



OUR CASE FOR SUPPORT

HELP CHILDREN BE CARED FOR IN FAMILIES NOT ORPHANAGES



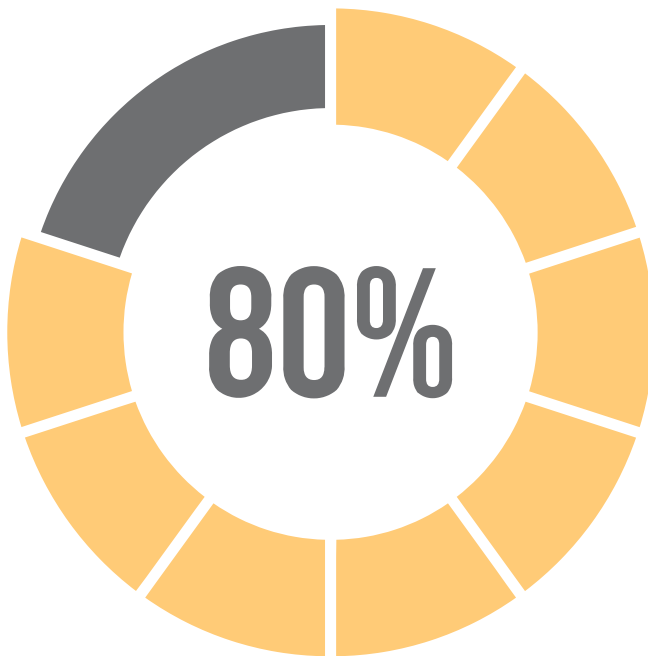
Prepared 2023

THE ORPHAN CRISIS IN HONDURAS:

The Honduras welfare system has relied on nonprofits to care for orphaned and vulnerable children in orphanages. Alternatively, nonprofits, churches, and donors could support biological families by shifting efforts and funding. Children could be cared for in stable home environments within the community at 1/3 the cost of operating an orphanage.

80% of children in orphanages are there due to poverty and not the death of parents. With no governmental aid for impoverished families, the solution has been to remove the child. This should not be. Children need family to thrive.

We can change how we support vulnerable children.



80% of children living in orphanages have a living relative that WITH SUPPORT could care for them at home.

2/3 OF
HONDURANS
LIVE BELOW
THE POVERTY
LINE

EXTREME
POVERTY
IS LIVING ON
LESS THAN
\$1.25/DAY

THERE ARE
AN
ESTIMATED
170,000
ORPHANS
LIVING IN
HONDURAS

60% OF KIDS
AGING OUT OF
ORPHANAGE
RETURN TO A
LIFE OF
POVERTY



**Since 2015,
131 children
were
prevented
from
entering an
orphanage.**

THE SOLUTION:

EVERY child deserves to grow up in a family. God's design for the care of a child is FAMILY!

"God sets the lonely in families." -
Psalm 68:6

That is why Identity Mission has formed two programs as a solution to keep kids in family.

Family Preservation partners with the biological family to prevent separation from the family unit.

Foster Care provides a safe, loving family when separation simply isn't preventable.

OUR MISSION

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

OUR VISION

TO SEE A NATION WHERE EVERY CHILD HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP THEIR IDENTITY IN CHRIST WITHIN A LOVING FAMILY.

FOSTER CARE

Before 2012, only a handful of foster families existed throughout Honduras, and they were mostly for children with special needs. As God has equipped us, we now have an operating foster family program in two regions of Honduras, functioning as what would be considered a private foster care agency in the U.S.

Foster families are supported by Identity Mission caseworkers, regular training, assistance with resources, and family support events. Also, they are matched with a local partner church that grasps the vision of family-based care and is committed to serving the families who care for orphans.

Our case worker team, made up of Christian psychologists and social workers, are the core of our foster care program. These local professionals passionately influence the local welfare offices and church to ensure children are cared for in families and their rights are honored.

FAMILY PRESERVATION

To prevent children from experiencing family separation, at-risk families are identified, and Identity Mission comes alongside them to provide the needed support.

Identity Mission staff evaluates the family's situation and meets their immediate needs, preventing deep trauma to the child and family. Once the crisis is averted, we then walk alongside the family to discover a means for sustainability.

Many of the families have big dreams of owning their own homes in a safer location for their children, or launching their own business so they can provide for their family on their own. Together, we create a life plan that Identity Mission staff and often a local partner church will walk alongside the family for up to two years.

At the end of our program which includes parent classes, discipleship, and mentoring; the family will attend a graduation program celebrating them as the heroes in their own stories!



FROM ORPHANAGE TO FOSTER FAMILY:

IN 2015, IDENTITY MISSION RECEIVED A CALL FROM THE HONDURAS WELFARE OFFICE (DINAF). FOR NEWBORN ANA, IDENTITY MISSION DIDN'T HAVE A PREPARED FOSTER FAMILY. WE WERE ONLY AT THE BEGINNINGS OF OUR FOSTER CARE PROGRAM AND ALL OUR POTENTIAL FAMILIES WERE STILL BEING PROCESSED.

THANKFULLY, A NEARBY RESIDENTIAL HOME HAD AGREED TO BE A TRANSITION SPOT FOR BABIES AWAITING A FAMILY PLACEMENT. THIS WOULD KEEP BABIES OUT OF THE ORPHANAGE SYSTEM LONG-TERM. THE STAFF PROVIDED ANA WITH GREAT LOVE AND AFFECTION FOR THE FIRST 9 MONTHS OF HER LIFE.



FROM ORPHANAGE TO FOSTER FAMILY CONTINUED:

At 9 months, Ana was received by the Ebersole family, one of our trained, local families. While we knew being in a foster family would provide Ana the ability to attach, develop, and grow in a more normal family environment, we were astounded to see how quickly she caught up developmentally.

Statistically, for every three months in an orphanage, a child loses a month of development. We didn't think this would impact Ana since she was placed in a very small, family-style children's home that had an ideal ratio of staff to children. But it wasn't enough. Ana had still lost those months of development. At nine months old she couldn't sit on her own. Was this because of her hypermobility (having very flexible joints) or something more?

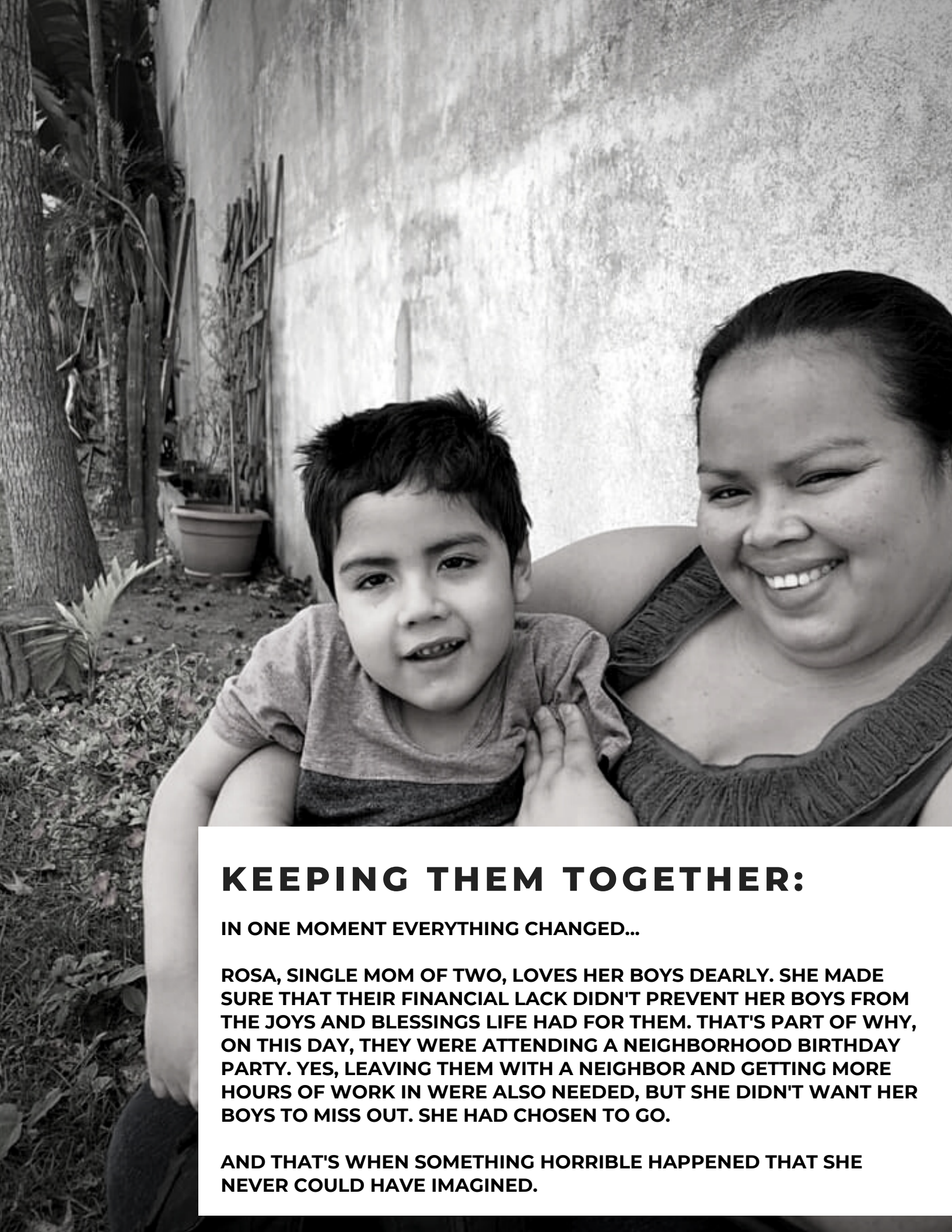
No! Once in her new foster home, Ana soon learned to crawl, sit up on her own, and pull herself to a standing position at the furniture. Her development accelerated! Her physical development wasn't the only thing to get back on track. Even though the children's home provided a safe, clean, and loving environment for children; Ana hadn't formed healthy attachments with her multiple caregivers.

As Ana bonded with her new foster family, she began to form a sense of belonging and trust. . This gave her confidence, and she was on track with normal developmental milestones.

Identity Mission staff had the joy of watching Ana grow up over the years in the care of her foster family as we monitored her during monthly visits. Today, Ana is an energetic seven-year-old who continues to bless her adoptive family. School is one of her favorite places, and we are excited about what the future holds for her!

(To learn more about how this sort of stability (the same consistent care-taker compared to multiple) can build resilience in a child check out:

https://issuu.com/christianalliancefororphans/docs/attachmen_full_book_interactive).



KEEPING THEM TOGETHER:

IN ONE MOMENT EVERYTHING CHANGED...

ROSA, SINGLE MOM OF TWO, LOVES HER BOYS DEARLY. SHE MADE SURE THAT THEIR FINANCIAL LACK DIDN'T PREVENT HER BOYS FROM THE JOYS AND BLESSINGS LIFE HAD FOR THEM. THAT'S PART OF WHY, ON THIS DAY, THEY WERE ATTENDING A NEIGHBORHOOD BIRTHDAY PARTY. YES, LEAVING THEM WITH A NEIGHBOR AND GETTING MORE HOURS OF WORK IN WERE ALSO NEEDED, BUT SHE DIDN'T WANT HER BOYS TO MISS OUT. SHE HAD CHOSEN TO GO.

AND THAT'S WHEN SOMETHING HORRIBLE HAPPENED THAT SHE NEVER COULD HAVE IMAGINED.

"Identity Mission has given hope to my children and my family, and has brought us closer to Jesus. I wish other families received what we receive."

Yojana
-Participant in the Family
Preservation Program

KEEPING THEM TOGETHER CONTINUED:

Rosa is a single mom to two boys. One day at a birthday party something happened that would become her worst nightmare. During the excitement of children hitting the pinata and diving in to grab the candy, Samuel was hit in the head accidentally with a pinata stick causing him to become paralyzed. Samuel's father abandoned the family once he was diagnosed, but Rosa wouldn't give up.

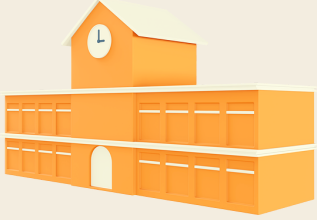
When our team met Rosa she was walking four hours round trip, carrying her son to therapy twice a week. She had a job before all of this happened, but due to Samuel's medical therapy appointments, she couldn't find a place that would allow her the flexibility to take him. So she moved back in with her parents, doing everything she could to provide for her boys. A church member at one of our partner churches introduced our team to her. The first thing our team did was meet the immediate need of the prescribed, special formula, diapers, and medicines. As our team got to know her more, she revealed that she had a lot of experience working in restaurants, and that she had always dreamed of having her own food business.

So we partnered with her to make this happen. She was provided with everything she would need to get started in launching her very own food small business. Our team also trained her on how to manage her finances and help set her up for success. Rosa has since then has been able to set up a bank account, get her own apartment, and start saving for the future.

Some time later, Samuel had a health scare. Rosa had to use their savings to pay the medical bills. We decided to reinvest in Rosa. We guided her to register in an intensive Christian business course provided by a local NGO, and continued to help with Samuel's medical needs. Rosa will now graduate the program fully self-sufficient but also with the knowledge that she has a support system. She knows that now, if things get difficult again she has friends in her Christian community that she can count on.

Rosa is praying and believing for the miracle that one day her son will walk again, please join us praying alongside her for this miracle! Rosa is a supermom, and we're so proud of her for never giving up on her family. Being a single mom of two boys, one with special needs, here in Honduras is not easy. But due to the support Identity Mission has been able to provide, we've seen this family accomplish big goals, and we praise God for allowing us to serve them.

With your help, we can see more kids cared for in *family* and less children placed in orphanages!



Caring for a child in an orphanage costs approximately \$7,000 a year. That is for one child.



Alternatively, the cost for supporting a child in a foster family or within their biological family averages of \$1,400 per year per child.



A significant difference! Identity Mission programs keep kids in a preferred family environment, AND our efforts are more cost effective, creating a longer-last and longer-reaching impact.

Additionally, considering that a child typically remains in an orphanage for 18 years, while the average length of stay in foster care is five years and only 2 years if a child is benefiting from the Family Preservation program. Results - more children are served with solutions that provide them with healing, family, and a strong sense of belonging and identity.

Identity Mission has been a leading catalyst for changing how vulnerable children are served in Honduras. By working alongside the local government and Christian church we have been able to implement family-based care solutions that are reducing trauma for children and providing healing for families. There are many ways to partner in this change from large to small.



\$117/month

Supports 1 child in foster care for a month.



\$15,000/year

Supports the hire of an Identity Mission local staff in Honduras. With each new hire, Identity Mission can literally accept 15-35 new children into our programs.



\$150/month

Keeps an at-risk family together in family preservation.



"The Faith to Action Initiative works to increase the knowledge of family-based care to a U.S. Christian audience through resources, podcasts, events, stories, and media. Over the years, we have seen the quality programming and passion that Identity Mission brings to the family-based care sector and have asked them to share their expertise and experience with our audience in all the ways listed above on numerous occasions."

Allison Coble Director of Programs
Faith to Action



What it cost to see more kids in families:

ANNUAL \$300,000 BUDGET

Identity Mission relies on the support of individuals and churches to meet our annual budget that currently allows us to serve approximately 50 children annually.

Identity Mission spends only 7.3% of its revenue on administration and 13.5% on fundraising. That means a full 79.2% of your gift goes directly to supporting programs and services for the vulnerable children of Honduras.

SUCH A TIME AS THIS...

The foster care and family preservation concepts are sweeping across the nation of Honduras. Local churches and families are answering the call to be the solution thanks to the efforts of Identity Mission staff and God's sweet grace. With each new staff member we hire, we can serve approximately 25 more children in our programs and spread the awareness even that much quicker.

Help us get the word out "kids belong in families" by donating to Identity Mission, fully understanding that your donation lives on to make an impact causing an entire community to rise up and care for it's orphaned and vulnerable child in a way that is healthy and sustainable. There has been no better time to invest in change in Honduras.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT 2015-2022

131

Kids cared for in families

48

Families prevented
from separation

740

Child care
professionals,
caretakers, government
workers trained

THREE WAYS TO DONATE TO IDENTITY

TEXT



GIVE2IDENTITY
TO 91999

ONLINE



VISIT
IDENTITYMISSION.ORG

MAIL



PO BOX 133
LOWVILLE, NY 13367

IDENTITYMISSION.ORG



**WOULD YOU PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER
JOINING THIS CAUSE FOR KEEPING KIDS
CARED FOR IN FAMILIES?**

Identity Mission is a 501(c)3 tax-deductible organization, and we take the stewardship of your donation and partnership very seriously. We hold ourselves accountable under the following certifying entities:

