



Hello Everyone,

I hope you are all is having a fantastic summer. It has been warm here in Wisconsin for the last couple of weeks, so I have been scrambling to make sure I always have a cold drink nearby. The Dominican Republic has felt that same type of weather but for the whole month and lots of rain. Hopefully, the kids down there are enjoying their summer vacation as they prepare for school to be back in session next September.

The board and I have really been working hard to make changes to the Hands of Hope organization over the first half of the year. We believe the organization had tried to do too much outside of the scope of what Hands of Hope was intended to do, which is to help the kids in our program grow in health, education, and faith. We are now working to get back the roots of why we started the program.

The sponsorship program is the primary way we help the kids of the program. This giving enables us to directly affect the child by having educational programs and having workers in the community that talk directly with the families of the sponsored children. We also provide need items like backpacks and Christmas food boxes. We still need more sponsors as we have over twenty kids that are waiting to be sponsored. If would like to sponsor a child or know someone that would, please take a look at [Child Sponsorship - Hands of Hope Dominican Republic \(handsofhopedr.org\)](http://handsofhopedr.org).

Next is community involvement. This has previously been done through projects, which has been a great opportunity, but limited time for our involvement and are frequently costly. We are starting to try new projects, with older kids and young adults in the community. We are hiring them for projects and to work in the education center. Many of them are sponsored children, which shows others how important sponsorship is.

Lastly, we are working on creating a better connection between the local ministries and our kids. Our kids go to Bible class and love it, but frequently they do not have a home church. Sometimes it is because of distance, but often it is because they do not have a connection to the local church. We are working on ways to strengthen the bond between our programs and the local church.

Finally, I want to thank High Point Church in Madison. They have been extremely gracious with resources as I have transitioned to the role over the last year. Thank you for your partnership.

## New Buildings in Arroyo Indio

We have a new building in Arroyo Indio. That is some of the children of Arroyo Indio, their magnificent teacher and our awesome leader in the DR, Ana, on the first page. As some of you may know, a few months back the building that we were renting in Arroyo Indio was going to be sold so we could no longer use that space. Graciously, there was another vacant building nearby. This building is about 10 times the size of the one we were previously in and has a 30-meter yard for outside activities. The owner of the building allowed us to use it for a few months' rent free. The building does need some repairs and updates to the electrical system. The owner is going to or has already done much of the repairs that were needed. Praise God for his perfect timing!

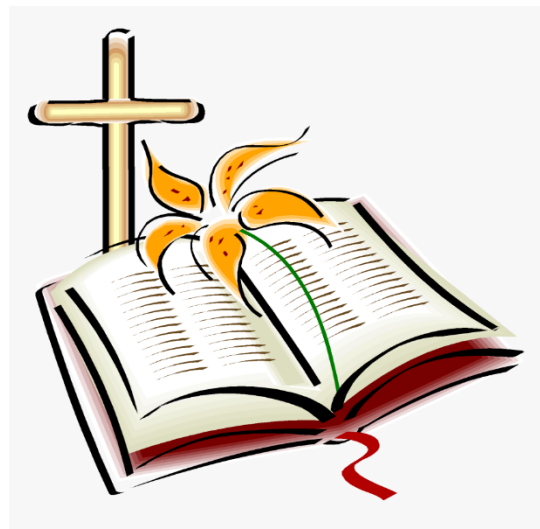
I previously stated this building is much larger than the one we had before and will allow us to offer more educational programs to more children in Indio Arroyo. Having a larger space with more kids has also added some expense. High Point Church has been fantastic in providing extra resources to help get school going on the right track. The kids and teachers are well prepared to start the school year in just a month. We will have more pictures and information as the school year starts so be ready to look at what is happening in Indio Arroyo.

(Pictures were take prior to any repairs)



### **Ecclesiastes 3:11**

*He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.*





## June Sponsorship letters.

You may be wondering why I'm talking about June sponsorship letters when this is the July newsletter. First, I'm going to start off by apologizing that these did not get out in June or even July. Since this is my first summer being president there were a couple things I didn't account for: The time that the schools get out compared to American schools and the time it takes for the grades of the children to be available to us parents even the kids.

These two main factors caused the delay in the sponsorship letters being sent out. We wanted to get these in the sponsorship letters during June so everyone could see how your sponsored child ended up that year. Next year we will plan better for the timing of the students getting out of school and the timing of the grades being released.

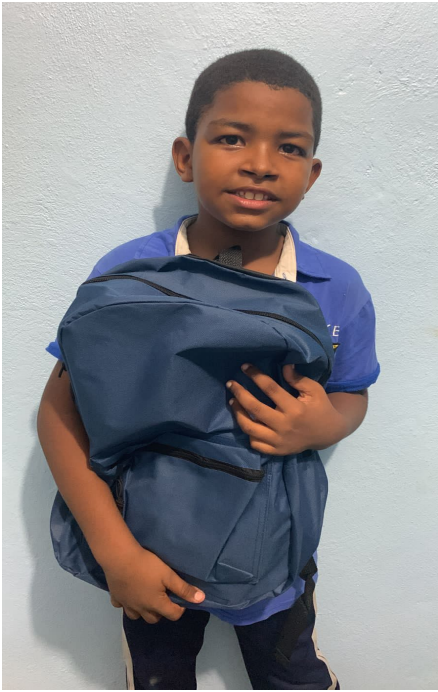
Again, I apologize for this delay and you will see the sponsorship letters coming out in early August. You will also see another letter coming out in September and that one will be more of a recap of the beginning of the school year and what the kids did over summer vacation.



## Help from unexpected places.

Alison and Brennen Webber's nieces, who are only nine and six, held a lemonade stand in their driveway back in June. During this lemonade stand they raised over \$100. Most kids of that age would probably buy candy or games or some other fun item for themselves. Instead, Blakely and Cami chose to show how giving someone so young can be. These girls made the decision to donate \$100 to the Hands of Hope organization from the lemonade stand. We thank and applaud these two young ladies for how gracious they were to donate to our organization. Keep up the good work girls!





## **Backpacks!!!**

Hey, it's back to school time and for kids in the Dominican Republic it is tough to get school supplies. That is why each year we send down backpacks filled with school supplies to the children in our programs. We have some funding to provide backpacks but we can always use more.

If you would like to help specifically with this backpack drive, please follow the link below or scan a QR code at the end of the newsletter.

[Backpack for Kids](#)

A colorful illustration of a field with various flowers (yellow, blue, pink, red) and green grass. In the background, there are blue clouds and a yellow sun. The text is overlaid on this illustration.

# **Backpacks for Kids**

**It may seem early to think about school again, but we are gearing up for next year to get the supplies to our sponsor children on time.**

**Please help us give kids the tools they need to succeed!**

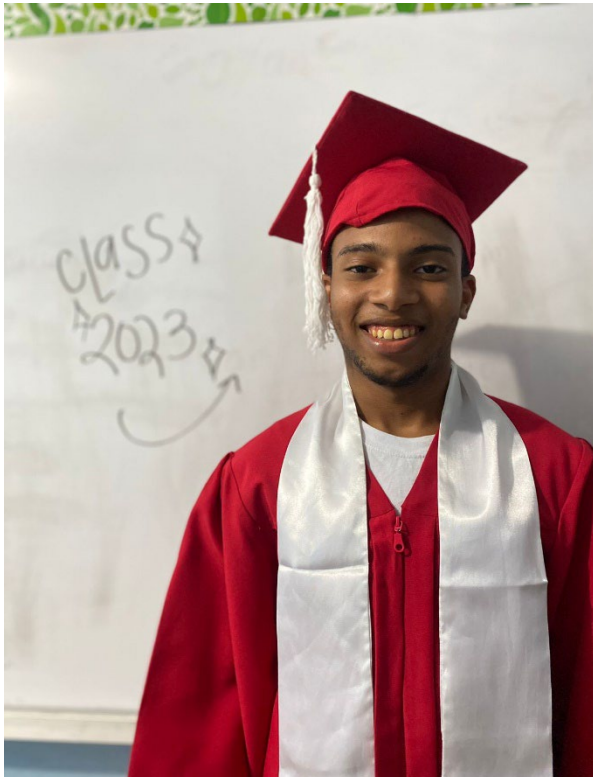
**Funding will be used toward backpacks, pens, pencils, paper, markers, and other items kids use regularly at school.**





### Another Milestone!

Not all kids will need backpacks for elementary and high school this year. We do have to celebrate five kids from our program that are now into adulthood and have graduated high school. Let's congratulate Stiven St. Germain, Isabel Trinidad Mendez, Leury Roman, and Yesenia Mata (picture clockwise from the top left). We did have another graduate, Carlenis Gil, but she was unable to make the congratulatory party. Also, Thank you to the sponsors of these young adults. It is with your help that these kids have a better chance at education



## Short-Term Mission Trip

I wanted to remind everyone that we are planning to have a short-term mission trip to the Dominican Republic next year. More details & information will be sent out soon! We'll also be posting it to our websites and Facebook to make sure everybody that wants to come knows about it. Feel free to reach out to me at [HandsofHopeDR@gmail.com](mailto:HandsofHopeDR@gmail.com) for more information.

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](http://handsofhopedr.org) website for updates.



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



**Backpack Donation QR Code.  
Please scan to help with the  
backpack drive.**

**Now we see things imperfectly as in a cloudy mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely. (1 Corinthians 13:12)**