

Love Letter

A Newsletter for Friends of Arms of Love

2020

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20 Years of
Arms of Love



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

— PSALM 118:24



Arms of Love
International

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Arms of Love is celebrating our 20th anniversary since welcoming our first child

into the family.

Our mission is to provide a home of safety and security, a family of healing, a future of wholeness, and a community of hope. Since

2000, 192 children have lived with us in our residential programs in Nicaragua and the Philippines.

As we reflect on the past, we are blessed to see some of our first children, who came to our homes from tragic and dire circumstances, now actively leading a healthy life. Many have earned college degrees, and others are beginning families

of their own. Looking toward the future, we have faith our young ones will lead bright and successful lives as well.

THE ARMS OF LOVE WAY IS UNIQUE

Rooted in love, it's built on a high-quality, family-based model of care. Our homes include staff who focus on education, emotional and psychological healing, spiritual mentorship, physical health and wellness, sports, arts and extracurricular activities.

Regardless of the many obstacles faced along our journey, God is faithful, and we continue to strive to give orphaned, abandoned and abused children a new hope and a path to a healthy life.



We want to restore children to be the leaders of tomorrow, in their communities and in their churches. Because of your partnership, the last 20 years

demonstrate the fruit of our mission, **and we are excited for the next generation of lives to be changed and communities transformed.**



HERE'S WHY WE'RE STILL AT IT IN NICARAGUA:

- 1 in 3 children** faces malnourishment (CDCA)
- An estimated 320,000 children** ages 5-14 are engaged in labor activities
- An estimated 700,000 children** are sex trafficking victims
- Over 400,000 jobs have been lost,** since the 2018 crisis, leaving over 2 million in poverty (living on \$1.76 p/day)



HERE'S WHY WE PERSEVERE IN THE PHILIPPINES:

- An estimated 2.85 million Filipino children** ages 5-15 years old are out of school, and 8 in 10 children experience some form of abuse (UNICEF)
- The Philippines is ranked 4th** among the nations with the greatest number of sex trafficked children, with that number expected to skyrocket due to the pandemic.
- 31.4% of children live below the poverty line,** with 20% under the age of 5 being underweight due to food insecurity and malnutrition.

Extreme poverty and high unemployment directly result in child abuse and abandonment. Disasters and unrest are when the most vulnerable become desperate and are at greatest risk, and so this is a moment that we must rise to the occasion and not grow weary.

Achieving a Sustainable Future

Seven years have passed since we launched our **Community Development Program**, which is dedicated to supporting local families who are struggling to provide for their children and actively seeking opportunities to better their circumstances. In 2017, Maria Fernanda (13) and Ruben (11) enrolled in our program after showing signs of malnutrition and poor school attendance. When meeting their father Pedro, we were immediately impressed by his love and care for his children. He quickly became an active leader within the program, and applied for and was hired as a security guard in early 2018. For Pedro, working at Arms of Love is not only a job, but more so a calling.

He shared “I enjoy working at Arms of Love because of my coworkers, and that I get to be an instrument of God to impact the kid’s lives for good.”

Your support of our ministry becomes a positive ripple effect. When you invest in Arms of Love we can come alongside families like Pedro’s. Now, he is giving back, helping lead a culture of sustainability. Last year, Pedro approached us about cultivating our land to grow beans. He purchased the seeds, oversaw the entire process, and donated back 25% of the harvest. This year, he asked us to purchase the seeds, he will continue the work, and then donate 75% of the crop. **Pedro’s family is a snapshot of our community of hope, and one step towards achieving a sustainable future.**



Pedro Pablo's family at their home.



Pedro Pablo standing in front of his bean farm. Just one example of where sustainability starts and of our community of hope!

←

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

—MATTHEW 25:35-40

Finding the Good Way

We are so proud of our kids!

An unexpected recent blessing is our kids are learning and having a desire to farm during this pandemic season.

In both countries we've seen a significant increase from our youth towards our sustainability initiatives. **Whether it's gardening on the island of Bohol, or aquaponics in rural Jinotepe, our children are choosing to get involved!**



The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest. — PSALM 85:12



DETACH AND RETURN WITH YOUR GIFT

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
- \$_____ 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: _____



GIVE BY MAIL.
SEND YOUR GIFT TO:
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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



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