

Love Letter

A Newsletter for Friends of Arms of Love

2019

INSIDE



PAGE 1-2
The Times
They Are a
Changing



PAGE 3
Sponsorship?
Community
Development?
YES!



PAGE 4
Keeping
Siblings
Together

*This is the day
that the Lord
has made; let us
rejoice and be
glad in it.*

— PSALM 118:24



Arms of Love
International
2973 Harbor Blvd., #535, Costa Mesa CA 92626
(phone) 877.ARMSOFLOVE
www.ArmsOfLove.org



The Times They Are a Changing



When we first opened our doors, children were typically placed with us long-term.

They arrived young, as orphans or rescued from abuse and neglect. Although we still have kids that fit that description, over the past 5 years the majority of our new family are 12 years or older.

Social services, in both countries, are using us as a short-term placement option. Children are sometimes placed with us from 3 months to 2 years before a decision is made about their permanent placement. In some cases, we are being asked to care for children during the week, and send them to stay with grandparents on weekends.

Connecting with biological family can be good and healing, but sometimes it's toxic and dangerous. We have no say over government decisions, but must respond appropriately.

In Nicaragua, social services has identified us a home for sexually abused children. While our story has always included kids with sexual trauma, we have more children than ever with significant psychological disorders and severe emotional pain. In the Philippines, policy changes are forcing us to hire additional staff. All of these circumstances are beyond our control, but we must deal with the budget increase.

While child sponsorship has always been a key component of our support structure, the fluid nature of government decisions makes those traditional dynamics difficult.

More than ever we need donors who understand our family model. To sponsor a child in our Residential Program is to sponsor a children's home, with many children. To support our Community Development program is to support a village, to come alongside neighbors in need.

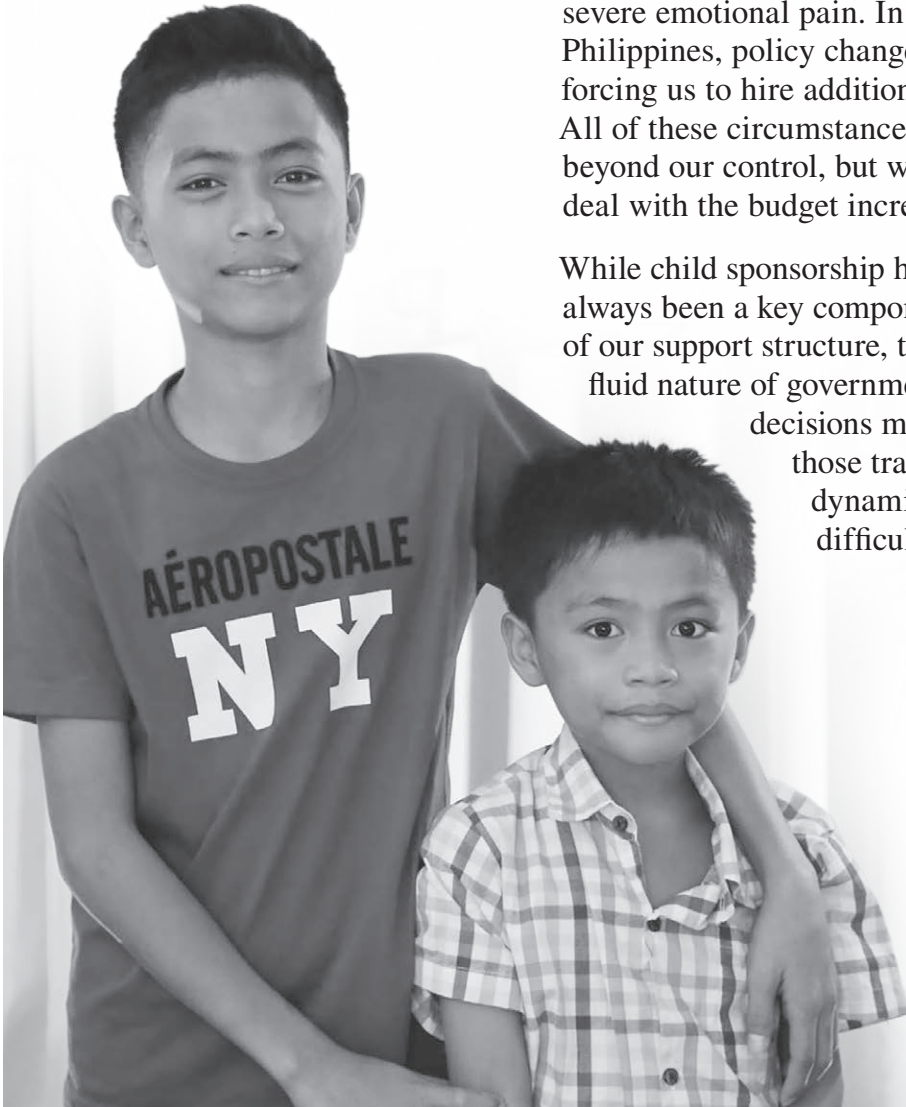
We are reliant on you, our family, our consistent supporters. Please continue to be generous and to share about Arms of Love with your friends. Please pray for our kids and staff. By God's grace we will continue to make sustainable change for another 20 years!

OUR FAMILY CONTINUES TO GROW

This year we have 14 new family members. We don't know if they will be short-term or long-term, but they will forever be family. **Stand with Arms of Love to make a lasting difference in these impressionable young lives.**

*Bear one another's burdens,
and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

— GALATIANS 6:2



WE HAVE 5 CORE VALUES that we believe in, and strive towards every day.

armsoflove.org/about-us/our-core-values

1

In the most broken lives, **we see the greatest potential.**

2

To **bring healing and restoration** to the lives of rescued children.

Sponsorship?

Community

Development?

YES!

Caring for at-risk children isn't a simple undertaking. Many factors and decisions are out of our control, but our family is resilient and determined.

When Eddy and Roberto were placed by the Nicaraguan social services in our family in 2015 they had been spending their time on the streets, required by their mom's boyfriend to serve as drug mules. The transition from the street to Arms of Love is never easy, and the boys struggled. The need to survive was ingrained. Initially Roberto ran away and they both had difficulty in school.

AS TIME PASSED THE BROTHERS STARTED TO FEEL SAFE

Eddy loved cooking, helped with chores, and was good with other kids. With adult-sized responsibilities removed, he was a



kid again. Roberto was at the top of his class, enjoying sports, and the need to fight was lessening.

When social services learned that the boy's mom had left the dangerous boyfriend they were reintegrated. Mom was trying hard, but some difficult circumstances led the boys back to the streets. They would beg, clean windows and do whatever it took to help the family.

When this was discovered, the boys were offered to participate in our Community Development Program. Tutoring and nutritious meals helped get the boys back on track. **Today, Eddy is 17 and Roberto is 15, and they're both back in school.**

Thanks to an incredible partner, we have offered a short-term internship. Eddy, though still struggling at times, is doing his best, and Roberto is excelling. They come daily to Arms of Love to learn, play, eat and be safe.

AS PART OF OUR MISSION, FAMILY IS FOREVER.

Every situation looks different, but Arms of Love will always do whatever we can for our kids. Sometimes a family just needs a little help to avoid making desperate decisions, and the whole community shares in the blessing of healthy and safe children.

3

To **impact the countries** where we work.

4

To **mobilize and equip leaders** within and beyond our children's homes.

5

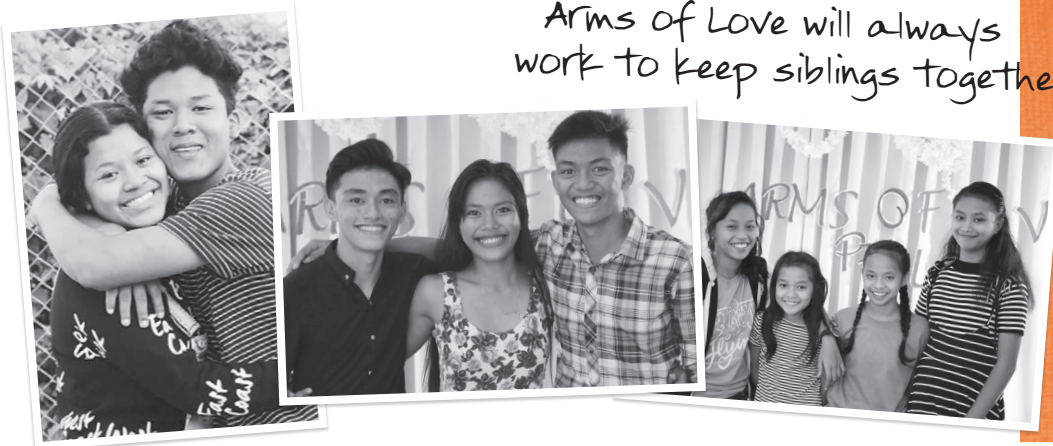
To **give away and let God multiply** what he has given to us.

Keeping Siblings Together

Many things make Arms of Love unique, including our ability and desire to care for siblings. In both Nicaragua and the Philippines we advocate to keep family groups together. For many of our kids, brothers and sisters have been the only constant presence in their lives, and may be the only source of understanding and shared experience.

When siblings are kept together, the evidence suggests that being placed in a new home is less traumatic, they do better in school, and overall are more emotionally healthy. Together, siblings help each other make sense of their new lives. For this reason, and because we feel it's just the right thing to do, Arms of Love will always work to keep siblings together ... and your support makes a direct impact!

For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother. — MATTHEW 12:50



DETACH AND RETURN WITH YOUR GIFT



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



GIVE SECURELY ONLINE:
Visit us at
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

My gift to help **ble**ss 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.

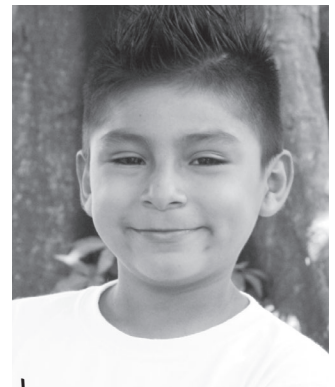
- \$35 to support a child in need of a sponsor for 1 month
 - \$140 to care for 4 children in need of food and education
 - \$_____ Community Development & Sustainability Efforts
 - \$_____ Crisis Response / Where Needed Most
- I would like to make a monthly commitment of \$_____ to sponsor a child.
 Nicaragua Philippines

\$140 will care for 4 children!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____



N0919



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