

PORTRAITS OF **PROMISE**



by Ellery Sadler,
staff writer

Hope has a mysterious power you can't quite measure.

Its presence can keep a patient alive when science says otherwise.

It can compel people to keep pressing forward despite tragedy and trauma on a nearly unfathomable scale.

It's one of the most powerful forces on earth. That's why, when you see hope glimmering again in the eyes of a child, it is important to remember that this tiny spark has the power to set the world on fire.

These are the stories.

These are the souls.

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







A Space to Feel Safe

**Refugio de Esperanza
means “Refuge of Hope.”**

A shelter from danger, unrest, or trouble. A space to feel safe.

That’s the definition of “Hope Bunker”—a program that Orphan’s Promise supports throughout Costa Rica.

Operating in some of the most dangerous villages for vulnerable and at-risk children, our nine Hope Bunkers offer spaces for kids to come and find safety. At the bunkers they find shelter, a warm meal, mentorship and discipleship, and—often for the first time in their lives—an opportunity to thrive.

Many of the children who show up at our bunkers come from backgrounds of extreme brokenness. Their homes lack basic necessities like food, warmth, and safety. Their neighborhoods are hurting from crime and violence. Their families have been torn apart—a father is serving time in prison for gang or drug-related activity; a mother is arrested for prostitution as she struggles to provide for her children.

Yet these circumstances do not define these kids.

Every child who walks through our doors is precious and unique. Each has a story worth telling and a future

worth investing in. These children are not simply people we are privileged to provide with a warm meal or a safe place to play and study. They are so much more. They are future hope-warriors that we are empowering to reverse generational patterns of poverty, abuse, and oppression. We are helping them push back the darkness and face the future without fear so they can dream big dreams. They are the ones who are going to set their worlds on fire with the transformative power of love they have received from their Father in heaven.

Kenner's story is no different.



ONE HOPE-WARRIOR'S STORY

Kenner is 11 years old and has sparkling brown eyes that squint at the corners when he smiles “big” enough—which is often.

His family fled sociopolitical conflict in Nicaragua two years ago, which brought them here to Costa Rica where they live as refugees. His parents, grandparents, two siblings, and an uncle crowd together into a single small house. Before coming to the Hope Bunker, Kenner spent most of his time in his home. The conditions are not ideal for a young boy to study, learn, and grow. They share beds, have only one bath, no windows, and it's often

By the end of 2019, Costa Rica hosted a total of nearly 6,200 refugees and 87,200 asylum seekers, 85% of whom had arrived from Nicaragua during the year due to the sociopolitical crisis there. Many refugees and asylum seekers suffer from a severe lack of resources including housing, food, and other basic necessities.





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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:

Give online by visiting **OrphansPromise.org/Promise**

Text PROMISE to 71777 and give from your mobile phone

Call 1-800-818-4016 to give by phone

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.



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While Costa Rica is one of the more stable countries in Latin America and poverty levels have been falling, many people still live in extreme deprivation. In 2017, approximately 3% of Costa Ricans were living on less than \$3 US per day. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), one of every three children and adolescents in Costa Rica lives in poverty.

quite cold—gusts of wind blow right in due to poor construction. Kenner also wasn't able to receive the personalized academic attention and support he needed to maintain his studies.

Being able to find refuge in a stable, safe environment at our Hope Bunker has provided Kenner with the space to learn, to heal, to relax, play and grow. Here, he receives the school supplies and support he needs in order to focus on his studies. On top of that, he participates in extracurricular activities that favor psychological, educational, spiritual and nutritional development and is able to count on consistent,

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nutritious meals. He's even gotten to try food that he has never tasted before—like spaghetti, and cereal with milk! Kenner says that without the Hope Bunker, he doubts he and his siblings would have enough to eat each day.

As Kenner and his siblings attended our Hope Bunker programs, the facility has provided them with an environment that allows them to begin healing from the trauma of having to flee Nicaragua. Part of healing from the past is being able to look to the future with hope, and the Hope Bunker has given these children the space to begin to dream again. Kenner says that he wants to be a policeman when he grows up so that he can save lives and help people who are hurting. Even after everything he has been through, his biggest goal is to help those around him.

Kenner is already having an incredible impact on his own family. Through the Superbook workshops

and activities offered at the Hope Bunker, he's been able to encounter God as his Father in a personal and powerful way. He has begun to share the Word of God with his entire family and bring his mother along to Hope Bunker workshops and trainings, including one on entrepreneurship. That's the thing about hope. It multiplies and spreads. Kenner may only be 11 years old, but God is already using him to spread the contagious power of hope to those around him. That's the spark of hope that we love to see.

We're so proud of Kenner and honored to be able to play a role in empowering him to grow into the mighty man of God we know he will become. We hope you are honored as well, to be part of his story. Thank you for being here, for continuing to fight back against the darkness by raising up one little hope-warrior at a time. In closing, Kenner has a message to each of you: "Thank you to all the people supporting this program. Thank you for bringing food and teaching me about God."

That is why we're so passionate about what we get to do at Orphan's Promise. We're not just meeting physical needs, although we certainly do that. Our biggest privilege is raising up the next generation of hope-warriors, by introducing them to the Author of hope.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. —Romans 15:13







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

orphanspromise.org

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.

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