



IDENTITY MISSION NEWSLETTER

WHAT IS MY PART IN ADVOCACY?

TARA GARCIA, IDENTITY MISSION CEO

A fundraiser committee member, a board member, an Orphan Sunday coordinator, a foster parent, a clothes/supplies drive participant, a mission team member...

And the list goes on of the various ways to begin to advocate! A personal connection or passion typically connects us to our advocacy choices, and it should always be followed by prayer and research to continue guiding us into our next steps of deeper engagement.

Truthfully, advocacy is an area we can continually reevaluate as to if we are serving in our best manner and constantly revisit to ensure we are moving forward at all in our efforts and purpose.

Being an advocate for a cause is such a deep topic that I wanted to hear more from our actual orphan care advocates. I took the time to meet with several of you who choose to stand for orphan care and use your time and resources to advocate for at-risk children and families that we serve through Identity Mission. And I am so glad that I did and that we filmed it because hearing from our advocates was AMAZING!

This past month, we launched a series on **“What is my part in advocacy?”** on Tara’s Tuesday Talk video blog, showcasing some of our most earnest partners and their advocacy journeys. If you missed the four interviews, be sure to go to <https://taraimhis.blogspot.com> and listen to these inspiring stories! You can even download *“My Advocacy Sheet”* provided on September 28th’s episode, take some notes, and **begin to consider how you can further advocate!**

It was so great to hear from these four advocates, and I would love to hear from the rest of you as well! *Let’s be in touch, even if it is to begin sifting through what might be some of your best next steps in advocating effectively. Advocacy is teamwork; don’t hesitate to reach out! I can be reached at: tara@identitymission.org*



DO YOU REMEMBER ESMERELDA AND HER DAUGHTERS?

ERICA SWITZER, IDENTITY MISSION COO

Esmerelda entered our Family Preservation Program with her four daughters a few years ago, after going through some **unthinkable challenges**.

She has two daughters with special needs, a teenager with muscular dystrophy, and a young daughter who was born blind.

Her husband was then murdered, leaving her as a single mom trying to care for her children.

This setback left them living in a one-room home, with no bathroom, by a river, in what is called a "Bordo," which are slum communities that border river lines, always controlled by a gang.

To get to and out of their home that bordered the river, they had to walk up a steep mud ravine. As Jenifer's (her daughter with MS) condition worsened, Esmerelda had to carry her up the ravine. Ultimately, after a surgery, Esmeralda could no longer physically carry her and her wheelchair to the road to get her out of the house.

BUT...their desperate situation was met with a life plan from our Family Preservation Director, where he worked on developing a plan to make sure that poverty would not tear this family apart. Their holistic life plan also included life coaching, personal financial planning, a business plan, parent coaching, and psychological and spiritual support to thrive as a family.

We are excited to share that thanks to donors committed to seeing this family positioned for success and the diligent work of our Family Preservation Director, this family has spent the quarantine in their new home that is wheelchair friendly and where the family is thriving!

We are also extremely grateful for the timing of this because, with the arrival of Hurricane Eta, they would have been left completely stranded and without a home as the river rose past their old house.

When you support Identity Mission, you support families just like Esmerelda! Thank you so much!

ESMERELDA'S NEW HOUSE



BEFORE



NOW

THE IDENTITY MISSION MARKET IS OPEN!



When you buy anything from the Market, you are not only getting a great handmade item made by an artisan in Honduras, but you are also supporting orphan care with the proceeds!

With Christmas right around the corner, this is a great time to grab a few gifts that will make a difference!

Check out IdentityMission.org/Market to see all of the artisan products and coffee!

HURRICANE ETA RELIEF FOR HONDURAS

ERICA SWITZER, IDENTITY MISSION COO

November 4th, Hurricane Eta made landfall in Honduras. It dropped enormous amounts of rain throughout the country and caused country-wide landslides and mudslides, road and bridges collapsed and were wiped out, and rainwater overflowed rivers and completely flooded entire communities. **It left entire communities of thousands of homes and businesses and entirely devastated some of the country's most underprivileged communities. Thousands of families were left trapped on the roofs of their homes, with all of their belongings destroyed inside.**

Keep in mind, these thousands of families are families who live in poverty. They have worked and saved for years to obtain the little that they had. There is no home insurance to help replace and repair. Additionally, these are families who have been deeply affected by the economic impact of COVID-19. Without having work or an income for seven months, the arrival of Hurricane Eta couldn't have come at a worse time for so many.

However, we are thankful to share that all of the families in both our family preservation and foster care program are safe!

So what are we as Identity Mission doing, and what can you do?

As Identity, we are committed to serving at-risk families so that their families are not torn apart by the impact of poverty through our family preservation program, and we are committed to responding, through foster care, when a child loses their family.

Our response will be two-fold:

- 1. We will be responding to emergency needs as we assess long-term aid. We will meet emergency needs as we are able, we will primarily be focusing on the long-term recovery for families.**
- 2. As the water subsides and the damage is assessed, we will be able to care for more families on their road to recovery and regain stability through our family preservation program.**

You can join us by donating, your gift will mean more assistance to families in need, both now in the immediate and in the long road to recovery for so many families!

