

# Love Letter

A Newsletter for Friends of Arms of Love

Spring 2018

## INSIDE



**PAGES 1, 2**  
Through It  
All — Always  
Family



**PAGE 3**  
We are celebrating  
3 college  
graduations in  
the Philippines!



**PAGE 4**  
BUY-A-BRICK  
opportunity

*Start children off  
on the way they  
should go, and  
even when they are  
old they will not  
turn from it.*

— PROVERBS 22:6



**Arms of Love  
International**  
2973 Harbor Blvd., #535, Costa Mesa CA 92626  
(phone) 877.ARMSOFLOVE  
[www.ArmsOfLove.org](http://www.ArmsOfLove.org)



New additions to the family, Genesis  
and Heiling, with older brother Moises

## THROUGH IT ALL — ALWAYS FAMILY

**An important part of our family are the Collado children . . . 9 of which have called Arms of Love Nicaragua home through the years.** Each child's journey has looked different. Some stories bring a smile to our face, and some bring tears. As we welcome the newest Collados to our family, Genesis (12) and Heiling (7), we reflect and look to the future.

Their older siblings, Alejandro (21) and Valeska (23), asked if we could come alongside their family to

help. Genesis and Heiling are now living at Arms of Love Monday through Friday, receiving the gift of education, safety, psychological care, and the love of an extended family. It's a unique hybrid of residential care and community development. We say "whatever it takes!"

Alejandro, who first came to us in 2006, turns 22 this month. This past year, in collaboration with our partner ORPHANetwork, he was able to do an internship and get his

education back on track. He is now a proud father, and with a renewed vision and purpose, he's been awarded a Love Forward scholarship to study Customs Administration.

Alejandro shares, "I have learned in life that you never stop learning, it is not the same to be a high school graduate as to receive a college or postgraduate degree. The more studies you get, the more opportunities for a career and advancement you will get."

Valeska, who joined our family in 2003, is a 23 year-old mother of a beautiful little girl. Like Alejandro, Arms of Love has been there to stand by Valeska through ups and downs. She completed a similar internship,



**Genesis is 12, her favorite color is blue, and she loves to eat carne asada.** She is in the first year of secondary school and her favorite class is social studies. Genesis likes to dance and wants to be a pediatrician.



**Heiling is 7, her favorite color is yellow, and she loves to eat spaghetti.** She is in second grade and her favorite class is language and literature. Heiling likes to play and wants to be a doctor.

**WILL YOU SPONSOR OUR TWO NEWEST FAMILY MEMBERS, GENESIS AND HEILING?**

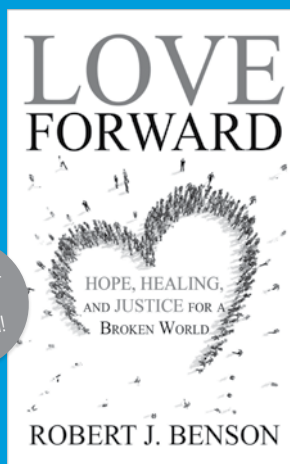
and will also be receiving a Love Forward scholarship to study Administration in Hotel and Tourism. Her dream is to own and be the chef in her own restaurant!

As an organization, we were honored to have Valeska and Alejandro turn to Arms of Love to be the source of the same hope and opportunity for their little

sisters that was provided to them. Genesis and Heiling represent the next generation, **and may we all support them with the same passion, love and perseverance as those that came before.**

**As a family, through the triumphs and the challenges, we move forward. ♡**

**Arms of Love family. Alejandro and Valeska's** lives have been forever changed by compassionate partners like you.



AVAILABLE NOW AT AMAZON!



**Love Forward, created by the Arms of Love founder Robert Benson,**

is an organization that will come alongside to further our longstanding mission of providing higher education opportunities for our youth. We are very excited about this new partnership! Robert's book, also titled "Love Forward," is now available on Amazon, and shares the story of Arms of Love.



# We are CELEBRATING 3 college graduations in the Philippines!

Graduates **Alberto**, **Genina**, and **Jonas**' photos are to the right. We asked Jonas to reflect on the journey.

**Jonas recalled coming to Arms of Love when he and his sister, Jowana, were very young, escaping a life of begging and struggle.** Jonas couldn't read, write or count, and had no recollection of living in a safe place or ever having consistent meals.

When asked what he's proud of, Jonas says he's a better person for overcoming the challenges he's encountered in life. He also shares that Arms of Love was his source of support, love and motivation. "They taught me to be brave enough, that even the biggest tasks can be accomplished one step at a time."

Jonas realizes that it will take more hard work, but he has dreams to be a successful businessman, owning his

own restaurant. He wants to share this joy with a wife and children of his own one day. Additionally Jonas wants to give back, saying, "I will help other children at Arms of Love so they can reach their goals too."

**We are so proud of the three graduates, and thank God for the opportunity to rescue a child from dire circumstances, and witness their transformation into a college graduate with a hope and a future.**

**YOUR PARTNERSHIP IS CHANGING LIVES. Children once destitute and alone are having their lives changed forever.**



**Alberto received his degree in Marine Transportation** and will be completing the additional requirements necessary to work on a ship.



**Genina is becoming a social worker**, which will likely be connected to the Department of Social Welfare & Development.



**Jonas will seek a job in a restaurant in management** ... but as you read above he eventually wants to be the owner of his own business.



*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.*

—JEREMIAH 29:11

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

# GRADUATES in Nicaragua and the Philippines!

## UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

**Alberto** — Bachelor's in Marine Transportation  
**Jonas** — Bachelor's in Hotel & Resort Management  
**Genina Mylene** — Bachelor's of Science in Social Work

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

**Valeria** — Now attending university for dentistry  
**Renato** — will study Maritime  
**Marciel** — will study Tourism  
**Luis** — will study English

## JUNIOR HIGH GRADUATES

(graduating from 10th grade)

**Donabell**  
**Loragin**  
**Philip**  
**Ursicio (J.R.)**

## ELEMENTARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL GRADUATES

(through 6th grade)

**Anthony Arbel Arjay Mark Rogen Reymart Wenifredo Francela** (now in secondary)  
**Genesis\***  
**Jacqueline\***  
**Maribel\***  
**Cinthia\***  
**Maria Fernanda\***  
**Palty\***  
**Fernando\***  
**Mercedes\***

\* Community Development Program

## KINDER 2

**Maria Rose**



DETACH AND RETURN WITH YOUR GIFT

# Buy-A-Brick

**IT WILL TAKE 7,000 BRICKS** to complete our Community Learning Center in Nicaragua! Your name, or a name you choose to memorialize, will be honored on a plaque when the build is complete.

## EVERY CONTRIBUTION COUNTS!

Brick-by-brick we are building for their future. Will you join us?

**\$20,000:** 1,000 Bricks  
**\$10,000:** 500 Bricks  
**\$5,000:** 250 Bricks  
**\$1,000:** 50 Bricks  
**\$500:** 25 Bricks  
**\$100:** 5 Bricks  
**\$20:** 1 Brick



**GIVE BY MAIL. SEND YOUR GIFT TO:**  
 2973 Harbor Blvd., #535,  
 Costa Mesa, CA 92626

### GIVE SECURELY ONLINE:

Visit us at [www.ArmsOfLove.org](http://www.ArmsOfLove.org) to put your gift to work right away!

### GET INVOLVED AND VOLUNTEER:

Learn about serving on our website or email us: [volunteer@armsoflove.org](mailto:volunteer@armsoflove.org)

# My gift to help bless the lives of children today!

**Yes!** I want to help protect, feed, educate, and empower children through the life-changing programs at Arms of Love.

- \$35 to support a child** in need of a sponsor for 1 month
- \$140 to care for 4 children** in need of food and education
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Community Development & Sustainability Efforts
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Brick Campaign / Community Learning Center
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Crisis Response / Where Needed Most

- I would like to make a monthly commitment of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to sponsor a child.
- Nicaragua  Philippines

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



N0318



**Arms of Love International**

2973 Harbor Blvd., #535, Costa Mesa CA 92626  
 (phone) 877.ARMSOFLOVE  
[www.ArmsOfLove.org](http://www.ArmsOfLove.org)