

# ¡Que Pasa! ANNUAL REPORT

## A Home That Changes Lives

### The Story of Omar

Omar's story is a wonderful example of how El Sauzal Home creates lasting impacts. Recently, Omar, almost sixteen, faced some tough situations back at home—including being caught vaping—and decided to run away, seeking the warmth and friendship he remembered at El Sauzal Home.

Although it is not possible for Omar to live with us, we worked closely with his father to help Omar arrive home safely. We will always support him and remind him—and every child we help—that they are dearly loved and valued.



HEART OF A HELPER. Omar helps with a joyful spirit.

experiences at our Home leave a deep and lasting impression. They often return as adults with donations, smiles, and heartfelt thanks. One set of sisters warmly shared, “If it weren't for you, we wouldn't be where we are today.”

As we walk alongside Omar and his dad through these recent events, our commitment to helping Omar find God's wonderful plan for his life remains strong. We hold on to

the beautiful promise in Jeremiah 29:11: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”

### Joining Our Family

When Omar was 10 years old, he came to live with us along with his sister. He quickly became known for his kindness, leadership, and willingness to help younger kids and staff. Here at the Home, Omar found a nurturing space to grow emotionally, spiritually, and academically, uncovering his strengths and building confidence.

After four special years with us, Omar's father came to bring him and his sister back home. Saying goodbye was hard, filled with tears and deep emotions. Yet Omar's resilience and joyful spirit stayed strong, fueled by the friendships and wonderful memories he created here.

### A Lasting Impact

Omar's experience is shared by many children who've grown up with us. Whether their time here has been brief or lasted many years, their

LOOKING OUT FOR LITTLES.

Omar lends a hand on the slide.



## INSIDE

- 1 A Home that Changes Lives
- 2 Rooted in Hope
- 4 Our Busy Home
- 5 Faithful Finances
- 6 Little Plans, Big Hope

El Sauzal Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 154

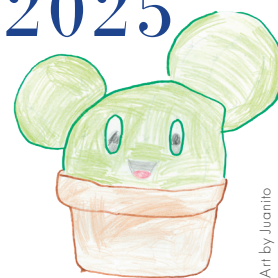
Auburn, WA 98071-0154

[www.elsauzal.org](http://www.elsauzal.org)

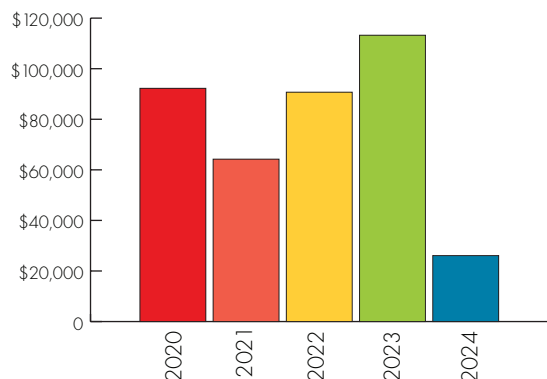


# Rooted in Hope, Ready for 2025

## 58 Years of Caring for His Children



### Debt Drops Dramatically



Several years of a weak U.S. dollar inflated our debt, so the end of 2024 brought real relief. As the peso weakened, the value of our debt dropped—and with the added blessing of a longstanding water debt being forgiven, our total debt fell to its lowest level since before the pandemic.

### When It Was Tight, God Was Always Faithful

At El Sauzal Home for Children, we know that God ordained and established this home—and He continues to provide, even when the road is steep. Yet, as many of you know, the challenges we face often come from circumstances outside our control.

Over the past year, the exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and the Mexican peso shifted, impacting our purchasing power. The peso remained strong, meaning each dollar covered less than before.

For example, if a \$1,000 donation in previous years once converted to 20,000 pesos, in 2024, that same amount only yielded about 17,000 pesos. With rising costs for food, school supplies, and daily necessities, this put an even

greater strain on our already stretched budget. On top of that, the Mexican government has mandated a 20% salary increase for staff every year for the past several years. While we are grateful to care for those who care for our children—many of whom are like family to us—these ongoing increases have added a significant financial burden to our Home.

### Just in Time, God Opened a Door

As we stepped into 2025, we witnessed a shift we believe was from God. The exchange rate rose significantly, reaching 19.8752 so far this year—about 13% higher than before. This increase gives us far more purchasing power, making every dollar go further.

This shift is especially important because the majority of El Sauzal Home for Children's funding comes from the United States. When the U.S. dollar is strong against the peso, donations from our amigos provide even more financial support for the Home. This means we can stretch every gift further, covering not just the daily essentials but also long-term needs like repairs and education.

In His perfect timing, God provided exactly what we needed. We witnessed a wonderful outpouring of generosity from our amigos at Christmastime, the end of 2024. Then, as the new year began, the exchange rate shifted in our favor, multiplying the impact of those gifts. Because of this unexpected blessing, we were able to take an encouraging step—paying off a portion of our longstanding debt and easing financial burdens that had weighed on our Home.

## A Legacy of Love and Leadership

Our Director, Erika, who works every day to make sure our Home runs and our kids are cared for, has given so much of herself for the sake of the children. Like her father, Josué, and her grandparents Papa Ramón and Mama Magdalena, Erika has poured out her time, her love, her strength, and even her health to ensure that El Sauzal remains a place of love and safety for children in need. This heritage of faith has been passed from generation to generation, grounded in service, compassion, and trust in the Lord.

At the end of 2024, Erika had even maxed out four personal credit cards to ensure every child's needs were met. Thanks to your prayers, your generosity, and this improved exchange rate, we could ease some of that heavy burden—also making headway on overdue taxes and avoiding extra penalties that would have further strained our finances.

## Your Faithfulness Fueled This Miracle

We want to extend our deepest thanks to you—our kind and generous amigos, supporters, and prayer warriors. Your thoughtful support and faithful giving have carried us through these difficult times. Because of you, our children enjoy a safe home, nourishing meals, and the hope of a brighter future—one rooted in the love of Jesus. We not only care for their daily



FROM THE BEGINNING, Papa Ramón set the tone for what El Sauzal Home would become—a place where children are seen, known, and shown the love of Jesus.

needs, but we also teach them about the God who loves them and the lasting hope they have in Him. Your support means more than words can say; it is the living expression of God's love working through our community.

## What's Next: Walking Boldly into 2025

With these blessings fresh in our hearts, we step into 2025 with renewed strength and anticipation. This is an opportune time to invest in El Sauzal Home for Children. With the exchange rate higher than it has been for quite some time, your gifts are going further than ever—allowing us not only to meet immediate needs but also to invest in repairs and projects that will secure our Home for years to come.

Scan here to give online.





## Our Busy Home

### Growing Healthy Futures

*Our amigo Christine from Washington asked recently: Why do you have fewer children than you had in the past?*

With updated regulations in Mexico, it costs more to care for children than it used to. Although we currently have fewer children than in previous years, their needs are significantly deeper. Our kids require more specialized support—extensive dental treatments, increased psychological and psychiatric care, and enrollment in multiple schools to meet their safety and behavioral needs. While regular medical visits are generally not needed, we frequently experience medical emergencies during the winter months, requiring weekly or biweekly doctor visits from August through March due to flus and colds.

With your help, we remain dedicated to nurturing hope by focusing on the emotional, educational, physical, and spiritual wellbeing of each child entrusted to us. We trust that God's plan includes welcoming more children into our care in the future as He continues to guide and grow our Home with hope and purpose.



JORGITO SHINES—in his school dance outfit, complete with colorful, fluffy sleeves and pants made with love by volunteer staff Karen.

## Every Day Filled With Purpose

### KIDS AND STAFF

<b>Current paid staff</b>	<b>8</b>
(Two unfilled staff positions—cook & nanny)	
<b>Volunteer staff</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Current children</b>	<b>22</b>
DIF (government placed)	7
Private placement	7
Staff children	8
<b>Schooling</b>	<b>21</b>
Too young/Not yet in school	1
Kindergarten	1
Elementary school	12
Middle school	4
High school	3
Post-high school education	1

**22** CURRENT children

**5** different SCHOOLS attended

**8** kids EXTENSIVE orthodontic needs

**7** in MENTAL HEALTH treatment





# Faithful Finances

## 2024 Home Expenses

Indirect Home Expenses	MXN Pesos
Employee Expenses	1,428,644.48
Taxes	594,648.28
Automotive Fuel	275,101.57
Electricity & Propane	196,838.54
Home Repairs/Maintenance	118,132.88
Water	108,849.30
Travel	100,348.60
Car Repair/Maintenance	88,586.63
Miscellaneous	85,968.40
Telephone & Internet	62,284.94
Office	26,183.90
Insurance	18,317.56
Bank Charges	16,989.34
Fees & Dues, Membership	13,748.28
Operations License	12,204.00
<b>Total Indirect Expenses</b>	<b>3,146,846.70</b>
<b>In US Dollars</b>	<b>\$157,342.34</b>

Direct Home Expenses	MXN Pesos
Food	385,335.52
Education Expenses	155,779.95
Special Events	104,573.40
Medical	93,520.90
Hygiene, Personal	31,761.25
Clothing & Shoes	3,958.44
<b>Total Direct Expenses</b>	<b>774,929.46</b>
<b>In US Dollars</b>	<b>\$38,746.47</b>

**TOTAL EXPENSES** 3,921,776.16  
**US DOLLARS** \$196,088.81

Avg exchange rate received in 2024  
 17.6 MXN/1 USD

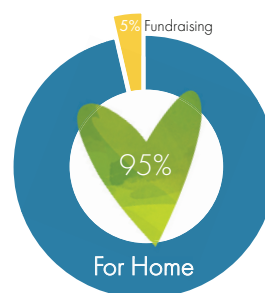


## Donors at Giving Levels

Giving level in USD	No. of Donors
\$25,000 up	1
\$10,000 – \$24,999	6
\$5,000 – \$9,999	8
\$2,500 – \$4,999	9
\$1,200 – \$2,499	20
\$600 – \$1,199	15
\$0.01 – \$599	73



## Using Your Gifts Wisely



95% invested directly in God's plans for our children; only 5% used for essential administration and fundraising to keep our mission strong.

### HOW WE USED YOUR GIFTS

Fundraising & administration	4.6%
Direct to/for Home	95.4%

# Little Plans, Big Hope

## Fun Fundraising Ideas

by Don Mahoney

### How can we help El Sauzal Home?

The Home can always use our help to meet its own operational needs, as well as the needs of the children. There are things we can do besides personally writing a check. Think for a moment.

Here are ideas for making a small amount of money that, when partnered with other efforts, can positively impact the Home. *Be prayerful!*

Have you considered holding a church-wide or class-wide event? Recycling aluminum cans, plastic bottles, and glass can earn you money for yummy, nutritious food or school supplies. Electronics can also be recycled for a profit. Your city government might be a resource for setting this up. *Be resourceful!*

Yard, garage, or rummage sales offer the fulfillment of hopes to find that rare gem for the bargain hunter while generating help for the Home. Bake sales or dessert auctions are popular successes. Raffles or quarter auctions are fun to attend, exciting to bid on, and great to walk away as a winner. Pair the events with a food option (hamburgers, hot dogs, or pizza for sale). *Be creative!*

Youth groups, women's groups, and men's groups can organize "handyman"



INSTEAD OF RECEIVING, Emily gave, turning her birthday tea party into a sweet act of generosity. She asked guests to bring gifts for the children at El Sauzal, making her celebration a blessing for them.

and "fix-it" events besides doing the always fun on a hot day go-to car washes. Organize an after-event ice cream social.

Some fundraisers can be a free-will offering. *Be imaginative!*

---

*All our little somethings, together,  
will be a great help to the Home.*

---

An after-church BBQ or taco bar that highlights El Sauzal Home can be made into a fundraising event. Organize a chili cook-off with judging and small prizes. Pair the cook-off with some square dancing for an extra fun night. *Be inventive!*

FORE! You can turn a round of golf into a fundraiser. If you are in a 5K run, sponsorships can support the Home. *Be innovative!*

If we can all do something, even though it does not result in a lot of money by itself, all our little somethings together will be a great help to the Home. *Be fruitful!*

So, what can we do? We can do what we can, knowing that the Home for Needy Children greatly appreciates whatever can be done and that the children are that much better supported as a result. *Be inspired!*

*Don, from Placentia, California,  
has been helping the Home for almost 40 years.*



ONE GOAL AT A TIME —Ethan raised funds for El Sauzal Home through a community soccer event, showing how all efforts can make a big difference.