

iQue Pasa! ANNUAL REPORT

It's all about hope

In February we received 4 siblings— let's call them the Ramos children—a teenage girl and her 3 brothers, ages 10, 8, and 5. They arrived with extremely poor hygiene. They originally appeared to have something wrong with their skin, with areas of brown matting and flaking. The children were very uncomfortable with showers. The littlest Ramos boy was so upset we started him with baths.

Persistent hygiene neglect can lead to skin conditions that look like scales or brown lesions. The appearance can be worrisome, but it can be resolved with consistent cleaning with soap, water, and scrubbing. It may take a few weeks to a couple of months to clear the 'matting.' Once gone, the skin is normal underneath.

First responders. That's what we can be for neglected children brought to us. Our home is a safe and loving place where we look after children's needs. We start with the basic physical requirements—like food, shelter, and medical care. Then we deal with their other necessities—emotional, psychological, educational, and spiritual.

Our motto is "a family and a future for wounded children". For kids brought to us, we offer hope. But it is not an easy task. There is a high cost to protecting what is precious to God. This year the financial cost of raising



Nataly, Ramses and Jorge support each other. (Ramos kids not shown here.)

children has been steep. We are relying on God's promise in Psalm 31:24, "Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord."

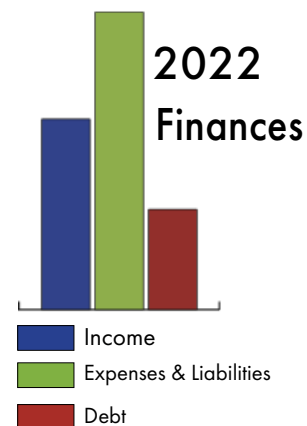
Be strong...

After two weeks at our home, the Ramos children started to be excited for their hot showers. It became their favorite time of day, although they used to be afraid of them. Even the littlest Ramos boy began enjoying showers. Their skin began clearing.

Slowly our number of kids has been growing, up from

2021. We have two groups of children— those whose families need help and bring their kids to us, and those who come from the government, DIF. DIF brings us children who have gone through some form of neglect. One of DIF's goals has been to place children with their immediate or extended families. DIF has been using our home like a temporary shelter. Last year, one of the children from DIF stayed only one day before DIF placed him with family. A few others have remained a short time.

We have a busy home. Our kids attend 6 different schools, the closest of which is 15 minutes away. This makes for a lot of driving time for school runs. It has also been a bustling cold and flu season, with many



Be strong + take heart all you who hope in the Lord.
psalm 31:24