

PORTRAITS OF **PROMISE**



Slender shoulders. Little hands. A big heart.

by Ellery Sadler
Staff Writer

Kids shouldn't have to carry the burden of their own survival. But for Danny and many other children like him, the instability of their environment has forced them to grow up fast. Danny lives in Costa Rica, where he assumes a lot of the responsibility for his family's well-being. Thankfully, through Orphan's Promise, he's found a steady shoulder to lean on. Let's take a trip to Costa Rica and hear his story.

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







Danny's story is one of resilience and gentleness in the face of hardship. The 10-year-old lives in Guarari, Costa Rica. It's a crowded urban community that struggles with a lot of crime, substance abuse, and drug trafficking.

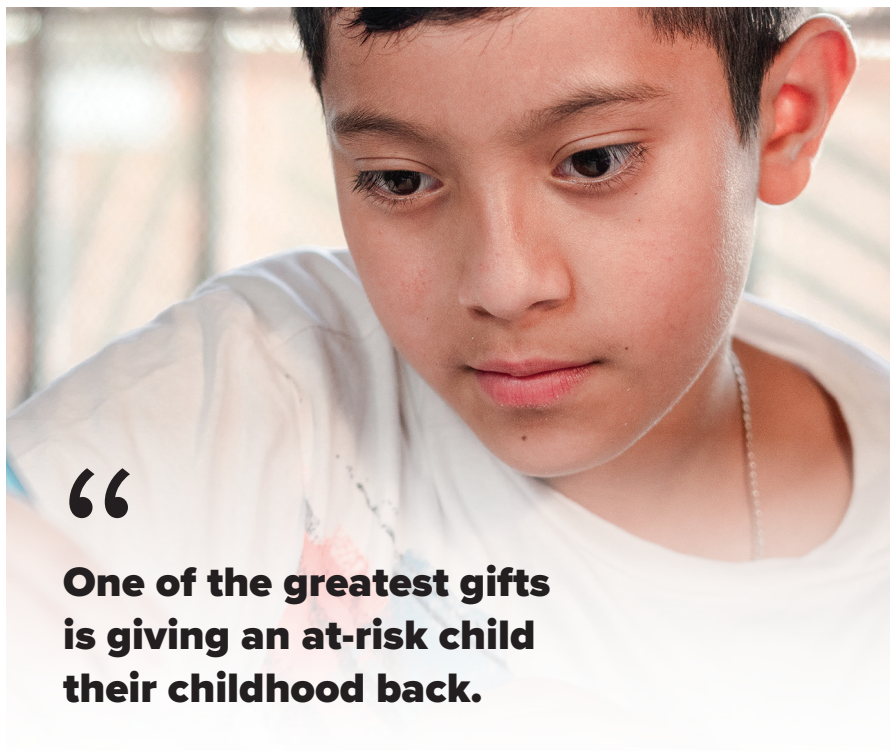
The young boy's childhood has been shaped by the substance abuse and addictions that plague the grownups in Danny's immediate and extended family. To make up for the instability, he has tried to carry more of the load and shield his two younger siblings as much as possible. Danny is a tender-hearted child who wants to help solve all the adults' problems. But little shoulders like his weren't made to carry the weight of the world.

During a particularly dark period of Danny's life, some of his cousins invited him to an Orphan's Promise Hope Bunker nearby.



As we opened the doors to our Hope Bunkers, we realized that far too many kids sat at their desks unable to focus because of their empty bellies. We knew we needed to feed them. Through Orphan's Promise, these little ones are able to get consistent, nutritious meals.

For kids living in at-risk areas, Hope Bunkers serve as a safe, stable, loving environment in which to learn and grow. We provide Bible teaching, educational materials, and school supplies. We also provide warm, nutritious food for kids who otherwise may not know where their next meal is coming from. Teachers spend time with each child, giving them a loving adult to bond with and learn from. It's extremely important during developmental years for children to experience a stable environment, and Hope Bunkers provide this for kids who might not have that same kind of stability—or consistent guidance and attention—at home. If you visit a Hope Bunker in person, you'll immediately know you're in the right place by how noisy it is! Hope Bunkers provide a warm, welcoming place for kids to just be kids, so they're filled with squeals of laughter and sounds of children playing.



“

**One of the greatest gifts
is giving an at-risk child
their childhood back.**

One of the greatest gifts is giving an at-risk child their childhood back. That is what a Hope Bunker does. For a few days out of the week, kids can just be kids and learn and play together.

When we first met Danny he was struggling, weighed down by the emotional load of his family. Years of trying to help manage the addictions and stress of the adults in his life had taken a toll on his young heart and mind. But we were excited to see how he felt right at home at the Hope Bunker—and how quickly he befriended the other children and dove into learning about the Bible through the Superbook lessons we provided.

Yet Danny continues to live in an uncertain environment. Currently, 23% of families in Costa Rica live in poverty.¹ His mother works hard to provide for the family, but life is difficult. She, Danny, and

¹ <https://ticotimes.net/2021/10/21/nearly-a-quarter-of-costa-rican-households-living-in-poverty>



INCREASE YOUR GENEROSITY!

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.**



orphan'spromise



the two younger children share a small home made of scrap metal constructed on a cliffside near a river. They don't have running water or electricity, and it's difficult for the children's mother to get consistent work, as the COVID-19 pandemic has made it even harder to find jobs in Costa Rica.²

And the changes in Danny didn't happen overnight. It took time and many hours of prayer, but slowly we started to see the stress and anxiety fall off Danny's shoulders. He has been able to blossom into the bright, curious, kind little boy he was created to be. Even though his situation at home continues to be difficult, he is growing and thriving at the Hope Bunker and his teachers say he has a

² <https://ticotimes.net/2021/09/08/costa-rica-unemployment-rate-drops-to-17-4>



noble character. We are glad to be a shoulder for him to lean on and a tangible expression of God's love in his life. And we were overjoyed when he decided to become a believer and accepted Jesus as his Savior!

Danny has been attending the Hope Bunker for almost two years now, and it's incredible to see the steady growth and changes that have happened through consistent investment in his life. He is one of the most joyful students! He continues to love memorizing Bible verses and participating in all the Bible lessons, and he recently started learning how to play the ukelele. He inspires us by his example of laying his burdens down and giving them to Jesus. His joy, perseverance and kindness are spreading as he is able to share the light of Christ with his two younger siblings at home. One

day, we hope Danny's entire family will come to know Jesus and the hope He offers.

Through your compassion, Danny is finding hope and healing and strength. Every child deserves the chance to just be a kid, to learn and grow, and to know that they are loved. Thanks to your partnership, it's possible for kids like Danny to find a steady shoulder to lean on. It is a gift to get to come alongside kids and watch them become the people God created them to be.

Thank you for giving kids like Danny their childhood back.







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.

education



nutrition



discipleship



community
transformation



strong families



anti-trafficking

