



ANNUAL REPORT 2022





DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I am so happy to share Montaña de Luz's first ever Annual Report! This report is designed to showcase all of the accomplishments from the past year, share program highlights, and provide insight into our financials and where your donations make the most impact. In the years to come, I hope these reports serve as a reminder of where MdL was in 2022, and one day we can say, "in 2022, we *only* helped 200 individuals."

I feel profound gratitude while reflecting on the work MdL has accomplished this year. In 2022, our team in Honduras provided direct services to over 200 individuals, made over 400 trips to the hospital for medical appointments, conducted over 200 home visits, provided an estimated 500 hours of private tutoring, and presented Charla Luz to over 1,000 individuals. Our Healthy Families Honduras program has prevented 30 children from entering an orphanage. Our nurse became certified to perform HIV testing, making MdL **the** leading provider of HIV resources in the area.

Furthermore, we expanded our on-site school to include new students for the first time ever, several of our youth transitioned to live with their biological family members*, we welcomed a new baby girl who had been abandoned at the hospital plus four additional children in risk, and are on track to help each of our 44 families open a small business by the end of 2023.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support. My sincere hope is that you feel a sense of pride and ownership reading through this report; MdL's successes are most certainly also yours.

ANNA JACKSON

Executive Director

**We currently prefer to wait 1-2 years after the child transitions to share with donors. This is because sometimes youth transition back to MdL and we want to ensure safety before sharing publicly.*

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

During a May 2022 trip to the Mountain of Light, I saw firsthand the fruits of your support as well as urgent needs. The successes: healthy children, engaged and loving staff, and a well-maintained facility. The critical challenges: an increasingly unsafe passenger van and a fragile dirt road to MdL that washed out during heavy rain, making it impassable for most vehicles, including our van. Our group returned home with a focus on fixing the road and replacing the van, which had trekked more than 160,000 miles on rough roads across Honduras. Your prayers, generosity and steadfast support enabled us to pave the troublesome portion of the road and order a new van! Those 2022 achievements will support our youth, staff and service teams for years to come.

In addition, the MdL Board of Directors has worked closely with Executive Director Anna Jackson to strengthen our beloved organization. After months of work, we launched a new website (montanadeluz.org) this summer that better enables us to tell MdL's evolving story. We established a TD Ameritrade account to accept gifts of stock. Already, MdL has received stock donations valued at nearly \$57,000 – a critical new option that offers extra tax advantages for some donors. And after years of chipping away at a large financial obligation, we fully paid off all remaining *prestaciones*, which were accrued employment benefits for some of our Honduran staff. Your financial support enabled us to pay off the remaining \$50,000 in benefits in 2022 – removing a financial sword of Damocles that had hung over MdL for many years. Now, we pay all employee benefits as we go.

None of our 2022 achievements would have happened without your prayers, donations and volunteer service. Thank you for all that you've done to put our Mountain of Light on a firm foundation for 2023. Your support means the world to me!

DOUG HADDIX

Board President

MDL AT A GLANCE: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Below is a breakdown of the current programs at MdL, including staff roles and financials.

Children's Home



Our identity remains as a home for youth affected by HIV and there are currently 15 youth living at MdL full-time. On the mountain, our facilities include a chapel, kitchen, computer lab, pharmacy, classroom, staff offices, and a garden and agricultural program, in addition to the private houses where our youth reside. Aside from our 10-month-old, all youth are enrolled in school and are assisted by our educational specialist. All of the youth on the mountain have living biological family members and most maintain a relationship with them. We are prepared to care for some of our youth with complex needs indefinitely. When and why a child leaves our care is different for everyone, and we have no age when a child is expected to leave. Many of our youth spend extended time with their family members and each child will automatically

join our Healthy Families Honduras program after they officially transition. We continue to provide monthly support to their family and visit them at least twice a year. Our staff for this program includes our national director, psychologist, social worker, nurse, educational specialist, several caretakers, driver, and several guards.

Healthy Families Honduras



In 2017, all 150 children's homes in Honduras were instructed by the government to focus on reuniting all youth with their families. It's estimated that roughly 90% of youth living in Honduran children's homes have 1 living biological parent. Per government instructions, we focused on reuniting youth in our care if possible, but a major problem remained: children's homes continued to get hundreds of calls each year from families living in extreme poverty. And with HIV being the #2 reason why a child enters institutional care in Honduras, we understood that just because the government instructed us to deinstitutionalize, a safety net was still needed for families at risk for separation. Today we have 44 families that are part of our Healthy Families Honduras program. They were all referred to us from the public hospital as high-risk families; they are affected by HIV, living in extreme poverty, and need educational support. We provide a small monthly stipend to these families, help transport them to their medical appointments, provide private tutoring, and psychological support. We visit these families at least once a month and through this program, have prevented 30 children from entering an orphanage. Earlier this year, we started a small business program to help these families achieve more financial independence. We are helping each family develop a business plan, providing the necessary supplies, and checking in with them weekly to check sales. Many of the adults in these homes are unable to read and write, so our educational specialist spends hours with them each month helping them learn these necessary skills. Many of these families have had extremely traumatic and difficult lives. It's imperative that we approach these families with compassion, understanding, and love. This year, we continued working with our 44 families, which totals roughly 200 individuals. We provided HIV education to all 200 individuals, private tutoring to 28 children and 19 adults, and successfully launched small businesses for 9 of these families.

We have an extensive waiting list of families eager to join our caseload. When funding allows, we hope this program can grow and be the future of MdL. Healthy Families Honduras is run and managed by our interdisciplinary team that consists of our national director, psychologist, social worker, educational specialist and our driver who provides all of the transportation.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

Below is a breakdown of the current programs at MdL, including staff roles and financials.

Foster Care



As a response to the 2017 government regulations, we knew we needed to develop a foster care program. Even though all of our MdL youth do have living family members, some are not in a position to care for them. We started developing our foster care program in 2017 and today have 3 approved foster homes with 4 MdL youth living in foster care. Two of these foster homes are in the lengthy process of adoption!

There is no government-funded foster care program in Honduras; orphanages continue to be the primary safety net for children in need. We developed our own foster care program that consists of several weeks of training and monthly home visits. We also provide a monthly stipend of \$140-\$200 to the foster parents, but continue to be hands-on when it comes to the child's medical, educational, and psychological needs. It is our goal to continue on-boarding new foster families so if we get calls from children services, we can immediately place that child in a loving home. Our nurse, social worker, psychologist and educational specialist are in charge of running our foster care program.

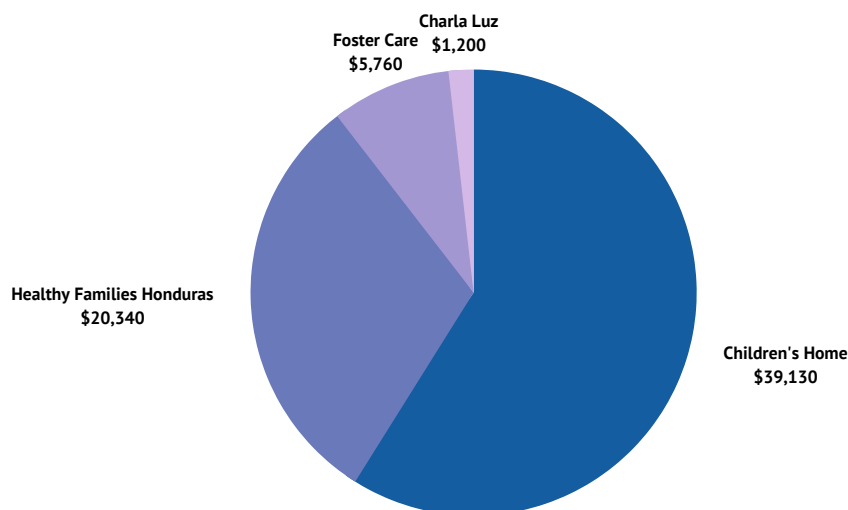
Charla Luz

With Honduras having some of the highest rates of HIV in Central America, we feel an incredible responsibility to educate others. Two years ago we polled all of the individuals we work with and the top two reasons why individuals living with HIV did not access treatment were stigma and financial burdens. Despite being illegal, it is not uncommon for individuals to lose jobs, be denied university entrance, or be asked to take a HIV test as part of an interview. And because all HIV medication must be picked up at the HIV wing of the public hospital, individuals experience extreme stress and anxiety when picking up medication, afraid that their status will be shared without their permission. Charla Luz is designed to educate the public on HIV and stigma. In 2022, our team hosted 17 presentations to over 1,000 individuals. At the conclusion of each presentation, a copy of the HIV law is shared, in addition to resources on how to contact us for support, and how to access care. The Charla Luz team is made up of both MdL youth and our social worker, nurse, educational specialist, and psychologist.



Program Financials

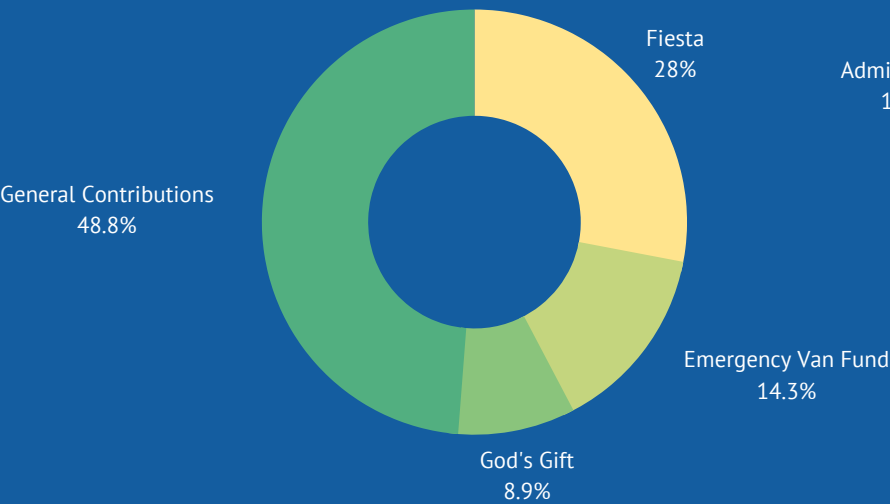
This chart shows the financial breakdown of each program at MdL. Staff salaries are not included.



FINANCES

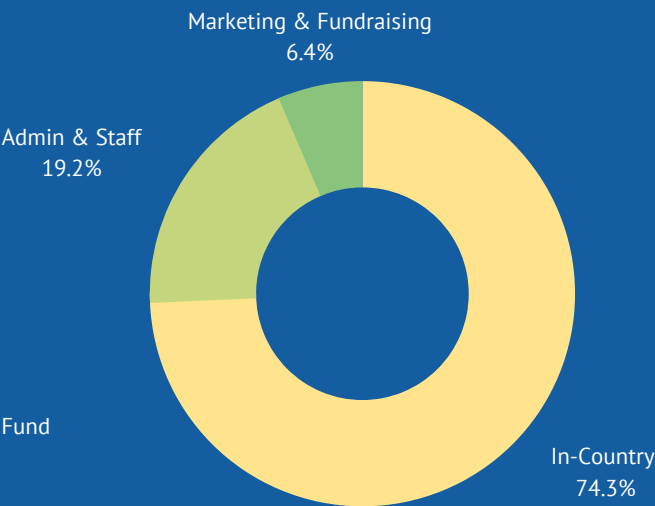
Income

2022 Income Total: \$335,764



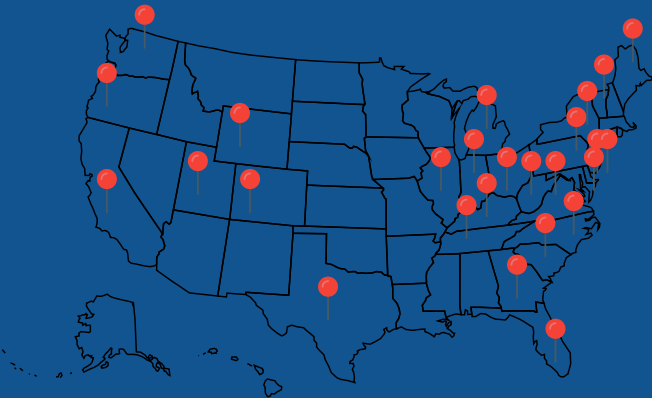
Expenses

2022 Expenses Total: \$301,053



This year, MdL received support from...

- 364 Individual donors
- 11 Different churches
- 9 Different foundations / corporations
- Donors from 26 different states (plus D.C.)



For a full financial report, please contact info@montanadeluz.org.