

MONTAÑA DE LUZ

MARCH 2025

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

LATEST INFORMATION AND UPDATES
FROM HONDURAS



OUR BIGGEST YEAR YET

With your support, Montaña de Luz has achieved major milestones in 2024. As we head into our 25th year of operation, we are so blessed to celebrate significant achievements of the past year, including:

- SERVING OVER 65 EXTERNAL FAMILIES & 225 INDIVIDUALS ON OUR CASELOAD
- ENABLING CHILDREN AFFECTED BY HIV TO REMAIN WITH THEIR FAMILY RATHER THAN ENTERING AN ORPHANAGE OR RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY.
- HAVING 94 INDIVIDUALS START, AND STAY, ON ANTI-RETROVIRAL TREATMENT, REACHING UNDETECTABLE LEVELS OF THE VIRUS.
- HAVING 20 FAMILIES GRADUATE FROM OUR HEALTHY FAMILIES CASELOAD DUE TO REACHING HEALTHY OUTCOMES AND ESTABLISHING SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS INCOMES
- PROVIDING FREE MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES TO ALL INDIVIDUALS WE SERVE
- CONTINUING TO SUPPORT EDUCATION THROUGH OUR YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
- PROMOTING FAMILY-BASED CARE PRACTICES THROUGH THE CONTINUATION OF OUR FOSTER CARE PROGRAM
- OUR BIGGEST FIESTA EVENT YET, RAISING OVER \$125K FOR THIS LIFE-SAVING MISSION
- ONE OF OUR GRADUATED YOUTH BEING RECOGNIZED ON A GLOBAL STAGE & SPEAKING AT INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE AND UNAIDS THIS YEAR
- AND SO MUCH MORE!

None of this would have been possible without the support and generosity of our MdL Family. Thank you for continuing to empower the individuals and families we serve to live safe and healthy lives!

SINCERELY,
THE MONTAÑA DE LUZ TEAM



WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD EXECUTIVE TEAM!



SKEET AYSCUE, BOARD PRESIDENT

I first traveled to MdL in 2005 and was hooked. I've been able to travel back to MdL almost every year since and have loved watching the children grow and mature, while they accomplish wonderful things, both small and large. The evolution of MdL is ever positive, meeting new needs and reaching out to a wider region toward families living with HIV. While there are so many reasons to go to MdL, it's the children who especially keep calling me back.



JENNIFER MIESSE, BOARD VICE PRESIDENT

Since August 2023, I've been on the Board of Directors for Montaña de Luz, after serving on BOD for Orphan World Relief (OWR). My MDL journey began with a life-changing mission trip with OWR, where I was truly inspired by the kids, the staff, and the incredible work being done at MDL. As I step into the role of Vice President of the board, I'm excited to use my experience in non-profit work to help Montaña de Luz grow and make an even bigger impact. I am excited to support the amazing team and making sure we continue to create brighter futures for the kids.



EMMA MCCARTHY, BOARD SECRETARY

During my time at John Carroll University, I visited Honduras twice (in 2013 and 2015) and on both trips we stopped by MdL. Not only did I fall in love with the physical beauty of the mountain, but I fell in love with the history of MdL itself. Many years later when I had the opportunity to join the Board, I jumped at the chance. It has been a true honor to serve on the board these last couple years and watch MdL continue to grow and flourish. I look forward to continuing to serve on the Executive Team with such a phenomenal group!



ADAM WHITE, BOARD TREASURER

I became involved in MdL in 2020 after learning from a friend about the significant challenges the COVID-19 pandemic presented to the organization. I had experience working for healthcare nonprofits and government agencies domestically and felt especially compelled during that time to contribute my own time and perspective to a part of the world where the needs are so much greater than what we see in the United States. Four years later, I am continually inspired by the passion and dedication devoted to this organization everyday by my fellow board members, staff in Honduras and the U.S., donors, volunteers, and of course, the youth and families we serve.

THANK YOU TO OUR OUTGOING EXECUTIVE TEAM MEMBERS!

DOUG HADDIX, BOARD PRESIDENT ('20-'24)



When I joined the board, beyond our shaky finances at the time, one of the biggest challenges was a website that had passed its shelf life. Any simple edits or changes had to be done through a volunteer programmer. That situation severely limited us online. So, I learned how to build a website in WordPress: one that would be far easier to update and more visual with photos, graphics and videos. Today, our new redesigned site is easy to update and works great on mobile devices. Now, we can tell the remarkable story of MdL in a more compelling way for our supporters, donors and potential funders.

STEPHANIE BRETT, BOARD TREASURER ('20-'24)



My family has been involved with MdL in some capacity for nearly 20 years. We have been to the Mountain of Light many times, and have found the time spent there to be literally life-changing. So when I was asked to join the board and then shortly thereafter to serve as treasurer, I was honored and quickly said yes. It has been a privilege to work alongside such a remarkable group of people these last few years. From my fellow board members to our Executive Director Anna, our Fiesta team, and our staff in Honduras, all have made it a joy to watch MdL and the children and families we serve flourish. It has been a blessing to play a small part in that.



HEALTHY FAMILIES HONDURAS: EMPOWERING FAMILIES TOWARD SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

In 2024, our program served **48 active families**, representing **over 215 individuals**, all referred through our valued partnership with Servicio Atención Integral, a Honduran hospital system specializing in HIV care. These families, identified as high-risk for separation, living under or within the ultra-poverty category, and facing challenges with consistent antiretroviral therapy (ART) adherence, represent the core of our mission. Through targeted interventions, we provided comprehensive support aimed at fostering stability and self-sufficiency. **Notably, we celebrated the graduation of 20 families (approximately 75 individuals) in December 2024.** These families achieved remarkable milestones, demonstrating the transformative power of our program through the successful launch of sustainable small businesses and consistent engagement with vital medical appointments. As we transition into 2025, we are onboarding new families, with a focus on laying the groundwork for future entrepreneurial ventures anticipated to flourish in the latter half of the year.

The impact of our holistic approach is evident in the remarkable health outcomes achieved by the families we serve. After six months of dedicated support, **90% of our families are now living with controlled HIV**, a testament to the effectiveness of our interventions in promoting adherence to ART. Recognizing the crucial link between mental well-being and overall health, we significantly expanded our psychological support initiatives in 2024. A series of comprehensive evaluations were conducted to assess the specific mental health needs of each family. In collaboration with SAI, we facilitated access to necessary treatment, including medication, empowering families to address their mental health challenges and build resilience. This holistic approach, encompassing economic empowerment, healthcare access, and psychological support, underscores our dedication to creating lasting, positive change in the lives of the families we serve. **With your support, we have prevented 42 children from entering an orphanage or residential care facility and being separated from their loved ones.**

QUOTES FROM OUR FAMILIES:

"I am here to thank Montaña de Luz for supporting my family and my children through a scholarship. I feel very happy for the support given to my children, they now have the opportunity to study."

"I give thanks to Montaña de Luz for the opportunity they've provided me to be part of the Healthy Families Honduras program and also for my son who is part of the student scholarship program. I feel very thankful for the help they give me and to know they will continue helping me. Thanks to God for blessing me and for this opportunity."

"I want to thank Montaña de Luz for being part of this program and for helping me to learn a trade that allows me to get to my appointments. I thank you with my whole heart."



CHARLA LUZ:

SHEDDING LIGHT ON HIV EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

Charla Luz is **one of the only youth-led HIV education programs in Honduras**. Our Charla Luz team, comprised of both youth living with HIV and MdL staff, travel throughout Honduras to give interactive presentations about HIV/AIDS to churches, schools, employee groups, and more. We focus on rural areas where sex education and safe sex practices are not highlighted, as well as areas with limited access to quality public health services. Our presentations include demonstrations on how HIV is transmitted and how it isn't, where to access services in Honduras, how stigma and discrimination can affect a person living with HIV, and how to be an ally to those affected by the virus.

Not only has Charla Luz provided valuable and life-saving information to so many, it has provided purpose and empowerment to the youth who help lead this program. **By becoming HIV activists, our youth are helping to create a more accepting and tolerant society for them and the next generation.**

We are proud to share that our Charla Luz program has received recognition at the 2019 UNAIDS PCB meeting, the 2024 International AIDS Society Conference, and the 2024 UNAIDS Communities of Faith meeting. With a grant this year from Health Care Advocates International, our team has been able to expand their reach and resources, impacting more Hondurans than ever.

OUR REACH BY THE NUMBERS:

We have been recognized at

3

global HIV/AIDS conferences for our team's work.

Since 2013, our team has educated

5,500+

individuals on HIV/AIDS, safe practices, and rights of people living with HIV.

Our team has conducted

14

presentations across Honduras to advocate and educate.



YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: SUPPORTING THE RIGHT TO AN EDUCATION

We are excited to share our newest program, designed by our educational specialist, **Profe Fani**, has continued to expand. 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, we support 11 youths' education! 6 youth receive classes at MdL, while 5 youth pursue distance learning options!** Our kids love being back at school!





FOSTER CARE PROGRAM: CHAMPIONING FAMILY-BASED 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!**

CHILDREN'S HOME: UPDATES FROM OUR YOUTH

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 2024, **all of the youth in our care are living with an undetectable level of HIV!** All those who are in school are receiving passing grades!



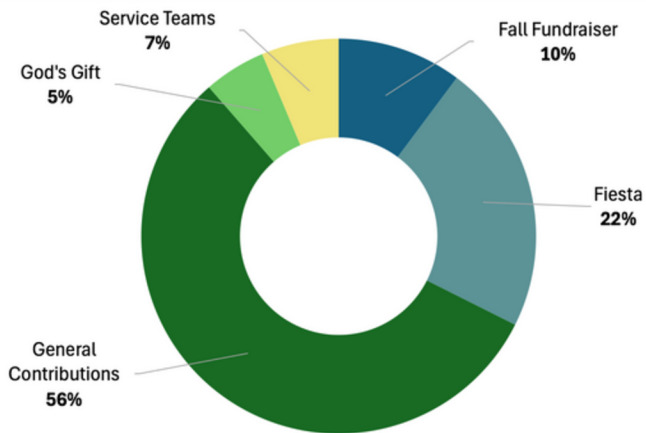
MONTAÑA DE LUZ

ORGANIZATION

FINANCIALS

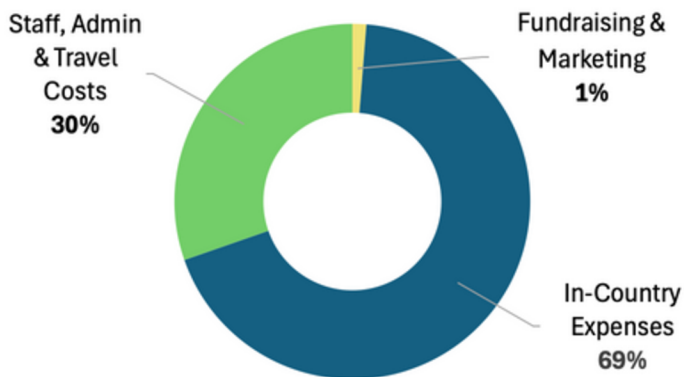
2024 REVENUE

Income: \$514,906



2024 EXPENSES

Expenses: \$386,627



Unspent 2024 income will be rolled into 2025 for any ongoing and new needs. For a complete financial report, please contact info@montanadeluz.org with preferences.



WHAT'S NEXT IN 2025?



EXPANDING THE REACH OF OUR PROGRAMS

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we hope to continue to grow our capacity to serve our community members and help all families affected by HIV reach happy, healthy futures. Through the continued expansion of programs like Healthy Families Honduras and Charla Luz, we are able to serve more individuals and empower families to create lasting change.

WELCOMING MORE IMMERSION TEAMS BACK TO THE MOUNTAIN

We look forward to hosting more groups in 2025! A week on the mountain is a life-changing experience, so we encourage you to consider a trip. For more info, contact Executive Director, Anna Jackson, at anna@montanadeluz.org.

CONTINUING TO ADVOCATE FOR HIV/AIDS SUPPORT

As our programming and team have received recognition on the global stage, we look forward to continuing to work alongside our peers to advocate for more international support and funding to achieve an AIDS-free future.