



Montaña de Luz

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



# From Our Team

**Because of support from donors like you, 2023 was MdL's most successful year, both in terms of donations received and impact in Honduras. Thank you for being a part of a life-changing organization!**

I am beaming with pride as I reflect on 2023 and all of the progress we have made as an organization. From having our first Honduran staff member travel to our Fiesta event, to raising enough funds to replace all of our youths' bedroom furniture, to developing a new program to help young people stay in school, 2023 was a remarkable year for Montaña de Luz.

## **2023 Highlights:**

- We welcomed our first service teams since COVID-19 back to the mountain!
- Youth Carlitos (3) and Misael (16) joined the MdL family.
- All of the families in our Healthy Families Honduras program who were able to open a small business are now operating a business from their home.
- We established a new program designed to keep youth affected by HIV in school and allows them to receive individualized education plans.
- MdL hired several new Honduran staff members to help with our growing needs and expanding programs, as well as a part-time US employee.
- We purchased a second vehicle to allow us to better reach the families we visit who live in remote areas.

Beyond that, our staff worked to update our strategic plan for our next several years as an organization. Part of that planning included developing MdL's core values. We are proud to share these with you:

- All individuals, regardless of HIV status, are deserving of a meaningful and fulfilling life.
- Our youth's and families' privacy, consent, and comfort are paramount to our organization and should always be considered when sharing details with audiences.
- We listen to the voices of our Honduran staff when making programmatic decisions and changes, and understand our responsibility as an organization to amplify the Honduran voice and experience.
- We have a holistic and personalized approach to childcare; we develop educational, psychological, spiritual, and emotional plans for each child in our care that are designed to meet the child where they are and help them grow at their own pace.
- While being mindful of the current best childcare practices, MdL will continue to adapt and change, given the immediate need of individuals living with HIV in Honduras.

There are many more values we hold close as an organization, but our MdL staff, Board of Directors, and volunteers remain as committed as ever to our mission of creating a safe, supportive, and loving environment for Honduran youth and families in need. Thank you for being an essential part of Montaña de Luz!

With appreciation,  
Anna Jackson  
Executive Director



# Program Highlights

## Children's Home



Our facility on the mountain remains a safe and loving home for 14 youth. MdL staff attends to the everyday needs of each youth with departments designed to help each youth develop at their own pace, while setting realistic goals for their futures. We are proud to share that at the end of 2023, all of the youth in our care are living with an undetectable level of HIV *and* all those who are in school are receiving passing grades!

## Healthy Families Honduras



Our Healthy Families Honduras program is designed to keep families together that are impacted by HIV/AIDS throughout the country, while providing the resources and care they need to strengthen and preserve their family unit. We are pleased to share that 19 of these families were operating a successful small business from their home by the end of 2023! This allows the family to achieve some financial independence. Pictured here is a woman whose supply store has become so successful she has been able to graduate out of our program.

## Foster Care



MdL developed a foster care program in 2017, and today we have 4 youth living full-time in loving foster homes. While there is no government-funded foster care in Honduras, we are proud to have MdL-approved foster homes where our youth can be part of a family unit and receive the care and attention they deserve. MdL continues to manage their educational, health, and psychological needs alongside their foster parents. We are thrilled to report these foster homes have turned into forever homes!

# Program Highlights

## Charla Luz



This year, our Charla Luz team hosted 12 HIV educational workshops throughout Honduras. In these workshops, our team helps audiences understand how HIV is transmitted, learn about the dangers of HIV stigma, and educate individuals on how they can receive HIV care and resources. This is one of our most important programs, as Honduras remains a country where HIV stigma is incredibly dangerous. Our nurse, Helen, leads this program and occasionally hosts virtual HIV trainings for universities and schools.

## Education Scholarship Program



We are excited to share our newest program, designed by our educational specialist, Profe Fani. While doing home visits to families on our Healthy Families Honduras caseload, she noted that many youth were not attending school due to HIV discrimination or because they were working to support their families. She designed a program where young people can come to MdL to receive classes with her, while also allowing them to receive psychological support and attention. Today, 5 youth receive classes at MdL and love being back in school!

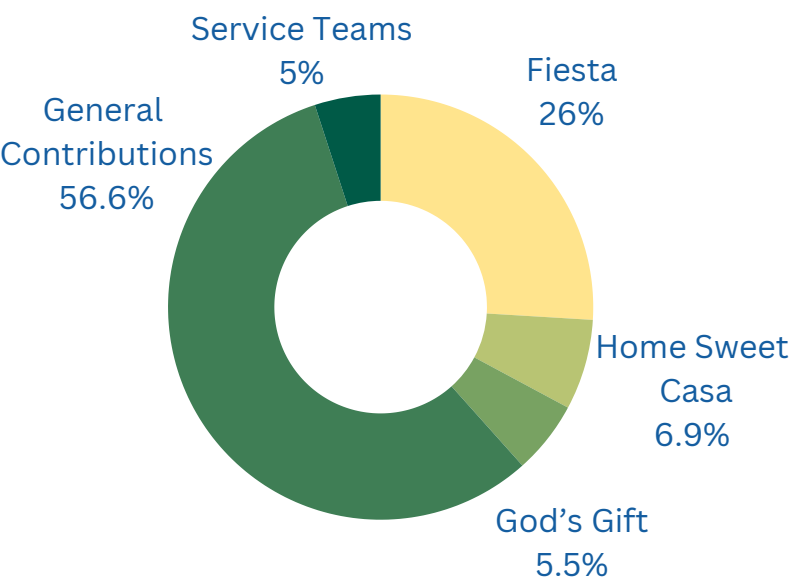
"Montaña de Luz has been a huge help for me and my family. Before I didn't attend classes everyday because I had to work in order to buy my school supplies. Now I am very blessed. I have learned to read and write, how to eat healthy, and above everything else, I am so happy because I am making my dream come true. When I'm older, I want to be a doctor or have beauty salon."

Marbea (12), Educational Scholarship recipient

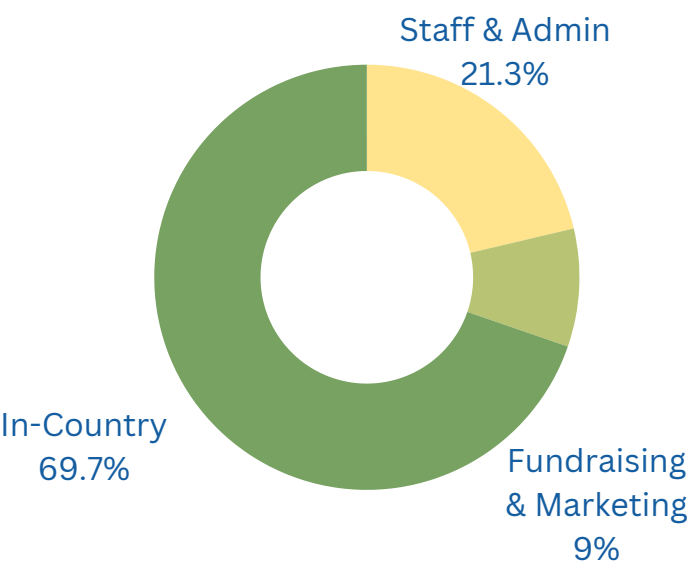


# Financials

**2023 Income:**  
**\$432,735.17**



**2023 Expenses:**  
**\$370,729.18**



*Unspent 2023 income rolled into 2024 for any ongoing and new needs. For a complete financial report, please contact [info@montanadeluz.org](mailto:info@montanadeluz.org).*

## What's next in 2024?

We are looking ahead to 2024, and are excited about the opportunity to continue growing our organization. We hope you join us on our mission to empower youth and families affected by HIV/AIDS!



### Small Business Support

We've seen incredible results from our small business program. We plan to help more families achieve more financial independence and empowerment in 2024.



### Welcome Teams to the Mountain

We look forward to hosting more service teams in 2024! A week on the mountain is a life-changing experience, so we encourage you to consider a trip.



### Increased Mental Health Support

We work with youth and families who need and deserve more mental health support. Our goal is to find specialized professionals to meet their ongoing needs.