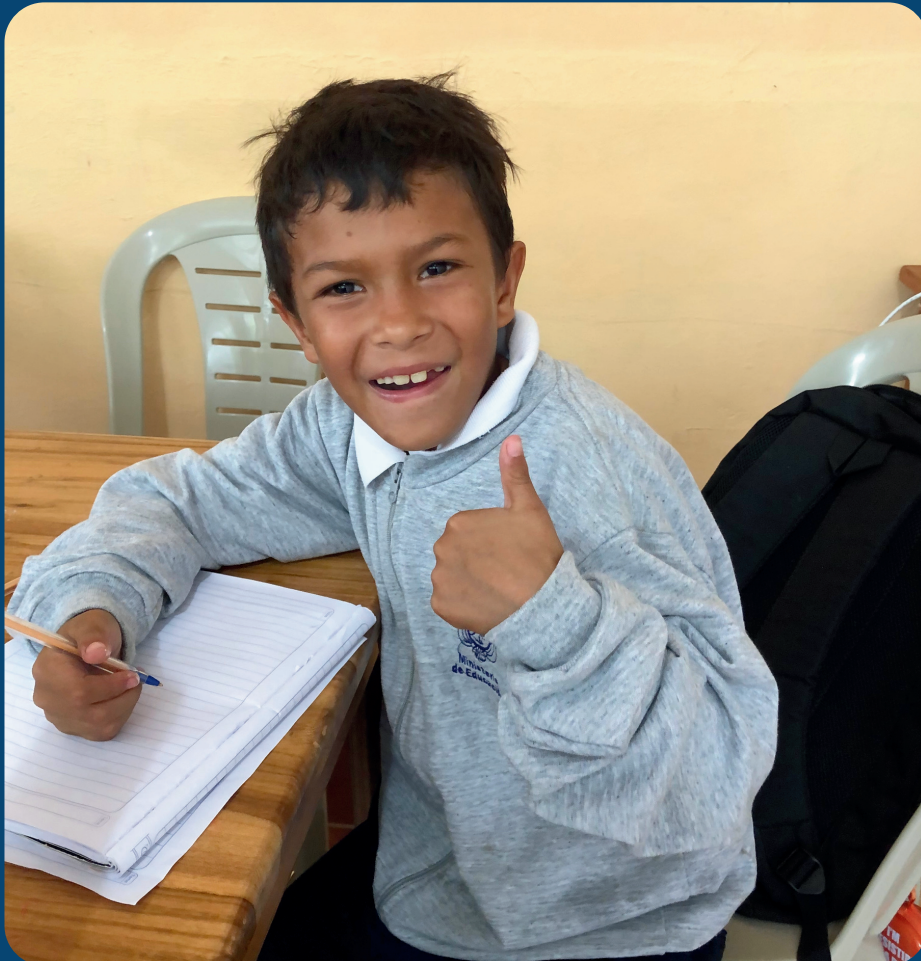




2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**Mission
Santa
Maria**
Olón, Ecuador



From Our Leadership



As we reflect on the past year, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for your generosity towards Mission Santa Maria. Your dedication has been instrumental in helping us make a tangible difference in the lives of the children we serve. I always enjoy the annual report, because it allows us to show you all the things happening through Mission Santa Maria. We have also included a “Looking Ahead” section where we include what we hope to accomplish in the near future.

Throughout the year, your contributions have enabled us to accomplish several remarkable feats.

From expanding our programs to building a new home for the girls, each endeavor has been a testament to the impact you have had on the children we serve. Thanks to your support, we have been able to do the following, which we will go into more in later pages:

- Expand our English Program in the Mission School. We constantly heard from Universities and companies in Ecuador English is in high demand when accepting students and employees. Our hope is that in a few years we will have the best English Program in our state of any school, private or public. Furthermore, when our students are able to speak English this opens opportunities for them that they desperately need in order to find higher, stable incomes.
- Build a new house for the girls at the mission home. This house represents more than just a place to live for these girls - it is a home that restores their dignity and allows them to experience the healing love of the women who care for them.

From Our Leadership

- Begin our work-study program with DP World. Our five students are now halfway through their program and this time next year we will see them graduate with an engineering degree from the top public university in Ecuador. In addition, they will have 2 years of technical training and will hopefully lead to a full time position. As the economy in Ecuador reels from the war on gangs and political instability, these jobs would put these students far ahead of not only their peers, but most working people in Ecuador.
- Expand our University Program. Our University Program is now 22 students, a far leap from the 4 students we began with several years ago. We recently gathered together to meet with all our students. One of our students recently lost her mother to illness after losing her father to cancer three years ago. She shared with everyone that she feels so much more at peace being in our program because before she was accepted her mother was unable to pay for her classes on time and she often was unable to go to class. Hearing this young girl, orphaned at 19 years old, express gratitude after such tragic loss, left an impression on all of us.

As we celebrate these accomplishments, it is important to recognize that our work is far from over. Looking ahead, we are excited about the possibility of continuing our work and even improving our programs to not only help more children, but to make our programs better.

With immense gratitude, I invite you to partner with us on this journey towards a better future for the children and young people we serve. Your continued support will enable us to not only continue this work, but to expand our reach in order to help more children.

Once again, thank you for your generosity and commitment to Mission Santa Maria. Together, we are making a difference, one step at a time.

With gratitude,

Jim

Who we are

Mission

Mission Santa Maria is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to helping impoverished, abused, and neglected Ecuadorian children receive high quality education with the goal of lifting them out of poverty through dignified, sustainable incomes.

Vision

Our vision is to help impoverished, abused and neglected Ecuadorian children reach their potential by...

- supporting receipt of education through provision of school fees, school uniforms, school materials, and supplemental education related needs.
- providing for basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing in order to ensure overall wellbeing as well as optimal learning capacity.
- fostering post high school learning opportunities.
- exploring and building opportunities for stable income generation in adulthood.

Programs

1 Esperanza Home for Children

A sanctuary for children that have survived abuse or neglect and can no longer safely stay with their biological family.



2 Santa Maria del Fiat School

Where over 1,200 students in grades K-12 learn and grow.

3 Post High School Program

A chance to earn a university degree, or take part in a work-study program, and change the trajectory of their family history forever.



Esperanza Home

In 2023, the Esperanza Home for Children, or the 'mission home', provided sanctuary, shelter, education, and care to 71 children ranging in age from 5 days to 18 years old. All of the children are placed in the home after surviving abuse or neglect. The children are loved and cared for by missionary sisters until a safe reinsertion is possible, kinship care is determined, or they are adopted.

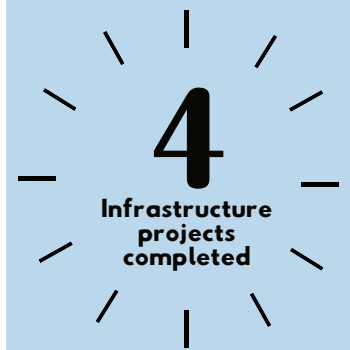
A highlight of your impact in 2023

71 CHILDREN

we meet all educational needs including provision of uniforms, school supplies, and tuition for children living at the home



5 STAFF
TO HELP EASE
CAREGIVER
BURDEN



2
EXTRACURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES



1 new transition
program

aimed to support young adults that have aged out of the mission home



Esperanza Home



“Despite caring for so many children, the missionaries never fail to give you the love that you didn’t find at home”

Jenny, Past Mission Home Resident

Sara’s Story

Sara was placed in the mission home in 2023 with her 4 siblings at 16 years old. Prior to entering the mission home she did not attend school, often engaging in risky work to try to help feed her family. Now, she attends school, receives extra support from our tutor program, and goes to soccer practice twice a week. She says it is the first time she has felt safe and cared for like other 16 year olds.



Transition Program

For years we have struggled to support the vulnerable group of young adults that age out of the mission home at 18 years old, but do not meet the academic qualifications to attend university. In 2023, we started a transition program with 4 young women. The program provides safe housing while the women become financially independent. Having no family, and no access to social services after 18, these young women would have no where to go without this program.



Building A New Home

In 2023, we were asked to build a new home for the little girls at the mission home. The home where they had been residing was old, prone to mold, and overcrowded. Though larger than any infrastructure project we had undertaken to date, we knew that a new home was necessary to ensure safety, and best allow the children to grow and learn.

One Donor's Reaction

After hearing of the need for a new home for the little girls, one donor decided to give a gift in honor of their late father to construct the home. The donor shares that the reason she was able to commit to a gift of this size was because she recently sold her home, a process only possible because of her own father's generosity towards her. How beautiful that the sale of one home, and the generosity of a loving father, built a new home for children with complex and difficult family situations.



The Outcome

The home is currently home to 14 girls ranging in age from 2 years old to 12 years old, and one missionary caregiver.

The Space

The new home was completed in June, 2023, and has 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, a dining area, and a common play area.



Santa Maria del Fiat School

Santa Maria del Fiat school, or 'the mission school', is a K-12 semi-private school for 1,200 students from the mission home, as well as the surrounding community. The school is one of the best in the state, and some students travel 90 minutes one-way by bus to attend.

A highlight of your impact in 2023



162 
STUDENTS PROVIDED WITH UNIFORMS
AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES

39 FAMILIES
RECEIVED MONTHLY
FOOD AND
TRANSPORTATION
SCHOLARSHIPS



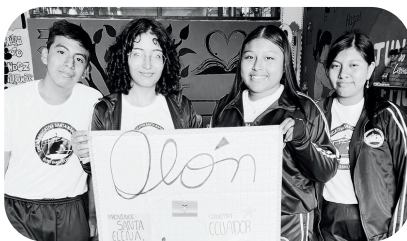
SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED TO
CHILDREN THAT
COME FROM
FAMILIES THAT
CANNOT
242
AFFORD SCHOLARSHIPS
\$25/MONTH
TUITION



Constantly improving
the learning
environment through

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT

- New desks and chairs for 5 classrooms
- New group tables for 10 classrooms
- 7 new projectors



First ever
Technology
Program

English Program

- 2 additional teachers
- New curriculum
- Teacher training and support

**Benefitting
1,280 students**



Santa Maria del Fiat School

English Program Progress

Our English Program is improving the education at the mission school through a multidimensional approach. We are decreasing class sizes, using a curriculum based on international best practice standards, incorporating tools like individual whiteboards and projectors into lessons, and providing teacher training and support.



“In my old school, the English teacher always spoke in Spanish. Now, my English teacher only allows us to speak in English. It’s hard, but we are getting better”

Melissa, 8th Grade Student

Technology Class Comes to the Mission School

Our goal is not only to support children accessing education, but also to ensure they receive high quality instruction that will help them when they move on from school. To this end, in 2023 we started a Technology Pilot Program. The program provides one hour of computer uses and training per week focused on things like creating an email account, using Microsoft word products, and conducting reliable research on the internet.



In 2021, when we surveyed local youth, 80% thought that technology skills would be ‘very important’ for their future, but more than 50% thought it was lacking from their current curriculum.

Post High School Programs

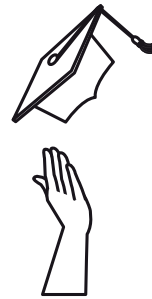
The post high school programs aim to bridge the gap between aging out of the mission home at 18, or graduating from the mission school, to finding employment and becoming self-sufficient. The program pays for housing, food, healthcare, and required supplies for each student during their years in university or in a work-study program.

A highlight of your impact in 2023

22 UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

PROGRAM ALUM SERVING AS
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

5 young adults enrolled in the DP World Shipping
WORK-STUDY PROGRAM



5 university graduates in 2023

university graduates to date **9**

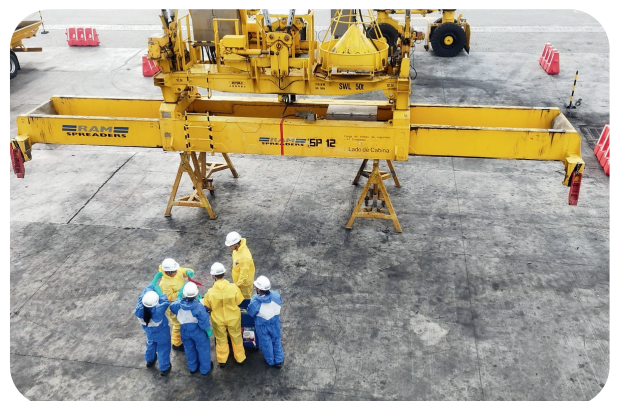


Scarlet's Story

Scarlet graduated from the mission school in 2018. Her family runs a small store out of their home that earns them just enough to survive. She entered the DP World work-study program last year. She shares that becoming the first 'professional' in her family will not only improve her own life, but also that of her parents, her younger siblings, and her community. Her sister, who used to not like school, now sees her in her uniform and says, "I want to be an engineer like you".

Work-Study Program

2023 was the second year of our work-study program. The program provides needs based scholarships for mission school graduates to a two year intensive work-study program. The students study engineering at one of the best public university's in Ecuador, while interning at DP World's Shipping port outside of Guayaquil. The program will open doors to employment opportunities in electro-mechanical careers.



2023 University Graduates



Cristina

Law

Cristina grew up at the mission home and dreamed of being a lawyer to help other kids that had experienced hardships like herself. She says that her “strong character”, and the help of Mission Santa Maria, allowed her succeed in this goal.



Paul

Nursing

Paul grew up at the mission home and recalls with a mix of shame and amusement how terribly he behaved for his missionary caregiver, Fátima. Her patience and love inspired him to become a nurse and care for others. He earned his degree in nursing and is currently completing one year of rural residency.



Victor Petroleum Engineering

Victor grew up in the poorest town in our area, his dad farmed limes during the day and drove a taxi at night to make ends meet. He is the first to receive a college degree in his family.



Ambar

Public Relations

Ambar grew up at the mission home, and completed her university degree while working full-time to support her family as a single mom of two boys.



Alix

Accounting

Alix shares, “without Mission Santa Maria, I would never have been able to complete my degree”.

Looking Ahead

Expand Post High School Opportunities

We hope to diversify the opportunities for young adults that age out of the mission home and graduate from the mission school. Our goal in 2024 is to offer skills based training in heavy machinery driving, security, or mechanics through our partnership with DP World Shipping.



Invest in Technology Program

We want to offer more hours of technology training to students but we currently don't have the staff or space. In 2024, we hope to build a new technology lab and hire an additional teacher.

Fill Gaps at the Mission Home

In 2024, we aim to complete several small scale infrastructure projects at the mission home to ensure that the children continue to have a safe shelter.



Financial Highlights

General Overview

Fiscal Year January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023

Revenue

Monthly Donations	\$184,357
Matching/Corporate	\$63,471
One-Time Gifts	\$356,122

Total Revenue **\$603,950**

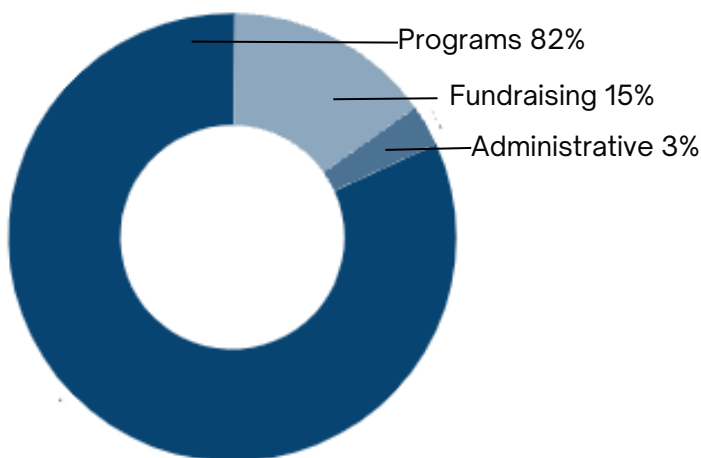
Expenses

Programs	\$502,612
Fundraising	\$95,907
Administrative	\$16,940

Total Expenses **\$615,459**

Thank you for your outpouring of generosity in 2023! We hope you see the immense impact of your partnership.

Overall Expense Breakdown



Overall Program Breakdown

