” like regular height and weight measurements help ensure any irregularities are caught in time to allow for optimal development. “Little things” like teaching the girls to track their menstrual cycle to express the importance of self-awareness and self-care. “Little things” like regular dental check-ups.



“Little things” like medicine for children who do not feel well, like vitamins to boost the immune system, like visits to the doctor to address problems that arise.

“Little things” like birthday parties that say “you are special”!



Miguel, 7



Ruth Sol, 8



Rosa, 13



Kimberly, 13



Eva, 16

**“Little things” made possible by donors like you who put the resources in the hands of the local staff care for His “little ones”.**

*“And The King answers and says to them,*

*‘Amen, I say to you, as much as you have done to one of these **my little brothers**, you have done that to me.’ - Matthew 25:40*

*(Aramaic Bible in Plain English, emphasis added)*

## GARDEN

The garden was created as part of a food contingency program in response to the critical situations Bolivia went through during the 21-Day Strike of 2019 and the COVID pandemic in 2020. In addition to providing nutritious food for HOHB's kitchen, it provides a space for occupational therapy and a sustainability source, as harvests that produce a surplus are sold to local churches and around the neighborhood. Tio Placido uses his knowledge in this area to lead the boys and other children in this special educational activity.



Oscar and Martha pick lettuce; Cristiano shows off a freshly picked carrot; A healthy pepper plant grows.



Juan David, Nelly (left) and Javier, Martha, Roy, Ruddy (right) pose with fresh lettuce from the garden.



Carrots and chard. Vegetable sale at Abundant Life Church. Oscar enjoys a nutritious vegetable juice.

## Bolivia and Africa Unite in Missions

Local pastor Pamela Canido is working with Gladys to bring a group of missionaries from Nigeria to Bolivia. This connection is through a young woman named Vindra who lives and works in Santa Cruz. The vision is to create cultural exchanges among our young people to broaden horizons and empower both communities.



Cathy, Pamela, Vindra and Gladys

## After HOHB

Haven of Hope loves to reconnect with children who no longer live with us. Whether through follow-up investigations by the social work department or visits to campus by older siblings who have aged out or meeting up to celebrate a birthday or reunions at activities for homes throughout the city, it is always a joy to meet again.



## Trauma Informed Care Trip and Certification Program

Haven of Hope Bolivia was thrilled to receive a lovely and impactful group on Bolivia's Independence Day. The group included: Angela Bryan, the Director of Child Development and Sponsorship and Trauma Informed Educator for HOHI; Tony LaMantia, HOHI's Trip Coordinator; Dr. John Sweet, the Executive Director of the Heart of Florida Youth Ranch who has decades of experience in Foster and Orphan Care; Paula Phillips, who shared her heart and knowledge in several areas, including prison reform, rehabilitation, inner healing and restoration as well as her passion for missions; and Carina Bryan, life-long friend and confidant of HOHB's older daughters.



The group receives a warm Haven of Hope welcome on Bolivia's Independence Day, August 6<sup>th</sup>.

Trauma Informed Care Training has been occurring at Haven of Hope Bolivia for years, but this trip Angela launched classes for an official Certification Program for participating staff members. John Sweet ministered to staff member during the memorable and impactful first meeting for the Certification Program and shared his vast experience in foster care throughout the week. The group ministered through workshops, personal counselling and prayer. They ministered not only to the children and staff at Haven of Hope Bolivia but also to the pastors of the Church of God in Bolivia and the Director of the Department of Santa Cruz's Social Policy Services, Freddy Jimenez, Jr.



Left: The group meets with Bolivia's National COG Overseer, Bishop Freddy Jimenez Sr before ministering to the local pastors. Right: John Sweet and Paula Phillips visit Departmental Director, Freddy Jimenez Jr to discuss social programs such as foster care and rehabilitation programs for prison inmates.



Group photo at the close of the August 2021 Trauma Informed Care Trip.

## Director Training Trip – Pucallpa, Peru

Haven of Hope International has been working to connect Pastor Lilly San Martin with groups and individuals who are joining her vision to create a Refuge of Life for the children in need in Pucallpa, Peru. She has successfully ministered to her community via her local church and is extending the outreach to include an orphanage. HOHB Directors, Gladys Jimenez and Marco Aldana, travelled to Pucallpa to share their knowledge and experience with Pastor Lilly and her leadership team to further develop and enhance the plans and strategies for opening the orphanage there. The week of discussions, workshops and other activities created a special bond between leaders of the two homes and strengthened the groundwork for this project.



Left: “Welcome to Refuge of Life” Right: WELCOME was palpable in the atmosphere during the entire week spent in Peru.



Marco led the group through key strategic planning documents that opened the path to valuable discussions.

On Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, a workshop was held for all of the staff members that Pastor Lilly has in mind to initiate the orphanage project. Engagement in the activities was so intense that even a prolonged electrical blackout couldn't dampen the mood.



In addition to strategic planning with key leaders and the workshop with the anticipated staff members, the group also participated in church activities with the endearing Refuge of Life church community.





Haven of Hope is grateful for the staff and sponsors who helped make the dream of launching the Director's Training Program internationally and looks forward to what lies ahead as we work together to raise the standard in orphan care around the world. Thank you and God bless!