

PORTRAITS OF **PROMISE**



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STAFF WRITER

There is deep pain in the story we are about to share with you.

It's the kind of punch-to-the-gut brokenness that makes the world want to look away. But if you look away too soon, you miss the rest of the story. Because the story of Dayana in Peru doesn't end with brokenness or pain. It's defined by beauty. By hope. And by healing.

These are the stories.
These are the souls.
These are the portraits of the lives we're changing.



WHEN LAUGHTER IS A MIRACLE



LONG DAYS AND DARK NIGHTS

When a three-year-old girl regularly finds condoms scattered on the floor of her house from the different men rotating in and out, you know there is a problem.

Yet for little Dayana and her eleven-year-old sister, Ruth, this was normal.

This was their reality, growing up in an unstable family situation without a father figure present. Both their mother and grandmother are engaged in prostitution, which is legal in Peru and is often a product of entrenched poverty. The result was that the young sisters were often left alone at home for long stretches of time with little to no food, no supervision, and no one to take care of them. Ruth tried her best to fill the void and act as a mother to her little sister, but there was only so much she could do, being a child herself.

There are approximately 570,000 orphans across Peru today.





When the adults were present, though, it was almost worse. The home became a revolving door that left the little girls exposed to inappropriate situations at best and open to exploitation and abuse at worst.

We won't delve into the specifics of what Dayana and Ruth endured. That is their own story to tell one day, if they so choose—in their own time and their own words. But what those precious, innocent little eyes have witnessed, no child should be exposed to at that age, or ever. Such dangerous and traumatic situations inflict deep wounds on even the strongest souls.

Although Dayana was three years old, people often thought she was only about

a year-and-a-half, due to how the lack of proper nutrition had stunted her growth. She had suffered from serious anemia, a blood disorder that results from a lack of iron, which is needed to carry oxygen to the blood. It's a disease that impacts hundreds of thousands of children each year in Peru, negatively affecting their growth and development. Compounding the trauma she had experienced, the disease had left Dayana weak and her little body struggling to develop at a normal rate. She barely knew how to function independently; she wasn't very verbal and still wore diapers.

Thankfully, her story doesn't end there.

JOY COMES IN THE MORNING

By the grace of God, Dayana and Ruth were rescued from this unwholesome family situation and given a new home with an Orphan's Promise partner, Hope House Peru.

Hope House was created to be a place of refuge and restoration for young girls with histories of physical abuse,



sexual molestation, human trafficking, and being orphaned or neglected. At Hope House, girls can feel like they are finally part of a safe, loving family. For Dayana and Ruth, this is the first time they have been able to experience that feeling. Ruth no longer has to act as a de facto mother for her baby sister. They no longer have to scrounge for food or crouch in fear of who might be coming into their home next. They are finally free.

But it takes time to get used to feeling safe and loved.

At first, Dayana remained deeply withdrawn, rarely speaking or engaging with the staff. She cried almost constantly, as if she was afraid of everything. Her sister Ruth was the only person she wanted to carry her, hug her, or touch her. The darkness was still very present.



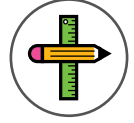
Although the government is working to crack down on human trafficking, Peru remains a source, destination, and transit country for men, women, and children to be exploited into sex trafficking and forced labor. Factors of poverty, neglect, and abandonment often figure in to vulnerable children becoming victims.

But gradually, over the next ten months, a miracle began to take place.

Dayana's health improved and her anemia was reversed. She started to gain weight and grow taller.

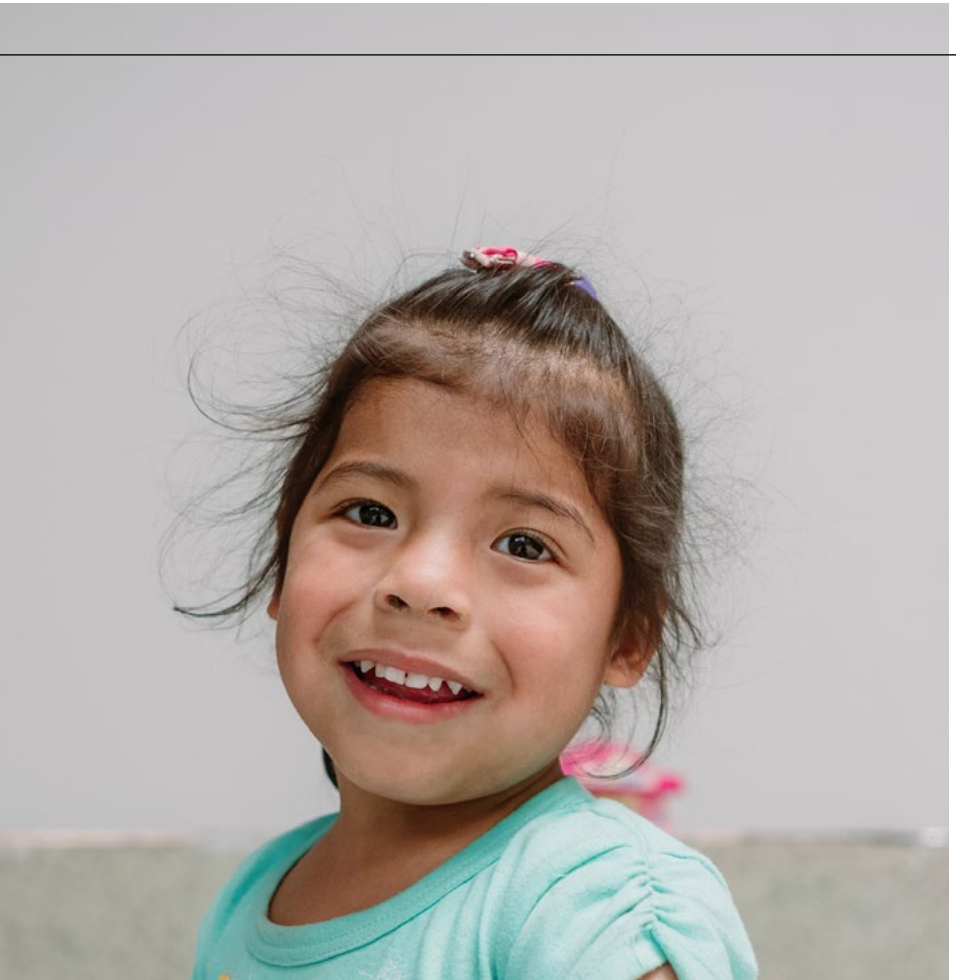
She is beginning to engage at school, making a big effort to learn something new every day. She does her homework. She has started to give hugs. She giggles.

It's such an incredible privilege to see this brave little soul regain her God-given joy and blossom into the bright, confident child her Father created her to be! To see tears turned into smiles and laughter that can light up a room. To witness this once shy, reticent little girl turn into a bundle of energy who delights in giving and receiving love from everyone around her. It may be just one little girl, but it is a mighty miracle. For a precious little one to be rescued is the most beautiful thing in the world. For one life to be brought from darkness into light is worth it. We serve the God who leaves the ninety-nine to seek out the one who is far from home.



How you can pray for this project:

We invite you, as a partner in Dayana's story, to pray with us over her future and her continued growth and healing. Write a sticky note as a reminder and place it on your refrigerator door or bathroom mirror, where you will see it daily and be reminded to intercede for her and the many children like her around the world.



A PROMISING NEW FUTURE

We don't know where Dayana would be today, or what her life would look like, if she and Ruth had not been brought to Hope House. If it weren't for you, she might never have arrived here and her future would probably look very different.

Thank you for helping to create a home for Dayana and little ones like her. Because of your partnership, we get to see breakthroughs right as they happen. We get to see her grow, laugh, dream, and become everything that God created her to be. Best of all, Dayana is able to find peace knowing she is in a safe place where no one will try to hurt her, and she can focus on learning more about her Father and the incredible plans He has for her.





Automate Your Impact!

The most effective way to give and maximize your gift is to give a recurring monthly gift. If you'd like to become a monthly partner with Orphan's Promise, please fill out the enclosed "You Pledge, We Pledge" form and return it in the Business Reply Envelope. We'll count on you to ensure our commitment to these children is fulfilled!

If you'd like to give a special gift to Orphan's Promise, there are four easy ways you can give:

- 1** Give online by visiting OrphansPromise.org/Promise
- 2** Text **PROMISE** to **71777** and give from your mobile phone
- 3** Call **1-800-818-4016** to give by phone
- 4** You can **mail a check** made out to Orphan's Promise to:

Orphan's Promise
977 Centerville Turnpike
Virginia Beach, VA 23463

**Thanks for your generosity.
We look forward to making a difference together.**



orphan's**promise**



give us a call: 1-800-818-4016

orphanspromise.org


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