

PORTRAITS OF **PROMISE**



The Light of the Local Church

Aaron* is young but already has faced a lot of hardship in his short life. He lives in southeastern Asia and because his parents are undocumented, he and his family face an uphill struggle for survival. With the help of an Orphan's Promise program at his local church, Hope Learning Center, Aaron is getting the consistent support and investment he needs to learn and grow. Discover how your partnership is making a life-changing difference for this little boy.

***Name changed for privacy.**

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





UNDOCUMENTED DIFFICULTIES

Aaron lives with his parents and five siblings in southeastern Asia. His parents are undocumented immigrants in the area, which means Aaron is not able to attend public school or receive proper medical care. Life is difficult for his parents as they struggle to find consistent work and provide for their children.

Overcoming cycles of poverty is a constant battle, especially for Aaron and his siblings since their status excludes them from school. The inability to read and write is one of the main issues undocumented children face and will affect their ability to find work as they become adults. According to UNICEF, “Education is one of the smartest investments that can be made to support child survival, growth, and development.”¹

UNICEF also reports: “Without quality education, children face considerable barriers to employment and earning potential later in life. They are more likely to suffer adverse health outcomes and less likely to participate in decisions that affect them—threatening their ability to shape a better future for themselves and their societies.”²

UNICEF says that “over 600 million children and adolescents worldwide are unable to attain minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics.”³

In addition to the family's struggle for survival and not having access to education, Aaron's sister passed away, leaving him the oldest child in the family. Aaron is responsible for chores and much of the care of his younger siblings. His mom recently gave birth to Aaron's youngest sibling. Sadly, she wrestles with some mental health issues that affect the family. Aaron has had a difficult time adjusting with the loss of his sister and with his relationship with his mom.

When the local church heard about Aaron and his family, they invited him to join Hope Learning Center and slowly things began to change for him.

HOPE FOR AARON

At Hope Learning Center, Aaron is now receiving consistent holistic care, mentorship, and teaching. At the center, he also eats nutritious meals every day and is learning how to read and write. He loves interacting with the other kids and enjoys playing games with his friends after school. He says he wants to be a football player when he grows up, and he loves dancing! Hope Learning Center is offering Aaron a safe, consistent environment to grow, explore, and become who God made him to be. One of the most beautiful results of a safe school environment like this is how it restores joy to kids who have had much of their childhood taken from them by their circumstances. Giving Aaron the opportunity to learn these foundational education building blocks will also equip



him to keep learning and growing and allow him to pursue better job opportunities as an adult.

His teachers are able to pour into him and show him how precious he is to God. Under their leadership, Aaron has really grown since he first started coming, and he is also learning how to relate with his mom in better, healthier ways. At school, he has access to counseling and discipleship to help him navigate and process life. During the pandemic, his family received emergency food aid, which helped tremendously during a very hard season when they did not know where their next meal would come from.



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.**



A BETTER FUTURE AHEAD

With the faithful investment from teachers and the local church, Aaron and his family are experiencing firsthand what love in action looks like. Instead of being excluded, they are being embraced, and Aaron's future will be very different now that he is able to learn and grow in a safe, stable environment.

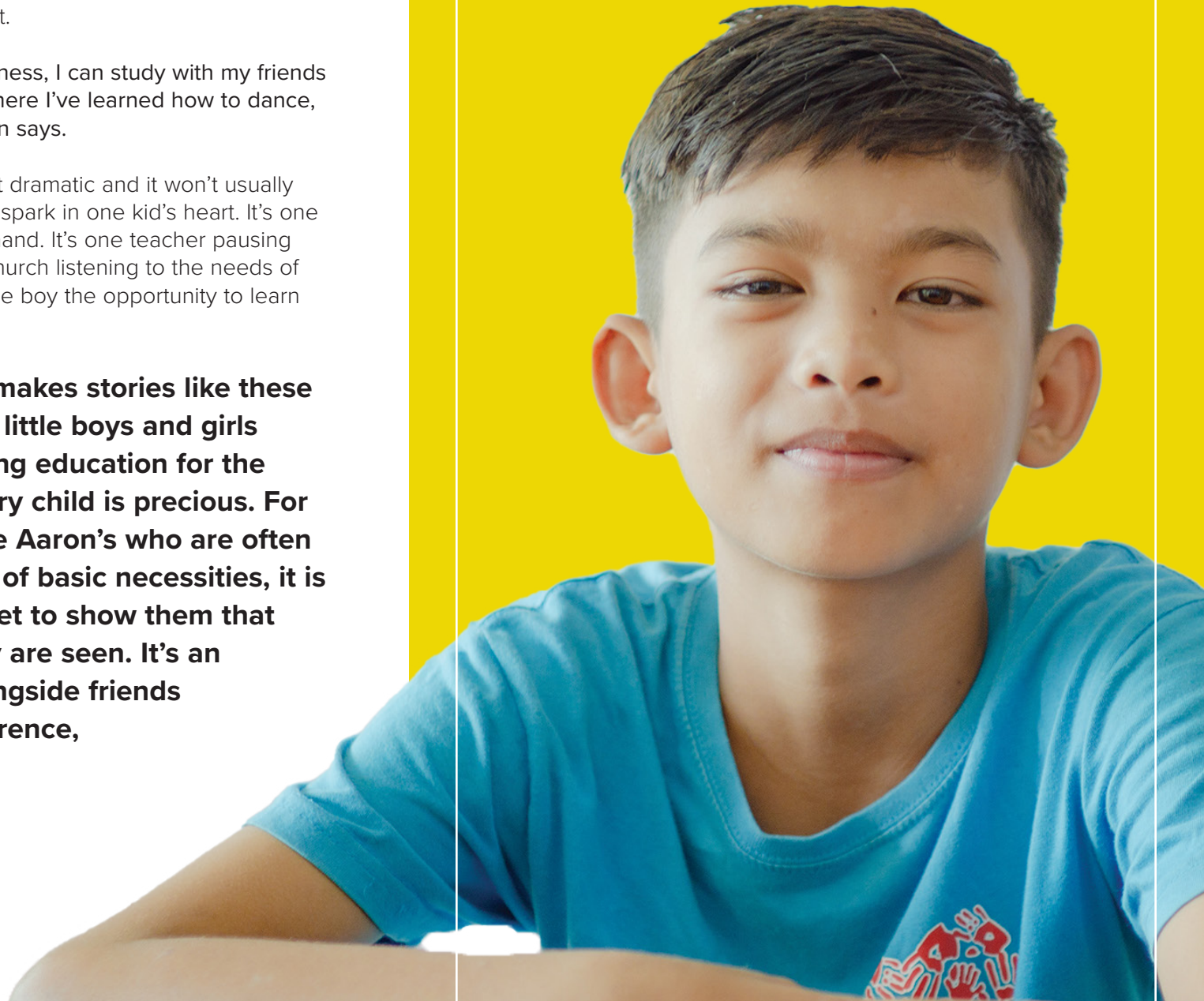
"Thank you! Because of your kindness, I can study with my friends here at Hope Learning Center, where I've learned how to dance, write, read, and know God," Aaron says.

At the end of the day, change isn't dramatic and it won't usually make headlines. Hope starts as a spark in one kid's heart. It's one neighbor reaching out a helping hand. It's one teacher pausing to say, "I see you." It's one local church listening to the needs of their community and offering a little boy the opportunity to learn how to read and write.

Your partnership with us makes stories like these a reality. Because of you, little boys and girls like Aaron are experiencing education for the first time. We believe every child is precious. For impoverished families like Aaron's who are often overlooked and deprived of basic necessities, it is a privilege and a gift to get to show them that they matter and that they are seen. It's an honor to get to serve alongside friends like you and make a difference, one child at a time.

1. <https://www.unicefusa.org/stories/why-literacy-matters/36304#:~:text=Learning%20to%20read%20and%20write,path%20to%20a%20promising%20future>
 2. <https://www.unicef.org/education>
 3. <https://www.unicef.org/education>

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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 may be tax-deductible.

education



nutrition



discipleship



community
transformation



strong families



anti-trafficking

