

# ¡Que Pasa! ANNUAL REPORT

## A place to grow From small beginnings

In our work with children, we invest and pour out daily—through care, structure, teaching, and love. We plant seeds in small, often unseen ways: a consistent routine, a warm meal, a moment of correction, a word of encouragement, memorizing Bible verses together, a prayer before bed. At times, these efforts can feel small, almost insignificant. But Scripture reminds us that the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—tiny when it is planted, yet growing into something far greater than anyone could expect.

In the same way, we are reminded again and again that while we plant and water, it is God who gives the growth.



A BRIGHT BALLOON, a safe place, and small moments that matter.

legal steps required for abandoned children. The police were called, and the children were supposed to be taken for a medical exam and initial evaluation. Social services were notified, as they are responsible for registering the case and determining placement. Yet, despite multiple calls and attempts to follow up, something unusual happened. Their case seemed to slip through the cracks. Days passed, and it took a few weeks as the process stalled due to bureaucratic complications.

In the waiting, we simply did what we are called to do. We cared for the children.

### Planting and watering

When they first arrived, the siblings showed clear signs of instability. Their school attendance had been inconsistent, and when they did attend, they often arrived in poor condition. The school director already knew their situation well—she had previously reported concerns about neglect and had tried to get help for them. But slowly, quietly, things began to change.

*(continued next page)*

### A sudden arrival

Recently, we saw this truth unfold in a powerful way. One day, a mother arrived at our gate in a hurry and said plainly, “I’m going to leave my kids here.” She had been forced out of her home, was homeless and struggling with drug addiction. She told us she planned to go to a rehabilitation center. Our hearts broke for her and for her children, and we took time to explain the proper legal process for receiving children. If she followed those steps, the children could be registered correctly, she would be able to visit them regularly, and it would be much easier for them to return home in the future. But she was not willing to wait. She left the children with us and walked away.

### Trusting in the waiting

From that moment, we began following the

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The children began attending school regularly. They started to rest, to play, and to feel safe. They formed relationships with the other children at El Sauzal and began to enjoy simple things—games, toys, laughter. Now they are respectful and attentive, learning to follow routines and care for their space. What stands out most is how they care for one another. The older brother, especially, often looks for ways to help and serve wherever he can.



ENJOYING SIMPLE THINGS—  
games, toys, laughter.

It did not happen all at once. It was like watching a seed beneath the soil—nothing visible at first, but something alive and growing just below the surface.

## Change that can be seen

Months later, when social services finally came to interview the children, the change was unmistakable. These were no longer the same children who had arrived uncertain and unstable. They were settled, secure, and thriving. And yet, when they realized someone had come to evaluate their case, they became afraid. They did not want to leave. In our home, they had found something they had not known before—a place of safety, consistency, and love.

Even the school director was deeply encouraged. Having known their previous condition, she now sees children who are flourishing—well mannered, cared for, and engaged in their learning. What she once reported with concern, she now speaks of with excitement.

## A difficult reality

During this time, more of the truth

about their mother’s situation also came to light. She had not entered rehabilitation as she had said. Instead, she was in a relationship with an abusive boyfriend who does not want children. The reality is difficult and painful, and it reminds us how broken many of these situations are.

## God gives the growth

And yet, even here, we see the faithfulness of God. We did not transform these children on our own. We provided a safe place, consistent care, and daily investment. But the

healing, the trust, the joy, and the growth we now see—those are things only God can bring. Like the mustard seed, what began as something small has grown into something strong and life-giving, even providing shelter and rest.

“I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow.”  
(1 Corinthians 3:6)

Every day at El Sauzal, we continue planting and watering in faith, trusting that God will continue to bring growth in His time and in



A PLACE TO RUN, play,  
and grow—because of your  
support.

His way. We cannot do this alone. Your prayers, your support, and your partnership make it possible for children like these siblings to grow in safety and love. If you feel led to give, we invite you to join us in what God is doing here.

Give at: [elsauzalhomeforchildren.org](http://elsauzalhomeforchildren.org)  
Scan the QR code or mail your gift using the enclosed envelope.



Scan to give online.

## 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

# Planted & growing

### Who we serve

Each child has a unique story, and we welcome them into a safe, loving home.

### How we care

Some children stay briefly, while others need long-term care—each receiving consistent support.



Whether a child stays for a short season or many years, God works in every moment to reach their heart and shape their future.

Scan the QR code to view our financial annual report.



# The change you didn't expect

## Shifting hearts to God

My church has been sending people on mission trips to help at the El Sauzal Home for over 30 years. I have organized, led, and participated in 10 trips to the Home with high school, men's, and young adult groups. On every trip, there has been incredible spiritual growth among both group members and leaders.

As a high school group leader, I have seen this even more clearly, with an average of 6 to 8 baptisms per trip. Noticeable changes in attitudes toward authority figures, social media, and screen time have been common among the entire group on every trip. A commitment to loving God, loving His people, and making Him known has also been the norm, not the exception.

How is this even possible? Serving to help the Home, as it lovingly provides for the physical and spiritual needs of vulnerable children, creates an optimal environment for change, the same environment and focus that God intends for every Christian. As our groups have become part of the larger El Sauzal family, I believe these changes are common because of four specific shifts in the human heart toward God during these trips:

### 1. The “digital fast” (the reset)

By removing phones and social media, you aren't just taking away a toy; you're removing the performance. At home, high schoolers and adults alike are constantly managing their “image.” At the Home, that stressor disappears. Without screens, they are forced to focus on God and be in community, which is how we were designed to be.



THE CREW—These are the moments that stay with you. Come experience it for yourself. (Scott is in the bottom row, wearing a hat.)

### 2. Perspective change (inward to outward)

Serving at El Sauzal shifts the focus from “What do I lack?” to “What can I give?” Seeing children with very little material wealth yet immense joy and resilience shatters the “luxury as necessity” mindset. It shows that God's purpose is a better fuel for the soul than comfort.

### 3. Vulnerability in God's community

When you combine the shared physical labor and close living quarters of a mission trip with Bible study, the “masks” come off. You realize that everyone hides faults, but God's forgiveness creates a safe harbor. Once a person feels truly known and still accepted through God's forgiveness and by their peers, they find the strength to face life's challenges.

### 4. A life of discovery and purpose (time of Bible study and application)

As each person spends time in God's word (the Bible) and learns to apply its truth and direction, each person comes to understand that:

1. God loves you so much that He would sacrifice His Son to bring you into His family.
2. God also loves others.
3. God has given you unique talents and abilities to show His love to those in need.

By directing time, focus, and effort toward God, His Word, our community in Christ, and serving others, this has helped bridge the gap from a “trip experience” to “life transformation.”

While the experience and spiritual growth from the trips last forever, the most challenging part is helping participants “bring El Sauzal home” so the pace of transformation and development doesn't fade once you return to daily life with phones, social pressures, and routines. The El Sauzal Foundation can help. With multiple ways to keep your church or group informed, involved, and connected, your groups can continue to develop into disciples who look more like Jesus each day.

*by Scott Hollingsworth, from Ashland Baptist, Oregon*



SCOTT, UPPER RIGHT, is our newest El Sauzal Foundation board member.

## We plant seeds, God grows the calling

### *In God's time, every moment has purpose*

Foreword by Patty Meadows, El Sauzal Foundation board member and sibling to two amazing adopted sisters

Most children who come to our Home stay only for a season of their life. Some are with us for a few days; others remain for years. Have you ever wondered what difference we can make in a child's life in such a short time?

It continues to amaze me how God can do powerful things in these short timespans. Even when children are very young, God's seeds can be planted that He can grow and flourish throughout their lifetime.

This is the story of my foster sister Angelenna who came to my childhood home in Washington when she was six months old. We were excited to adopt her. She lived with us for two and a half years, but sadly was sent back to her birth parents at age three. We lost all contact with her. After four decades, we reconnected. Even though she had been very young at our home, she had memories of being loved and wanted, and feeling a strong call to God. Here is her story.



“Young Angelenna didn't remember our family but remembered being loved.”

### Angelenna's words

Adoption is a beautiful story, but it is not the only story God writes. I believe deeply in the power of seeds planted early because my own life is evidence of it. When I was three months old, I was removed from my birth family due to abuse. At six months old, I went to live with a family whose last name is Cherry. For a short season of my childhood, they became a place of safety and care. During that time, they also planted and watered the seeds of Christ in my life.

When I was three years old, the courts returned me to my birth family, and our lives moved in different directions for nearly four decades. From the outside, it might have appeared that those early years were simply a brief chapter, something that had passed and been left behind. But seeds planted in love do not disappear simply because time passes.

Thirty-seven years later, God brought our

lives back together again. What once seemed like a small and temporary moment in infancy through early childhood became part of a much larger story. The family that once cared for me welcomed me again, and what was once started, was finished; I was adopted as an adult into the Cherry family.

## Faith rarely begins loudly

Looking back now, I can see something I could not see then; God was aware of every moment. The love, the safety, and the faith that were present in those early years had been planted more deeply than anyone realized. The seed remained.

Faith rarely begins loudly. More often, it is planted quietly, like a seed pressed into soil, unseen, unnoticed, and seemingly small. When we plant faith in the life of a child, we do not always see what becomes of it. We may never witness the full fruit. But God does.

An orphanage is not simply a place of shelter; it is sacred ground. At El Sauzal Home for Children, every prayer spoken over a child, every scripture shared gently, every act of consistent love is a seed placed deliberately into the soil of a life that is still forming. At the time it may feel ordinary, simply the work of showing up each day. But in the Kingdom of God, nothing planted in faith is ordinary.

*This is the quiet miracle of orphanage ministry. The prayers you pray today may echo in a life decades from now.*

Every child in this Home is seen by God, known by name, and created with a purpose



THE REUNITED CHERRY FAMILY blossomed from two daughters to four. Angeleanna is shown top right.

that no circumstance can take away. Their worth was never meant to be defined by whether a family wants them. Their worth was established the moment God created them. They are already chosen, already known, already deeply loved.

*The stability you offer today may become the foundation someone stands on years later.*

Scripture reminds us, “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth” (1 Corinthians 3:6). Our role is not to control the harvest. Our role is simply

to plant faithfully. Because seeds planted in love do not disappear. They remain. They wait, and in God’s perfect timing, they grow into something far greater than anyone who planted them could have imagined.

*The faith you plant today may guide a person long after they have left your care.*

In many ways, my own life reflects that truth. A seed was planted in life of a small child for a brief season. For years it seemed hidden beneath the soil of time. But God never lost sight of it. And decades later, that seed found its way back to the very tree where it had first been planted...a Cherry tree.

*by Angeleanna Cherry*



CHEERFUL SPRING PAINTING by 12-year-old Sofia