



HAVEN OF HOPE BOLIVIA



July 2025 – August 2025

Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land.

Proverbs 25:25 NIV

The joy that visitors bring to Haven of Hope Bolivia is immeasurable. Having visitors introduces our children to new cultures, languages and traditions, expanding their horizons and fostering a global understanding. Visitors also provide emotional support and reassurance, making children feel valued and loved. And even more long-lasting than the thoughtful gifts they bring are the love, hope, and a sense of belonging they share with our children. The interactions and activities these visits facilitate create cherished memories that foster healing and growth. And by sharing their own stories and experiences, our visitors inspire our children to dream big and aspire to achieve great things in their lives.

Winter Vacation

Winter vacation was longer than usual this year to mitigate a measles outbreak in Bolivia, allowing more time for parents to take advantage of vaccination campaigns and to lessen contact with others to keep the disease from spreading. As usual, our social worker, Nelly Chambi, made sure our children were up-to-date with all of their vaccines and boosters by organizing a group of nurses who came to provide shots for both children and staff.



Far left: Sila comforts Shirley while she received the measles vaccine booster. Center left: Nelly poses with nurses who participated in the vaccination campaign. Center right: Jesus bravely receives his vaccination shot. Far right: Tia Magda models courage for the children who are nervous about needles.



Far left: Winter vacation also includes times for deep cleaning on campus. Left center: Yandi receives a donation of winter clothing. Right center: Luis Miguel's relatives bring a donation of green beans. Far right: The boys deep clean the garbage bin area.

Visitors from the States

A longer winter vacation allowed our children to fully enjoy the visitors who came in July: Dave Russ, a Haven of Hope International Vision Team, the Guthries Group, Alexis Basik and Beth Webley. As we welcome our Family of Hope during these visits, we are reminded of the invaluable role they play in our lives. Their presence and commitment exemplify the power of enduring relationships and the positive impact they have on fostering hope and resilience.

Dave Russ

Uncle Dave arranged for fun activities like shopping and going to the movies. He also oversaw the installation of a fantastic volleyball court where the children are able to practice one of their favorite sports and play in the sand. Studies show that playing in the sand helps with fine motor skill development, sensory exploration, creativity and problem-solving skills, so having clean sand to explore is not only fun but also beneficial. And of course, team sports like volleyball are not only are great for physical health, they also help develop important social skills like communication, cooperation and resilience.



Left: Gladys snaps a selfie with Tia Magda, Uncle Dave, Adriana and Tio Placido at the movie theater. Center: Our children line up with their tickets for an exciting afternoon at the movies. Right: Rossy poses in front of the volleyball court, which sometimes doubles as a huge sandbox.

HOHI Vision Team and OCTI Training

The vision team from Haven of Hope International packed numerous, invaluable activities into the few, precious days they were present. While the Haven of Hope International Orphan Care Training Institute (OCTI) team was empowering 300 people on the frontlines of orphan care through 3 days of intensive training, the rest of the vision team was imparting love and hope while engaging in impactful encounters with the Family of Hope.

The first day of training was entitled “Strategic Fundraising for Orphan Care and Fundraising Planning,” taught by Alice Sweet and Marco Aldana. This workshop was geared towards orphanage directors and other high-level leaders who are seeking creative and effective ways to continue to finance their childcare projects.



Left: John and Alice set up for the first session of the training. Center: The HOHI and HOHB leadership teams pose with the leaders of SEDEPOS (Departmental Service of Social Policy), the department that oversees orphan care in the state of Santa Cruz. Right: Marco shares 20+ years of fundraising planning experience with orphanage directors and leaders.



Left: John and Alice pose with a participant in the fundraising workshop who won one of many prizes granted by a generous, anonymous donor. Right: The turnout for the training exceeded expectations, and the audience was openly receptive.

The second and third days of training were geared specifically towards the caregivers. Dr. John Sweet encouraged caregivers with messages on the power of positivity and a beautiful analogy of the importance of guarding one's own heart because “what is in your cup” will spill out when shaken. Angela Bryan delivered a synopsis of trauma informed care, encouraging the crowd to discern the true need behind difficult behaviors and to create

stable connections with the children through caring, receptive and consistent relationship building.



Left: Dr. John Sweet leads a group dynamic to illustrate his lesson. Center: Cathy translates as Alice greets the caregivers from orphanages in Santa Cruz. Dr. John and Gladys share the stage as the team prepares for the intensive training. Right: Angela shares her expertise in the area of trauma informed care.



Left: Haven of Hope International's Orphan Care Training Institute team poses with Lidia Mayser Hurtado, Director of the Departmental Service of Social Policies: Marco, John, Lidia, Alice, Angela, Cathy and Gladys. Center: The training empowered 300 people on the frontlines of orphan care in Bolivia. Right: The staff from the Departmental Service of Social Policies join with the staff of Haven of Hope Bolivia and HOH's OCTI leaders for a photo to memorialize this impactful event.

Meanwhile, back at Haven of Hope Bolivia, the rest of the vision team hit the ground running with several vital and pleasant tasks. For example, strengthening connections with the children through play and accompanying them in special occasions like birthdays. To show support to the staff, activities like staff dinners help not only to remind our caregivers and professional team that they are not alone but also to allow our sponsors and organizational leaders to better understand local perspective and learn about ways that loving care is provided in the day-to-day. And each vision team member helped trouble-shoot according to his or her area of expertise, providing support in various areas from trauma informed care and construction to overseeing chicken coops and water filtration systems.



Left: Haven of Hope International's Board Chair, Andrew Carricarte, brought along all four of his children, who promptly connected with the Family of Hope using both Spanish and improvising skills. Andrew's intention to commit to this Family of Hope for generations to come is an extraordinary venture. Center: Andrew and Jeff bless Rosa at her birthday celebration which included her new friends, Emily and Kaylee. Right: Jeff, Marco, Samuel and Andrew pose for a photo after a staff dinner.



The Father's heart for not only his children at home but also the "prodigals" who are finding their way back shines through in Jeff Basik, who takes time to visit with his sponsored children both on and off campus. Left: Jeff and Yuliana, a young woman Jeff's family continues to support as she lives independently. Center: Carmen Belen and Jeff show off a crochet doll that Carmen made. The sale of these dolls helps Carmen cover the costs of raising her two sons. Right: Jeff also visited Duniar at his military base thanks to the efforts of Nelly, who arranged the visit. Samuel drove and his sister, Yessenia, translated so that Jeff, Duniar, his sisters and nephews could spend quality time together.



Haven of Hope International's Integrator and International Projects Manager, Liz Sterbens, jumped right in to offer support with her varied talents. Left: She used her technical skills to make sure the orphanage's water

filter was working properly. Center: Liz created connections with the children and staff at Haven of Hope. Here she is surrounded by Haven of Hope volunteer, Yessenia Garcia; Rossy; HOHB Accountant, Graciela Hassenteufel; Anabel, Noemi and Aracely. Right: Liz poses with Yessenia, Nelly and Jeff after the staff dinner.



Far left: HOHI's Budget Support Specialist, Beth Morford created opportunities to reaffirm value and connectedness with our transition students through her calm and steady presence. Here she poses with Senaida and Eva. Center: Beth enjoys playful moments with the younger girls. Right: Senaida, Cathy and Beth shared special exchanges at the staff dinner.



Left: HOHI's Trauma Informed Care Educator, Angela Bryan, speaks to the Sunday School class at Haven of Hope's on campus church, Casa de Dios. Center: Angela receives a bouquet of flowers from Yoselina. Right: Our maintenance man and bus driver, Placido; his wife and HOHB cook, Graciela; and their boys, Caleb and Dylan pose with Angela at the staff dinner.



Left: Dr. John Sweet poses with Rossy. Center: The Sweets and the Aldana Jimenez family: Sarai, Alice, John, Gladys, Lucas and Marco. Right: Tia Magdalena and Alice share a hug at the staff dinner.



The July 2025 Vision Trip to Bolivia was a huge success!



The July 2025 Vision Team treated HOHB staff to a lovely dinner to strengthen connections and provide encouragement at the "Casa del Camba".

The Guthries Group

The Guthrie family, accompanied by Heidi Basik, Janice Priem, Lexi Shirey and Ann Randall, spent lovely long weekend playing with the children and sharing with the staff at Haven of Hope. The group taught Sunday School lessons that weekend, created connections through games and shared many gifts with our children.



Left: Liz Guthrie and the class she taught share their Bible verse with the rest of the congregation. Center: Erika and Liz pose for a photo. Right: Kimberly, Liz, Abigail and Mark share a special moment together.



Left: Heidi and Adriana pose together at a breakfast gathering with the transition students. Center: Lexi poses with Maria Rosa, Brittany, Mary Kathryn, Katherine and Yandi. Right: Tia Esther and Noemi pause for a photo with Janice after Noemi received gifts from Janice.

Beth Webley and the Transition Program

As a young woman, Beth Webley spent a year in Santa Cruz as a Rotary exchange student. She was convinced that the purpose of that year in Bolivia extended far beyond a personal experience. So, after some online research about orphanages in Santa Cruz, she returned to Bolivia in 2016 and visited Haven of Hope for the first time. Ever since, Beth has been an advocate for the youth at Haven of Hope.

This trip, Beth shared her story as an exchange student and how it lead her to Haven of Hope Bolivia during at a reunion of Rotary exchange students. At Haven of Hope, she spent time with the students who are transitioning to independent living. Life plans were reviewed and conversations facilitated between the students who are already living in the transition home and the ones who will graduate soon. The GPS students also enjoyed having Beth on campus for in-person class. Her presence created spaces and ideas that have greatly enriched the program.



Left: Martha gives Beth a bouquet of crochet flowers as a sign of appreciation for her dedication to the youth in the transition program. Center: Beth, Cathy, Marco and Gladys pose with Rotary exchange students who have recently returned from other countries. Beth shared her experiences as an exchange student in the late 1970s with the group. Right: Cyntia, Angela, Cathy and Beth pose on a terrace during a visit to the transition home.



Left: Fernanda, Beth and Roy take a picture with a sunflower that was gifted to Beth. Center: Fernanda and Beth pose in front of Fernanda's vision board at the transition home. Right: GPS students Kimberly, Rosa and Maria pose with Beth, who holds paintings Kimberly made for her and wearing the Bolivia T-shirt the group gave her. HOHB is very grateful to Beth for her generous support of the transition program.

Alexis Basik Visits HOHB

Alexis Basik loves to spend time strengthening her connection with her Family of Hope at Haven of Hope Bolivia, sharing joy and lending a listening ear to ensure that others feel seen and heard. Alexis spend a year modeling trauma informed care on campus back in 2019, and her friendship continues to be treasured today.



Left: Alexis accompanied the girls to a volleyball tournament. Center: When Anachely was transferred to another home, Alexis accompanied her, along with our social worker, Nelly Chambi, and Anachely's brother, Roy David. Right: Alexis is welcomed by the administrative staff with salteñas! Marco, Alexis, Graciela and Cathy pause to create a photo memory with Alexis.

August Activities:

Bolivia's Independence Day and Presidential Elections

August 6, 2025 marked the bicentennial anniversary of Bolivia's independence from Spanish rule. Celebrations included a combination of traditional parades, official ceremonies such as flag-raising ceremonies, and other cultural events. Life and Light School participated in a parade and held a cultural fair. For the cultural Social Studies Fair, each grade was assigned a department of Bolivia. The students studied the the assigned region and created posters

that describe the history and economy of the department. They also prepared recipes of typical foods from the region and wore costumes reflecting the traditional dress.



Left: Each class sets up a station to exhibit their work. Teachers and fellow students visit the stands to hear the presentations and to ask questions about the topics. Right: Angela and her senior class pose for a photo by their exhibition stand.



Left: Rosa, Kimberly and Maria pose with their classmates by their exhibition stand about the department of Pando. Center: Erika presents typical foods and drinks at her stand. Right: Jonathan gives a thumbs up to the camera. His class studied the department of Oruro.



Left: Anabel, Aracely and Rossy pose with their classmates, who presented the history and culture of the department of Santa Cruz. Right: Daniela, who currently holds the highest GPA in her grade, answers questions about the typical foods of the department assigned to her.

Presidential elections were held in Bolivia on August 17th. Voting is compulsory in Bolivia, so citizens who eligible to vote and do not participate face fines and restrictions if they are unable to provide legal justification for their lack of participation. Because the votes on the first round were divided among 8 different political parties, and majority vote was not secured and a second round will be held on October 19th to determine who will be the next president. However, the candidate from Movimiento al Socialismo (MAS), the political party that has been in power for the last two decades, was eliminated from the race in the first round, which marks the beginning of a new season in Bolivian history. Whoever wins the elections will face great challenges in stabilizing Bolivia's struggling economy and other social and political issues, so please continue to pray for this beloved nation.



Left: Angela, Maria Fernanda, Sarai, Gladys and Marco head out to vote in the presidential elections. Center: The group shows off their inked thumbs. Fingerprints are placed on the proof of voting card distributed to voters. This document is required to perform any in-bank transactions for 90 days after an election. Without this card, bank transactions are denied. Right: The March for Jesus was also held in August. Here a group from Haven of Hope prepares to participate in the activity.

Thank you!!!

We are deeply grateful to everyone who travels so far to bring joy and hope to the children and youth at Haven of Hope. Knowing they can count on their Family of Hope to continue coming back to see them makes a lasting impact on the children and youth here. Your commitment and generosity are truly making a difference!



Left: Gladys and Marco prepare to welcome our guests with salteñas. Center: The girls at the transition home enjoy their time with family – local and from out of town! Eva, Beth, Cynthia, Fernanda, Martha, Angela,

Damaris, Luz Marina and Adriana. Right: Kaylee and Maria Fernanda create a memory.