



# IDENTITY MISSION NEWSLETTER

NATASHA IS EMBRACED IN A FAMILY

BY: TARA GARCIA

**"GOD SEES HARD PLACES AND BROKEN PEOPLE AND MOVES TOWARDS THEM, NOT AWAY FROM THEM." -JASON JOHNSON**

That is the heart of the message that Jorge Garcia, Identity Mission National Director, shares every time he steps behind a church podium. Every speaking opportunity fills us with hope because Honduras needs more Christian families to answer the call to fostering. Each time we engage a new church, we believe that God has already been at work, preparing the hearts of families, and it is only a matter of them hearing the message for them to find their place in foster care. Once the understanding and the willingness is there, the training can begin for equipping them to be the family a vulnerable child needs. A family that is willing to take in children from hard places provides a new opportunity for healing and love to transpire.

Natasha was one of those children that desperately needed a loving foster family when she entered Identity Mission foster program last month. At the age of 4, she had already suffered such neglect that it showed clearly in her stare and sunken cheeks. Her days had been spent either on the street with her mother, begging, or in the single room, filthy apartment, left alone while her mom was gone elsewhere. When her story was brought to DINAF's attention, they contacted Identity Mission's caseworker, Becky, to see if we had a foster family available. The family Becky had in mind had promised to consider receiving Natasha, but having already fostered a child that had been reintegrated, they were cautious. Could their family love and attach to another needy child, only to be separated when that child moved on to permanency? It is a difficult, heavy question that many foster families have to wrestle with. After hearing more about Natasha's traumatic background, the Rodriguez's, soon decided that they couldn't say no to the opportunity to provide her with love. They chose to give her the first opportunity to grow up in a place that wasn't broken.

When Identity Mission foster families say yes to loving children from broken pasts, they



often can do so because of the encouraging network that surrounds them. When Identity Mission engages churches, it isn't only to recruit foster families, it is also to request their partnership in supporting any foster families in their church. Churches offer support to foster care in many ways, for example, they often provide their facilities free of charge for our ongoing foster family training. These trainings equip the family to understand how to properly care for children that have suffered trauma or abuse. We also support our families with training for understanding the grief and loss they experience as foster children come and go, providing inner healing and self-care so that they can continue to serve their foster children to their utmost. Natasha and her foster family are receiving the resources, knowledge, and support they require to grow together because of an amazing partnership that has transpired between Identity Mission, our partners in the U.S., and the local church here in Honduras. We are so grateful for this teamwork that makes it possible for kids to grow up in families.

## REGIONAL ORPHAN CARE AWARENESS BY: ERICA SWITZER

We believe in the success that comes when a loving family decides to care for a vulnerable child and when a community comes around the family and supports them. We are seeing how this decision is beginning to reshape the culture of churches and communities in Honduras for the better and for generations to come. We are confident that this movement of families loving children in need and a community coming alongside them to support and encourage them transcends culture. This is not just happening in the hearts only in Honduras, but globally around the world, and also very specifically in your community.

We believe that it is not your heart alone that is feeling led towards supporting family-based care, but your neighbors, co-workers, friends, and those that you attend church with are also being called. Not all will be called to be a foster family or even to support Identity Mission's family-based care efforts in Honduras, and that is ok because there are so many roles to fill for children in your city, your nation, and this world. Our mission is specific to the country of Honduras, but we know that the practical needs and the Biblical mandate to care for orphans is true in each culture and each community, and we want to help your community find where they fit in orphan care because we know that each community and each individual has a place to serve. We believe that for many of you reading this, your next step is to step up and host an event where people from your community can spell out the opportunities and give practical action steps to engage involvement for the cause of the fatherless. Once we are aware of a need that it is our duty to act, to move towards a solution. However, the problem too often is just that people do not have the right information to move them towards engagement.

That is where we want to help! We would love to help you host an effective event that engages your community through bringing

local welfare representatives, local and national family-based care support organizations, and an Identity Mission representative that can give practical action steps for the people in your communities and churches to get involved wherever they feel they individually best fit. There are so many avenues of how your community can serve children in need, and we want to help you best find which one is best suited for you and those in your community.

This past month, we were apart of a regional awareness meeting (pictured below) where sixty families came out to find out how they could get involved and over twenty-five families signed up to begin the foster family training in Raleigh, NC. Think of how many children could be impacted in your community and around the world if just a small handful of families chose to step up and serve in the capacities that they were called to!

Contact us at [info@identitymission.org](mailto:info@identitymission.org) if you are interested in hosting an event and we will begin to work with you to find how to best move your community into action! Or plan on joining us in Charlotte, NC or Frederick, Maryland in May for our next regional awareness meetings!



HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW WEBSITE UPDATE?  
CHECK OUT [IDENTITYMISSION.ORG](http://IDENTITYMISSION.ORG)

SUPPORTING VULNERABLE  
CHILDREN BY PROVIDING  
FAMILY-BASED CARE SOLUTIONS  
ALONGSIDE THE LOCAL CHURCH

WELCOME MICHELLE AS OUR NEWEST FOSTER MOM!



Just this past week Tara wrote a blog about Michelle, who has had the desire to be a foster mom, but the fact that she is a single mother and her need for a full-time job has kept that from being a possibility, despite how great of a mother she is and how great of an example she could be for foster children. We are thrilled to announce that within days of Tara's blog being sent out that told her story and told of the financial commitment needed to support Michelle so she could care for two children, the need was met!

It is so exciting when we know that God is clearly leading someone in a direction to serve, and the obstacle standing in our way of helping them to get there is immediately

met! We are so excited to have Michelle care for children in need and we are thankful for our supporters who make it possible for children to have families that love them so much.

We know so many others just like Michelle, who if they were supported they would be able to make their sole focus caring for vulnerable children within the context of their family, which we know from so much research and from the Word of God is the best place for a child to grow up! If you are interested in supporting foster families so that they can care for orphans and vulnerable children, contact us at [identitymission.org/contactus](http://identitymission.org/contactus) or by sending an email to [info@identitymission.org](mailto:info@identitymission.org) and we can talk about how to most effectively make an impact together!

OUR NEW URL FOR ONLINE DONATIONS

[IDENTITYMISSION.ORG/DONATE](http://IDENTITYMISSION.ORG/DONATE)



DONATE INSTANTLY AND EASILY ON YOUR PHONE OR COMPUTER!



GIVE THE GIFT OF FAMILY, TODAY

Each donation goes towards making a sustainable difference in Honduras for orphaned and vulnerable children as we seek to provide family-based care that will benefit the child!

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TARA'S BLOG



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