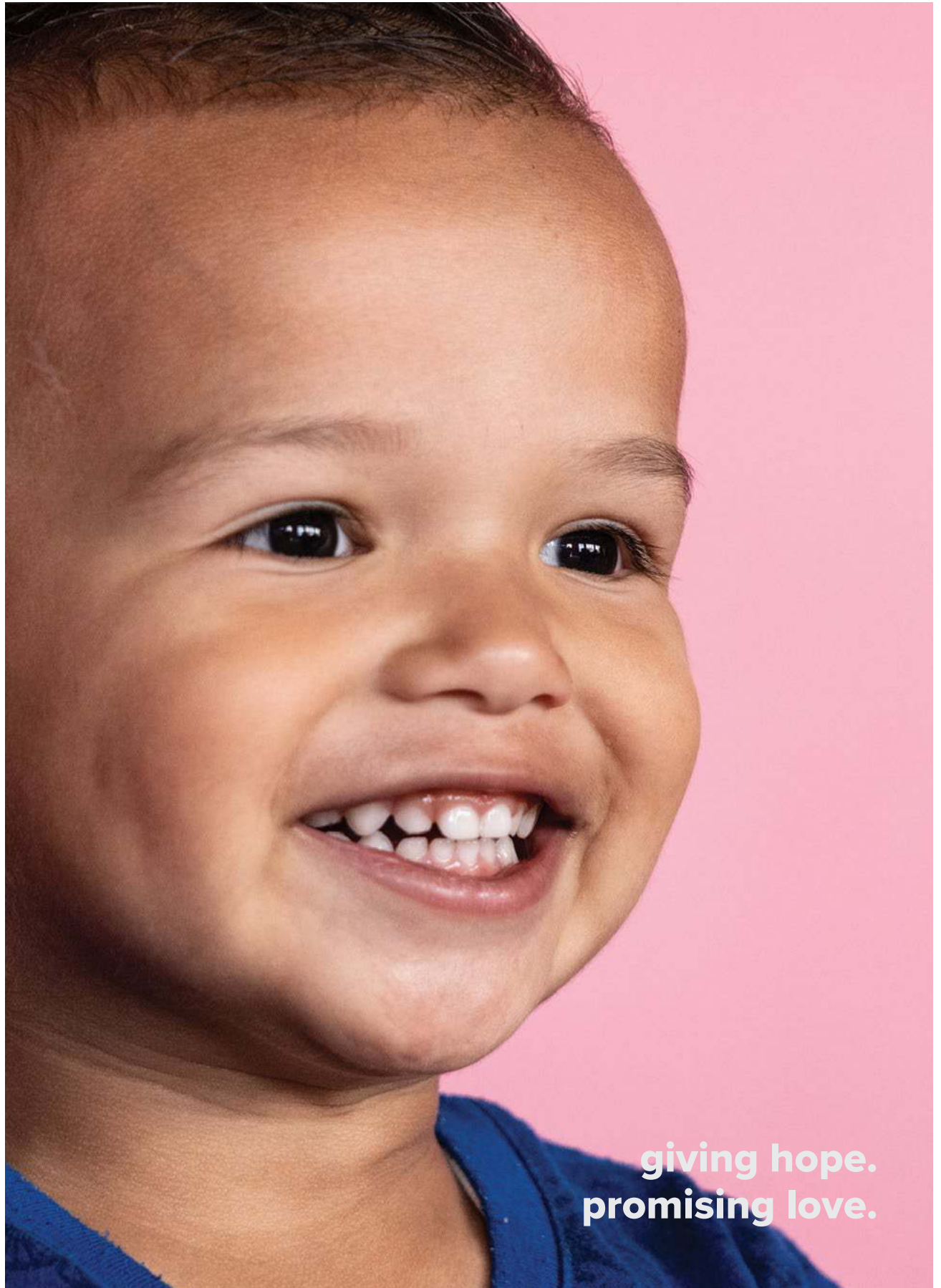


the promise





giving hope.
promising love.

darkness hidden by beauty

by Drew Friedrich
Director of Marketing
Orphan's Promise

Costa Rica is well known for its tropical climate, beautiful beaches, and the warm disposition of its people. Yet, in the heart of its urban communities and remote villages, poverty and despair are all too common. Children live every day with the uncertainty of hunger and lack the support systems needed to help them develop mentally, physically, socially and emotionally.

To combat these circumstances and to offer these children the chance to thrive, Orphan's Promise has established nine **"Hope Bunkers"** throughout Costa Rica—places where children can come and find safety, shelter, a warm meal, and a friendly face.

A bunker is a safe place, a place to hide when everything around you comes crashing down—a place of shelter and protection.

Located in some of the towns and villages most dangerous for at-risk children, the Hope Bunkers allow Costa Rican children to eat, learn and be disciplined in a safe, loving environment.

A SAFE PLACE

In Spanish, the expression for Hope Bunker is “Refugio de Esperanza,” a Refuge of Hope. When you see the impact these centers are making on the children from those nine communities, it’s clear to see why the name was chosen. The children who come to the bunkers come from broken homes, from families living in poverty, and many of the kids have been surrounded by crime and violence for most of their lives. In fact, many of the children have only one parent in the home, because their fathers are serving time in prison for gang or drug-related activity, or their mothers have been arrested for prostitution.

It’s hard to imagine what goes through the mind of a child as young as 3 or 4 when they see things no child ever should. How does it impact their self-image? What do they begin to think about God? How can they dream of better days ahead when they don’t even realize that better days exist?

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CALLED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We are drawn to children in these scenarios because they are the most vulnerable among us. These children have been born with the same innocence, wonder, and energy that God intends for all children. Their eyes light up at the smallest of gifts, and they squeal with delight as they run and play together. We refuse to allow that joy and energy to be stolen because of difficult beginnings. We've built Hope Bunkers throughout Costa Rica in order to push back against these difficulties and to keep hope alive in the hearts of these young boys and girls.

We believe every child should have the opportunity to succeed, no matter where they were born, but that's not possible without creating safety nets for these kids to fall into when life around them begins to fall apart. Your giving to Orphan's Promise helps us provide these safety nets for children all over the world, and you can rest assured that your investment will reap a harvest for generations to come.

Abigail prays for her mother in prison



Abigail is a young girl in Costa Rica who has recently begun attending one of our Hope Bunkers. She is an outstanding young lady with tremendous potential, but her life has not always been easy. Her mother has been in jail since Abigail was a newborn baby, and the child has had to live with her maternal grandparents.

The situation with Abigail's mother has led to a significant amount of emotional distress, and her grandmother has had a difficult time explaining to the girl why her mother can't be home with her. Abigail visits her mother in prison every day and dreams about being reunited with her someday. During those visits, her behavior changes and she becomes very sad and emotional. There is no question this precious little girl is hurting, and the answers to her questions are far too complex for a 7-year-old girl to truly understand.

Abigail's grandmother found out about our Hope Bunker near her village, and the two of them decided to visit. She hoped Abigail would have the opportunity to make some friends and begin to find some healing from the pain she'd experienced. After just a short time, Abigail felt right at home. She made friends, she played and laughed, and she began to learn and thrive in ways she'd never been able to before. In addition, after hearing the Gospel through Superbook at the Hope Bunker, she and her grandparents have begun attending the local church!

Abigail prays for her mother and says, "I know God is taking my mom from jail and she will someday come to church and share her testimony!"

Praise God for everything He is doing in the life of the children in our projects! Abigail now has a hope and a future!





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Orphan's Promise, a children's ministry of The Christian Broadcasting Network, Inc., serves orphans and other vulnerable children around the world, taking them from at-risk to thriving through the transforming power of God's love. CBN is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization and your contributions to our ministry are tax-deductible.