



Hands of Hope DR Quarterly Newsletter / April 2023

From the Hands of Hope Board President

I hope you all have had a wonderful start to your year! Easter was just a couple of weeks ago and like many others, hands of hope thanks Jesus for the sacrifice and blessing he gave to us all. Without him our connection with God, the father, would still be shattered and everlasting life would be unattainable.

God continue to show blessing through hands of hope dr. We have 5 new sponsored children since the start of the year. This is 5 new kids that will have access to our educational programs, music programs, and will have God-loving mentors looking out for them.

We also now have a total of 12 children sponsored in our new community, Arroyo Indio. Recently we were informed that hands of hope would no longer be able to rent the building we were using for our educational classes. God was looking out for us though and ana (our leadership in the DR) was approached by a building owner that just had their tenants leave. The building is at least triple the space and has a large yard for outside activities. There are some repairs being done, so while that is happening we are allowed to use the building for free.

The support for hands of hope has been awesome over the first months of 2023. This is not just for the sponsorship dollars and donations, which are greatly appreciated, but also for the kind words of encouragement we get in-person and through emails. Continue to pray for all the communities we sponsor and all the Dominican Republic. Thank you for being part of God's work.

Did you receive your report?

Hands of Hope is sending out reports for sponsored children at the end of every quarter. All reports were sent out at the end of March. If you did not receive yours, please contact Alison at handsofhopedr.sponsorship@gmail.com or Doug at handsofhopedr@gmail.com. We want to make sure you are getting the information our team is working hard to get you.

The Gift of Hearing

By Rick Zynda

As a HOH Board member, I was made aware of a sponsored child, Camila, who was born with a significant hearing impairment in both ears. When it came time to upgrade my hearing aids, the audiologist informed me that many people donate their functional, previously used hearing aids. In discussing Camila's situation with the audiologist, he volunteered to assist in refurbishing and calibration of the hearing aids. Unfortunately, Covid created delays that would last 3 years. Finally, in early February of this year, we were able to visit the DR to review the good work that is being done by our leadership in the DR. I took the hearing aids and showed Camila how to wear, adjust, and use them. It was an amazing experience seeing her reaction to hearing the world around her that she had never heard before. It will take time to adjust from lip reading, particularly in school and other social settings, but I am confident she will do fantastic. I'm thankful for the assistance of Costco; particularly Jeff, the audiologist; Sharla, her sponsor, for purchasing many batteries, and for the blessing of being able to meet and assist Camila in person. Her life will forever be changed.



Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.
John 5:24

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. Psalms 32:8

Imagine being 10 years old and never getting the chance to go to school. We couldn't fathom this in the United States as we pride ourselves as one of the most educated countries in the world.

In reality, many kids in the Dominican Republic and around the world live without the opportunity of education. Our teachers had a case recently where a 10-year-old child had no formal education. The reason being he was an undocumented Haitian child and you need documentation to enter school. He was born in the DR but due to political situations he was considered Haitian because at least one of his parents was Haitian.

Our teachers welcomed him into our programs and helped him learn. It turned out this was a very bright child who caught on quickly. The teacher also encouraged the parents to get the child documentation so he could go to the public school. When the parents received the documentation for the child, he was tested and immediately placed above his standard grade level. Amazing!!! Going from no school to above grade level in a matter of a year.

This child wasn't a sponsor child but due to the might of the overall sponsorship program we were able to give the gift of education to another child.



Classroom in El Almirante

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering fish of every kind

Matthew 13:47

New Office

When the pandemic hit, one of the best ways to slow the spread of the virus was to social distance. The Dominican Republic used this measure like many other countries. Now that we know more about the virus and how to combat it, many have returned to offices and places of business. Our staff in the DR have now moved into a new location.

It is located near two of our communities, El Almirante and Arroyo Indio and is closer to our other communities than the previous office location. Why is this important?

Having an office near the communities we have sponsorship programs in enables our staff to be more accessible, agile, and do more in the communities rather than try to manage situations from afar. It will also serve as a meeting place for mission trip members as we get back to visit to the DR.

If you have been on a previous mission trip, you should remember that we would have lunches at the previous office and get a chance to discuss the day with fellow members and get to know our staff better. The conversations, fun, and selflessness experienced were some of the best moments of the trip. This will happen better at a place we call our own.





Your sponsored child reporters

This letter started off with asking if you had received your sponsored child report. I'm coming back to them because it is important to tell you what these mean besides some words on a page. Members of our staff go into these communities and then into the homes of these kids. They know their parents and their siblings. They ask questions about the children and about the state of the family. If the sponsored child is not showing up to programs, the staff asks "Why?" and encourages the parents and child to follow through with their commitments. Our staff is devoted to these children and their families. Please keep them in your prayers and thoughts.

Looking for other places to see update and information on what is happening with HOH in the DR?

Follow us with the links below and watch the handsofhopedr.org website for updates.



Want to contact us? Please email handsofhopedr@gmail.com or [Click here.](#)



For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39