



kidsalive®
INTERNATIONAL

GUATEMALA

Oasis and La Arquilla

Oasis is a community of family-style homes for girls who are victims of sexual abuse. More than 60 girls currently live in safety and have a place to heal from horrific abuse or exploitation, and we also work with many more girls who have been reunited with their families over the past three years.

Christian house parents provide a loving, safe environment for these rescued girls. Quality education and trauma-focused therapy help them adjust to life away from their abusers and begin to rebuild their lives.

Additionally, we provide legal support while pursuing justice on their behalf. Guatemala currently convicts only about 6% of sexual abuse cases, but we have helped convict 70% of our girls' abusers.

Our La Arquilla home provides specialized care to very young girls, most between the ages of 10 and 12, who became pregnant as a result of rape. Not only are these girls scarred from abuse, but they now struggle to understand the implications of pregnancy and motherhood. We offer prenatal, delivery, and post-partum care as well as continued educational support and child care.

We are excited to have recently signed a contract with the Guatemalan government to begin our new Families Together program and to transfer at least 10 girls from Guatemalan government homes to Oasis. And we plan to open our first Oasis Care Center in the city of Escuintla, in partnership with International Justice Mission. We remain committed to sharing the love of Jesus with every girl we encounter, by making Oasis a place of hope in a desert of despair.

Hope Changes Everything...

AT OASIS AND LA ARQUILLA!

Maria* came to Oasis from tremendous pain and trauma. Not only was she fatherless, but her mother lived a dangerous life unsuitable for raising children, and they were often living on the streets. This left her vulnerable to predators who hurt her badly. When she arrived, her deep pain caused her to fight, yell, experience night terrors, and wet the bed. At her worst, she physically threatened the Oasis staff. But we knew that Maria was not too broken to be healed by a gracious God, so we continued to offer her safety, love, and tangible support.

Soon we began to notice small changes in her, especially in how she dealt with her problems. Instead of fighting, she was willing to talk. Instead of hating, she started to worship God. And she finally asked Jesus to come into her life and was baptized. Maria was being transformed by hope! Eventually we were able to locate a relative that was willing to give her a stable, loving home, and we decided that this was the best place for her to live. Even though she is now living with family, she continues to receive our support, and we are hopeful about her future. Her progress is a testimony to the power of the Gospel lived out by people willing to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

*name changed to protect privacy

"Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord."

Psalm 31:24 (NIV)

What's happening...

IN GUATEMALA?

Guatemala is home to over 17 million people with a vibrant mix of Spanish and Mayan cultures and boasts a beautiful and unique ecosystem. But much of the country is mired in poverty, systemic family violence, and child trafficking. One-fourth of the country's population live in extreme poverty, resulting in one of the highest rates of malnutrition in the world for children under five.

Physical and sexual abuse is rampant, and few perpetrators are brought to justice. Many children, mostly young girls, are at risk for dangerous child labor and forced prostitution. And hundreds of thousands of school-aged children are not in school at all. The needs here are staggering.

Even in situations that seem hopeless, Kids Alive is committed to rescuing victims of heart-breaking abuse and showing them their inherent worth and potential. The

wounded girls we serve need safety, stability, and intensive counseling as they heal from trauma.

Our ministries are witnessing life-changing results. A local church partners with us in bringing tangible support to children in the remote Zapote area of Guatemala, offering food, education, and family services. And we recently received government approval and assistance to begin our new Families Together program, the first of its kind in Guatemala.

At Casa Ester, we added a second story to the house, allowing us to assist even more young women as they transition to adulthood. And the majority of our high school graduates are going on to higher education of some kind. Despite the challenges facing the Guatemalan people, we know that no situation is beyond hope. Our mighty God loves these children and we will continue to show them that love in any way possible.

God is working at Oasis and La Arquilla! Please pray for:

- Physical and spiritual protection for our girls and staff
- Healing for so many broken lives
- Wisdom, discernment, and courage as we deal with court cases, help special needs babies, and budget for repairs

Partner with us in prayer...

