



Haven of Hope Bolivia February – April 2022

“For I know that plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

New Beginnings

Sometimes the end is a new beginning.

The arrival of brothers Jhoan and Jesus marked the end to one chapter of their childhood. But it also marks the beginning of a new chapter – a chapter that Haven of Hope is determined to saturate with love, restoration and equipping for a promising future of hope.



In the case of siblings Cristiano, Miguel, Ruth Sol and Fiorella, the end to their time at Haven of Hope marked the beginning of a restored relationship with their mother, who labored faithfully to gain custody of them.

A recent visit confirms that this sibling group is succeeding at home. Still, the time they spent at Haven of Hope played a crucial role in both their current and future success because they found a safe shelter for rescue and restoration at a critical moment in their lives that prepared them not only for this new season of their lives but also for the ones to come.



A New School Year Begins

Despite tremendous challenges in education during the pandemic, all our children passed the 2021 school year thanks to the support of our sponsors, the dedication of our staff, and the hard work of our students themselves. The first few weeks of the 2022 school year were still held online, but by mid-March the Bolivian government approved in-person classes, to the delight of children and adults alike. Nothing compares to face-to-face instruction for our children.



Young girls from Tia Esther's group work on homework in their module.



Nelly supervises homework time with a few older girls who are temporarily living at the seminary.



The boys are ready and waiting for the bus to go to in-person class.

Pro School Supplies Lunch Sale

Getting the school year off to a good start requires plenty of funding: registration and tuition fees, uniforms, textbooks, notebooks, school supplies, backpacks...the list goes on and on. To help mitigate these costs, Haven of Hope held what Gladys jokingly dubbed “The Great Chicken Massacre”. The chickens that Haven of Hope had been raising as a contention plan for moments of crisis as well as for sustainability proved to be a valuable resource – this time for school supplies. Local churches and friends came to purchase a special Sunday lunch to support the orphanage. Staff and children alike pitched in to help for a successful local fundraising event.



Left to right: Mamma Gladys serves “picante de pollo”, a typical Bolivian favorite. Tia Magdalena sells Jell-O with whipped cream, and our psychologist’s wife, Galdis, sells typical Mexican soft drinks.



Lilly sells other items for additional profit to help reach the fundraising goals for school supplies so children like Norma (center) can benefit from a formal education.

Transition Program

Recently a teenager visited his sister at Haven of Hope campus. Because Bolivian laws favor family reintegration, the court ordered his return to his grandmother’s because his case was no longer considered “at risk”. Since then, he has dropped out of high school to help his uncle with a small business with low potential for economic growth. He currently does not foresee any chance of returning to school. His story depicts the reality of many Bolivian children and youth.

The statistics for youth who age out of orphan care are even more harrowing, which is why providing safe options for young people who are aging out of government recognized aid is of utmost importance. Haven of Hope continues to expand what is locally known as “The Youth Development Program”, a Transition to Independent Living Program.

Our professional staff works with our youth during their last few years of high school to help them identify studies that are suited to their interests and innate skills. When they do age out, they can apply to live on-campus as part of the transition program to get help with their ongoing studies. Currently, this on-campus phase of the program includes 4 young university women and one young woman who is part of a job placement program. Additionally, several young people who live off-campus continue to receive varying levels of aid from Haven of Hope sponsors during their transition to independent living. Often, we are their only viable option for positive support.



Left: Martha is in her 2nd year of university. She studies Accounting. Yoselina participates in our job placement program, working with an entrepreneur from the local church. Center: Fernanda is in her 3rd year of university studies. She is majoring in Commercial Engineering. Right: Carlota is in her 3rd year of university studying Communications. Here she participates in an interview during class. She is the student to the left.



Left: Luz Marina is in her third year of studies in Information Technology. Her sister, Adriana, is a high school junior who is taking extracurricular English classes. Center: Eva is a high school senior who is considering teaching as a possible career choice. Right: Pappa Marco poses with Ruddy, who is fulfilling his one-year military service requirement as a high school senior.



Left: As Haven of Hope’s population approaches adulthood, expansion of our transition program becomes more imperative. Center: Yuliana continues to receive support from her HOHI sponsor. She lives off-campus and works at a “salteña shop” and continues her studies. Right: Haven of Hope is actively connecting with organizations and individuals who are passionate about Youth Development to offer the best opportunities to our young people.

Case in Point

Jose Herlan exemplifies what a difference family support makes in these critical years. He was unschooled when he first came to Haven of Hope at about 10 years old, so he was barely able to hold a pencil properly, let alone read or write. But that would soon change. Through formal schooling and with encouragement from dedicated staff members such as Tia Esther, who is our expert at helping children learn their letters and numbers, Jose Herlan gained literacy.

Due to circumstances beyond his control, Jose Herlan was transferred as a young teenager to an all-boys' orphanage. When he aged out of orphan care there, like many other 18-year-olds, he believed he was ready to take on the world but soon came to the hard realization that he could not make it without family support. Thankfully, even after years of living in other orphanages and on his own, he still unhesitatingly claims Gladys and Marco as his real parents, so when he was in trouble, he reached out to mamma Gladys and pappa Marco.

Today, Jose Herlan is in the final phase of our transition program, finishing up his studies and helping with on-campus maintenance while living off-campus. Haven of Hope has assisted Jose Herlan with primary school in the past and now continues to help him complete his high school diploma course so he can then complete his certificate studies at the seminary and carpentry school. He portrays how greatly a life can be impacted with a few extra years of support.



Left to right: Young Jose Herlan poses on campus and with his “pappa Marco”. Haven of Hope sponsors are funding Jose Herlan’s orthodontic treatment for an added boost of self-esteem as he enters the work force and creates life-long relationships. He works on school assignments, preaches whenever he gets the chance and shows off a seminary certificate.



Left to right: Jose Herlan poses with Larry, Dave, Alice, and Tom after performing a traditional dance. He helps with things like carpentry maintenance and lawn care on campus.

Trip to USA

In February, Haven of Hope Directors, Gladys and Marco, traveled from Bolivia to Florida with Onsite Program Coordinator, Cathy, for three outstanding weeks of connection with HOHI friends and sponsors. The following pictures display some highlights from their visit.



Left: Participation in Haven of Hope International's 2022 Strategic Planning Meeting. Center: Gladys waves the Bolivian flag during a boat ride off the shores of West Florida. Right: Diane, Dave, Marco, Gladys and Cathy prepare for the worship service at Cape Christian Fellowship on Super Bowl Sunday.



Riverside Church invited Haven of Hope to its Missions Week. Participating missionaries were showered with love and encouragement during both ministry and fun times. Left: Gladys blows a kiss while pointing at a Haven of Hope poster at Riverside church. Center: A behind-the-scenes shot of videos prepared for Riverside's website. Right: Cathy takes a selfie with Beth and her sister at an outreach where missionaries volunteered alongside Riverside at a local school.



Haven of Hope representatives had a wonderful time sharing our vision at a joint Life Group where we made new friends and reconnected with old friends.



Haven of Hope representatives pose with the Basiks.



Gladys and Marco pose with Sherry and Bart Bullock.



Left: With Susan and Vinnie



Center: With Brook and Krista Carey



Right: With a missionary family that serves in Togo, Africa



John, Alice and Marco traveled to Tennessee to participate in the Mean and Women of Action rally. They presented the "Nation of Orphans" Flag, reminding participants to pray for and support orphans.



Gladys and Marco pose with staff at the Heart of Florida Youth Ranch after a transcultural exchange of experiences, knowledge and helpful procedures during a staff meeting there.



As a special R&R treat, Alice and John took Marco, Gladys and Cathy to Silver Spring for a refreshing and breath-taking outdoor adventure – a whole body experience that resonated the words of Jesus: “Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” -John 7:38



Another incredibly revitalizing experience was participation in the Rise Conference in Tampa. Top-of-the-notch speakers inspired their audiences and anointed musicians led the congregation into worship. God’s Spirit spoke powerfully, injecting encouragement, comfort and restoration. Important connections with other leaders were made, and (on a personal note) after 20+ years of translating, Cathy had her first “in booth” interpretation experience.



Haven of Hope International friends and family, like Bill and Marianne, gathered their friends in their homes to share Haven of Hope's vision to raise the standard in orphan care and to plan for future visits and projects.



The trip ended with the very congregation where it all started. Alice's home congregation was the first to accept the call to adopt Haven of Hope under her leadership over 18 years ago.

How awe-inspiring to consider where obedience to His call leads!

How motivating to consider what else He has in store for those who are willing to say "YES!"



An enormous THANK YOU to EVERYONE who made this trip so memorable and rewarding!

Father's Day

In Bolivia, Father's Day is celebrated on March 19th to coincide with St. Joseph's Day on the Catholic calendar. A salteña breakfast is a traditional treat that children offer their fathers, and other activities include school events and handmade crafts from school-aged children. Haven of Hope's dads, Marco and Placido, were celebrated by the children both on HOHB campus and at the children's school.



Left: Marco poses with Jhoan at the school's Father's Day activity. Center: Our psychologist, Damaris, and Carlota decorate the dining hall for HOHB's Father's Day celebration. Right: Tio Placido's group celebrates the special day with him in private as well.

Children's Day

Bolivia observes Children's Day on April 12th. The commemoration was originally enacted in Bolivia in 1955 in response to World Conference on Child Welfare. Today, celebrations include fun games and special treats. At Haven of Hope, the Social Work Department proactively reviews Children's Rights and Responsibilities periodically to raise awareness to improve the quality of life of Bolivia's children.



Left: Psychologist Damaris and volunteer Nancy help with preparations for the Children's Day Celebration. Center: The children enjoy their treats. Right: Nelly reviews Children's Rights and Responsibilities with our newest additions: Jhoan and Jesus.



Left: Claudia poses before leaving her handprint. Center: A local group brought treats to Haven of Hope for the party. Right: Marco prepares for his handprint.

Trauma Informed Care Trip

This August, Haven of Hope's staff will graduate with a certificate Trauma Informed Care. Most of the classes have been given via Zoom sessions, but in April, Angela came to Bolivia for several days of intensive in-person classes. The positive impact from this training is evident in staff interventions with the children.



Left: Marco and Gladys welcome the group at the airport. Center: Angela shares valuable tools and resources for intervention with the children. Right: The students in the certification program pose with Angela, holding valuable visual aids.



Left: Connection is the foundation of Trauma Informed Care. Angela had been praying for her sponsors to be with her during her 15th birthday celebration, and God answered her prayer. What a beautiful testimony of God responding to the desire of her heart through the obedience of her sponsors in investing their time and resources in a trip to Bolivia to be with her. Center: A photo with Angela at her school on her birthday. Right: The group spent an afternoon hanging out with their sponsor children.



In Trauma Informed Care, knowing what helps each child find calm is a key step in rewiring their brains. After a recent conflict, both Marco (far left) and Duniar (left) participated in one of their favorite calming activities to enter a good headspace for conflict resolution and relationship restoration. A health connection with a safe adult is vital to this healing process. Right: Angela poses with Reynilda. Far right: Jhoan happily plays with Legos.

Birthdays

All birthdays are special. Turning 15 is a milestone birthday that marks the passage from childhood to young adulthood. This year, seven children at Haven of Hope are celebrate their 15th birthday; three of them happened between February and April.



Lizeth turned 15 on February 26th.



Angela turned 15 on April 22nd.



Our directors' daughter, Sarai, turned 15 on April 27th.



Other people who celebrated birthdays include Tia Esther, Nicol, Fernanda, Ruddy and Britany.

More Reasons to Celebrate

Everyday at Haven of Hope is a learning experience. From cooking and cleaning to gardening and baking, our children acquire important life skills.



Left to right: Adriana prepares rice. Yoselina peels potatoes. Rosa and Lizeth bake an oatmeal cake. Fernanda inspects a donut.



Left: Rosa, Reynilda and Anachely pass out snacks. Center: Caleb and Juan David plant seeds.

Right: Tio Placido works with his group in the garden.

Our devoted staff make sure the children are taken care of: physically, emotionally and spiritually.



Nelly, our social worker, works with local medical centers to make sure our children are up to date with their vaccines. Candied apples are her specialty on vaccine days – a happy mix between “a spoonful of sugar makes the medicine go down” and “an apple a day keeps the doctor away”.



Left: Tia Esther poses with her Sunday School class. Center: The Deborah group during Bible reading time. Right: Sunday School teachers Tia Esther and Tia Magda review the children’s Sunday School work.

When Lily gave notice that she would be resigning from her position as Education Coordinator to further her studies, we wished her blessings in her new endeavours with some concern about finding the right match for someone to fill the role. Thankfully, we soon welcomed Cyntia Aldana to the position. One of Cyntia’s goals is to help Haven of Hope Bolivia digitalize files, information and processes.



Left: Our new Education Coordinator, Cyntia, poses with Reynilda. Center: Cyntia helps prepare treat boxes for Children’s Day. Right: Regular staff meetings help ensure good communication for consistent care for our children.

God continues to show His favor by promoting people in Haven of Hope’s sphere.



Left: Pastor Freddy Sr poses with Pastor Freddy Jr and other pastors at the ceremony for Pastor Freddy Jr’s appointment to Departmental Assemblyman. Center: Gladys works locally to promote Haven of Hope through Hope Haven Foundation. Right: While directors Gladys and Marco were in the USA, representatives from the departmental government showed up for a surprise audit. The staff’s excellent work attending to the audit team is evidence of institutional strength.



¡GOOOOOOOL!
 Thank you for playing your part on
 the Haven of Hope Team.
You are making a difference!

