



# Standing Firm



# 2023

ANNUAL REPORT






# A Steadfast Refuge from the Storm



Our world is full of brokenness. It seems like every day we hear another devastating news report. That's why the work we do at Orphan's Promise is so vital. We have a hope that must be ignited in others—a love that must be shared.

This past year, we have helped many vulnerable children—all thanks to our partners and projects. As we stand firmly on the purpose God has planted inside us, we become a safe haven for others, a refuge from the storm, and a place to call home.

As you read the stories and statistics in our 2023 Annual Report, we pray you are encouraged by the work of our ministry that is made possible by your giving. We pray you are inspired by the lives that are forever changed through your dedication to our mission. And we pray you continue to stand with us in the year to come. 

*Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. —1 Corinthians 15:58*





“  
**This quote from  
 activist Richard St.  
 Barbe Baker seems  
 to sum up everything  
 I am hoping to convey  
 in this year’s annual  
 report theme of  
 standing firm:**

**“Be like a tree in  
 pursuit of your  
 cause. Stand firm.  
 Bend to the winds  
 of heaven. And  
 learn tranquility.”**

# From Terry



Dear Friends,

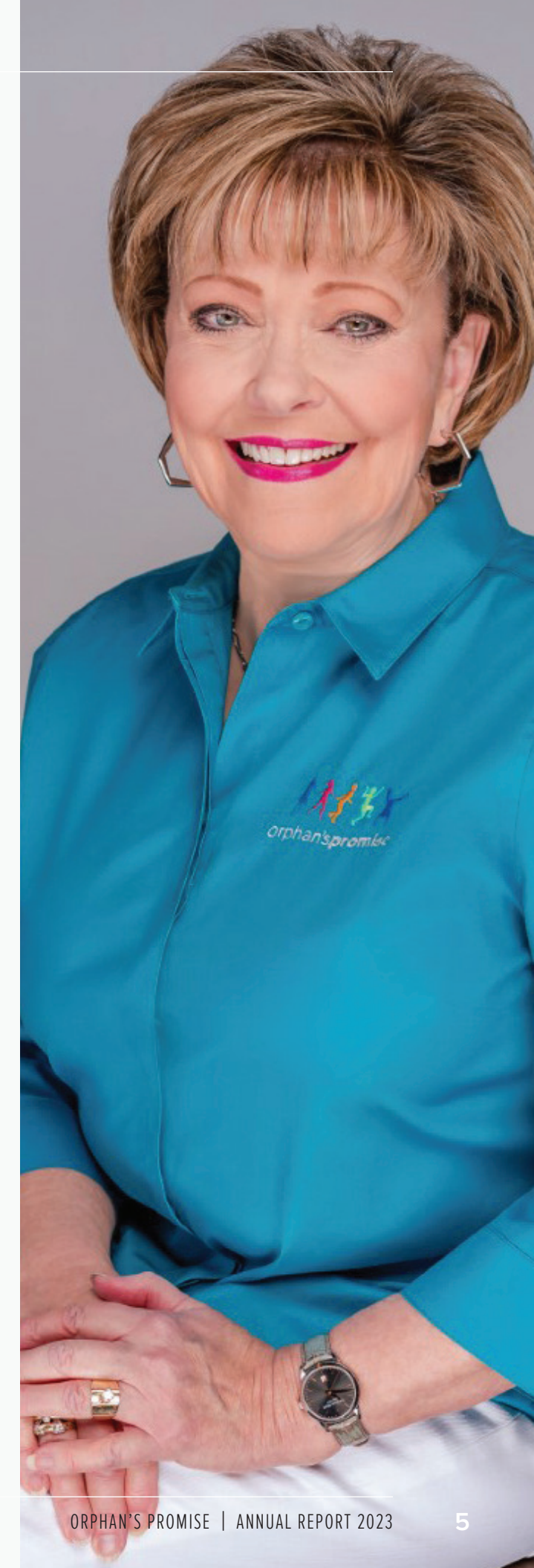
The year 2023 was an incredible time for Orphan’s Promise. We have so many things to celebrate. Yet it has also been a year of loss, grief, and change. The Bible speaks about this in Ecclesiastes 3:1, reminding us there is a time *for every activity under the heavens*.

Life is full of trials. The question is not *if* we will face these times, but rather *how* we choose to navigate them. When the storms of life hit us, we often become increasingly aware of our footing. As we reflect on this past year, we are reminded of the calling that God has placed in our hearts.

The stories you will read inside are full of people who have chosen to stand firm in the midst of difficulty, pressing toward a future that the Lord has uniquely designed for them. This year, we want to continue to stand firm in our mission at Orphan’s Promise, always listening to the “winds of heaven” and resting in the knowledge that God is in control—in every season.

Blessings!

Terry Meeuwsen





# Vision & Values

## OUR MISSION & CORE VALUES

We can often spend a lot of time looking at what we do as an organization. Although that is important, we must also make sure that we understand the why behind the what.

Our vision and core values provide us with the tools we need to operate, but they also act as a foundation for our work at Orphan's Promise.

Our prayer is that we remain steadfast in our values as we go into the places of the world where our help is needed most.

## VISION

Orphan's Promise seeks to meet the emotional, intellectual, physical, social, and spiritual needs of orphaned and at-risk children worldwide with the love of God.

We help keep families together, create opportunities for strong, sustainable communities, and seek out those who are unloved or uncared for.

Our organization was founded on the promise of taking children out of dangerous, at-risk situations and helping them thrive so that they can live full of hope and realize their God-given potential.



## CORE VALUES



### AGILITY

We are able to respond, adapt, and adjust to what is needed and necessary in each season.



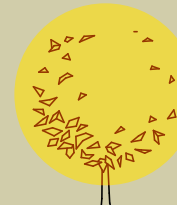
### EXCELLENCE

We strive to do the best we can with what has been entrusted to us. We want to reflect the excellence of our God in what we do.



### INTEGRITY

We do what we say we will do. We are people of our word, good stewards of our resources, full of honesty, and strong in our communications.



### OBEDIENCE

We believe in the power of our yes. We want to be a people who listen to our God's leading, following and trusting Him even when we don't see in full.



### UNITY

When we dwell together in unity, blessing is promised to follow us. We fight for unity of heart and vision in our teams, projects, partners, and donors. Together, we are better.

# 986,000+

MEALS SERVED WITHIN NUTRITION, EDUCATION, & DISCIPLESHIP PROJECTS

# 25,800+

CHILDREN ATTENDED OP-SPONSORED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

# 12,200+

CHILDREN IN DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAMS

# 9,500+

PEOPLE HELPED THROUGH NUTRITION PROGRAMS

# 4,300+

PEOPLE HELPED THROUGH ANTI-TRAFFICKING AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS



# Feet on the Ground

## HOW WE WORK

We work in some of the most challenging communities across the globe. That's why we believe that partnering with local churches and organizations is one of the strongest ways to transform a community.

When we say yes to a cause, we seek to build strong relationships with partners, churches, families, and children. We desire long-lasting change—but that doesn't happen overnight!

Even when situations become difficult, we will continue to stand on God's promises, always with an ear turned in the direction of heaven.



## OUR 6 KEY AREAS OF MINISTRY

### **Education:**

Access to education should not be dependent upon where you are born or your financial status. We believe that education is a key component in equipping people to break the cycle of poverty and build a successful future.



### **Nutrition:**

Without the right nutritional input, children's abilities to succeed are severely limited. Physical growth, concentration, and development are all hindered. We want to ensure that every child has the chance to grow and develop properly.



### **Discipleship:**

We believe that for a child to truly thrive, we must introduce them to Jesus. In Him, we find all that we are lacking, far beyond our circumstances. He is our Hope in the darkness.



### **Strong Families:**

Children thrive in an environment of safety, security, and love. Where possible, we believe that as we strengthen, encourage, and restore families, we will see the lives of children change too.



### **Community Transformation:**

We are committed to changing lives one by one, but we also believe in the power of community. Together, we are stronger.



### **Anti-Trafficking:**

We enjoy the freedom we have today because someone paid a price. We are committed to fighting for the freedom of those still caught in slavery and the evil of human trafficking.





Why Are They Called Hope Bunkers?

## What's in a Name?

“  
***This program became more than just a place to receive a meal or watch an animated Bible story. It transformed into a place of safety and hope.***”

## THE ORIGINS OF HOPE BUNKER

You may be familiar with our Hope Bunker project in Costa Rica, but have you ever wondered how it got its name?

Initially, our Hope Bunker projects were like soup kitchens, as they provided nutritional support for families in the local community. Later, Orphan's Promise supported an organization called *Un Corazón Samaritano* that operated a place where children received food, educational support, and Bible classes.

In 2017, our team worked in the Corralillo community of Nicoya, Guanacaste—a rural area located six hours from the capital. There, we met a young boy in the fourth grade named Steven.

Steven was one of the children from the community who began attending our project. At first, he did so to take refuge from the problems at home, which included extreme poverty, physical and emotional abuse, an alcoholic stepfather, and a mother with a drug addiction. He had a reputation in the community and at school for being disrespectful to others and bullying other children.

The coordinator told us how difficult it was to work with Steven, but after learning about the Word of God, Steven began to change little by little.

One day, the school principal called to ask what was happening because Steven and the other kids were completely different from before. Steven was now kind, respectful, and responsible.





During a visit at the project, Karina Nuñez, our regional manager for Latin America, sat down to talk with Steven. She asked him what had changed.

Steven replied that he used to deal with a lot of anger and sadness because his life was very difficult. Just a few months before, his stepfather, in a drunken state, had broken a broomstick on his back when Steven tried to defend his little brother from being beaten.

But through the project, Steven discovered that God had a plan for his life. He had grown so much from the care he received and what he learned when watching Superbook. He also knew that he had to release forgiveness.

With tears in his eyes, Steven said, “This place brought me hope. It is a refuge for me.”

From then on—thanks to Steven—our Orphan’s Promise programs that provide food assistance, school support, and discipleship through Superbook were renamed Hope Bunker.

But why “bunker”?

In Spanish, the word “bunker” is synonymous with “refuge.” However, in Costa Rica, it’s also the name for the places where drugs are supplied and consumed in vulnerable communities. We wanted to reclaim the word and give it a positive alternative. So, in the places where Hope Bunker operates, “bunker” now has a completely different meaning. It’s a place of hope and thriving. 🐾🐾🐾



# Side by Side



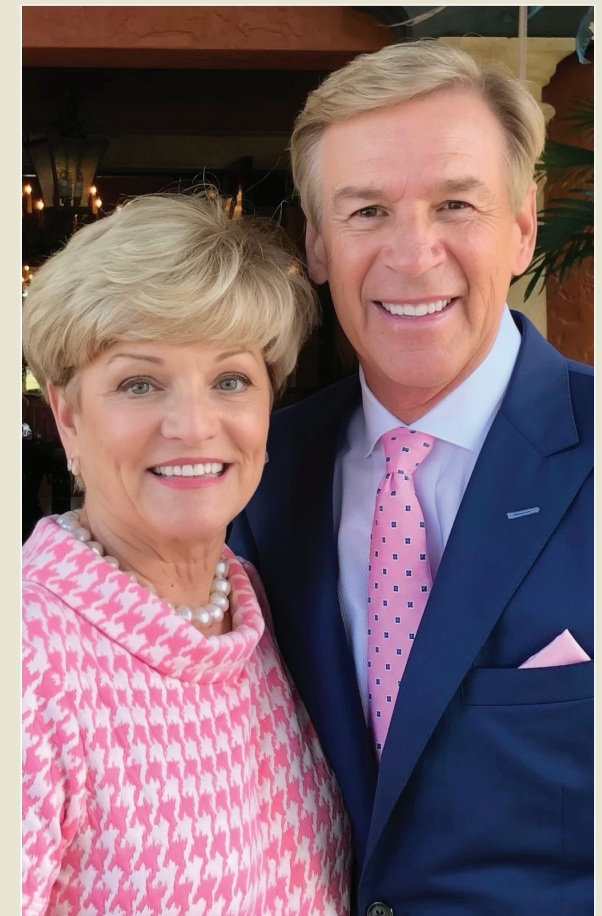
The work of Orphan's Promise is only made possible by our incredible partners. We are beyond grateful for the men and women who have chosen to stand with us in our mission. Many of our donors have remained committed throughout the years even during challenging times.

We believe that generosity unlocks blessings, and we could not have become all that we see today without you, our dear friends.

First and foremost, we stand firmly on the promises of God and His faithfulness toward us. We also acknowledge the unwavering support of our donors. Every cent that comes through Orphan's Promise is money that has been given, often sacrificially, by you. So, when we say that we couldn't do it without you—we really mean it!

We are so thankful for those, like Benny and Cherrie, who have been with us since the beginning and continue to support us as we move forward.

Cherrie told us: "Benny and I have been supporting Orphan's Promise for many years. Beth Meadows, who had been our



friend through CBN, encouraged us to look at OP. We have been partners ever since and have seen how lives have been totally changed. We have also seen how children and their families have come to know the Lord through OP. Recently having attended a partners' meeting in Nashville, TN, we could see for ourselves the dedication and love of everyone involved. They love what they do, and so do we! We are grateful to be partners with OP." 🙌



UNITED STATES, ARGENTINA, **BELIZE\***, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, HAITI, HONDURAS, MEXICO, NICARAGUA, PERU, SPAIN, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, BULGARIA, CROATIA, GERMANY, GREECE, NETHERLANDS, POLAND, ROMANIA, SERBIA, UNITED KINGDOM, ARMENIA, **AZERBAIJAN\***, GEORGIA, KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, MOLDOVA, TAJIKISTAN, UKRAINE, UZBEKISTAN

\*new countries served

# The Bigger Picture

## WHERE WE WORK

### NORTH AMERICA

1 country / 11 projects  
490+ beneficiaries  
800+ received anti-trafficking training

### EUROPE

10 countries / 29 projects  
5,400+ beneficiaries  
7,400+ meals served  
1,500+ presented with the Gospel

### FORMER SOVIET UNION

9 countries / 73 projects  
54,200+ beneficiaries  
28,900+ attended events

### ASIA

13 countries / 240 projects  
40,900+ beneficiaries  
155,700+ meals served  
17,400+ attended events

### LATIN AMERICA

15 countries / 66 projects  
7,600+ beneficiaries  
310,000+ meals served

### AFRICA

18 countries / 65 projects  
6,500+ beneficiaries  
422,000+ meals served

### MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

7 countries / 19 projects  
1,400+ beneficiaries  
2,200+ attended events

7  
REGIONS

73  
COUNTRIES

500+  
ACTIVE PROJECTS

143,000+  
BENEFICIARIES

ETHIOPIA, KENYA, SOUTH SUDAN, TANZANIA, UGANDA, BURKINA FASO, CONGO, NIGERIA, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE, BOTSWANA, LESOTHO, MALAWI, MOZAMBIQUE, **RWANDA\***, SOUTH AFRICA, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE, CAMBODIA, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, MYANMAR, THAILAND, VANUATU, VIETNAM, INDIA, NEPAL, CHINA/HONG KONG, LAOS, MONGOLIA, PHILIPPINES, EGYPT, IRAQ, ISRAEL, JORDAN, LEBANON, PAKISTAN, **TÜRKIYE\***





# Finding the Depths of Love

Varvara's childhood was full of broken relationships. Her mother was an alcoholic, and her father was addicted to drugs. Varvara's parents eventually divorced, and her father left the family. Her mother would often treat her daughter cruelly.

As the eldest in the family, 16-year-old Varvara took care of her younger siblings. She lived in fear of her mother's unkindness, scarred by a childhood of fear and uncertainty—even after she and her siblings were taken in by their grandmother. Although the immediate danger had subsided, hunger became another issue, as her grandmother struggled to feed her loved ones on a meager income.

But even in Varvara's despair and worry, there was still hope.

When her father had left, he had moved to Vinnytsia in Ukraine. There, he found an organization that partnered with Orphan's Promise called Christian Rehabilitation Center. Working toward recovery, he sought to have Varvara back in his life.

Varvara was welcomed by the staff at the Way to Life transition home, a shelter for at-risk children. In the meantime, her father remained at the rehabilitation center until his parental rights could be restored.

Varvara's Story — Vinnytsia, UKRAINE





At the transition home, Varvara's life began to transform. After receiving counseling and vocational training, she began to heal from her past trauma. She got a job as a barista after taking a free course through Orphan's Promise.

She also volunteered at her church where she could hone her filming and editing skills. At one point, she was even asked to film weddings!

Varvara shared, "I realized that it is important to take care of myself and take responsibility for my life. The most important things that I got, thanks to this project, were peace, support, understanding, and confidence in tomorrow."

On her birthday, she was given a beautiful cake and a bouquet of flowers. Wherever Varvara turned, she felt loved and valued.

Varvara continued, "Over the past year, I have changed a lot. In this house, I learned to build a relationship with God. I learned to communicate with people."

For the first time in her life, Varvara felt secure. Her life has forever changed since finding a home, being surrounded by a loving community, and knowing Jesus Christ—her ultimate peace and hope.



“  
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## Staying on a Word



*“From the time CBN and Orphan’s Promise came along, our work has become easier. Many lives have been transformed. Many children have gone to school, many families have been fed, and many people have come to Christ.” –Pastor Samson*

### CHOOSING TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO A PROMISE

Pastor Samson and his wife, Charity, have served the children of Taveta, Kenya, for almost 16 years. It is a remote town located at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro. Life here is very difficult, with most people involved in farming or trade to make ends meet.

Samson and his family left the comforts of Nairobi in May 2007. When they arrived in Taveta, they planned to open a salon to support their ministry. But soon after, all the equipment they invested in was stolen, leaving them with less than a dollar to their name.

“We knew it would take the grace of the Lord for us to survive here,” Charity recalled. “It was tough with small children. And without food, we knew nobody. We had only God with us. But you know, as a mom and a pastor’s wife, you trust God. You trust your husband. You trust the calling.”

As they trusted what God was doing in their lives, they invited those around them to church.

Samson shared, “The first Sunday we opened the doors, only five children came. We were reminded that Jesus said to let the children come to Him, so we decided to minister to these children.”

The children who came to the service followed Samson and Charity back to their home. The couple could see that the children were hungry, so they bought a loaf of bread and shared it with all who were there. The children spread the word about the generosity they received, and more children came to church the following Sunday.





“

**We are so thankful that Pastor Samson, Charity, and their family chose to obey God’s calling on their lives even when they could not see a way forward. Through their obedience and your faithful support of Orphan’s Promise, a community is being forever changed by the love of God.**

“When we came to plant this church, we thought that God called us to minister to adults,” Samson continued. “But within the second month, adults weren’t coming to the church. It was full of children. God told us, ‘I have called you to serve the children.’”

But sometimes, even with a clear word from God, things are not always easy.

“There are those moments when you even doubt God,” said Charity. “It was seven years until we got a breakthrough.”

“There was a time when I decided to quit and go back to Nairobi,” Samson shared. “I got angry and disappointed. That day, I decided that when I walked out of the church, I would go back to my house, pack my things, and return to Nairobi.”

But God had a different idea.

Samson continued: “I closed the hall and started walking toward the town. As I was walking, I saw a man from a distance walking toward me. The man greeted me and asked, ‘Brother, are you a pastor?’ I said, ‘Yes, I am.’ Then he told me, ‘Listen. The Lord has told me that what you are about to do—don’t do it. Stay here. The Lord says if you stay here, He will bless you.’ ... I turned back to ask for his number, but he had vanished. I never saw this man before, and I never saw him again.

That was my turning point, and that was a turning point for our children’s ministry.”

Since that day, God has continued to provide for Samson and Charity in miraculous ways, leading people to bless them with all they need to serve their community. CBN helped them dig a well on their land, and the couple was later introduced to Orphan’s Promise.

With a big smile, Samson said, “From the time CBN and Orphan’s Promise came along, our work has become easier. Many lives have been transformed. Many children have gone to school, many families have been fed, and many people have come to Christ.”

Through your support of Orphan’s Promise, we helped increase the number of meals being served each month. We also helped provide school uniforms and learning materials. With a consistent education program and food, the number of children dropping out of school has decreased. The children are also taught the Word of God through CBN Animation’s Superbook. They learn to pray and depend on God in all circumstances.

Samson said, “I want to thank Orphan’s Promise. I believe they are the people that God was talking about when this man told me to stay. We have come to realize that we are not alone.”





## Refuge and Restoration

### A PLACE WHERE LOVE, FAITH, AND HOPE ABOUND

On the outskirts of Lima, Peru, is a very special place called Hope House. An hour-and-a-half drive from the city, this home is more than just a place where vulnerable girls can find refuge from their difficult circumstances. It is a place where hope is found and the word “family” takes on a whole new meaning.

Many of the girls at Hope House have experienced trauma in their home life. Instead of being surrounded by love, they often endured pain and abuse.

Hope House Director Andrea explained that the girls “have gone through situations of abuse and family violence. They are classified as high risk, because of situations of recurrent sexual abuse within their homes. The abuser could be a father, an uncle, a grandfather, or someone who lives with them. It is not an isolated situation, but a constant problem. At home, there can be family violence, sexual abuse, and even instances of human trafficking.”

But in the darkest of places, God shines brighter. Together with Andrea’s team of psychologists, psychiatrists, and a social worker, we helped the girls find a home and rediscover the true meaning of family as soon as they walked through the door.

Andrea shared with us, “We have a technical team ... but the one who does the work is God. We believe that God transforms their hearts by healing their past wounds, so they can look to the future with hope.”





Your faithful giving has not only helped offer these girls a place of refuge, but you have also helped make sure they receive nutritious food and the opportunity to continue their studies.

Lucero and her sisters came to Hope House because of the vulnerable situation they were experiencing while staying with their family.

Lucero shared: “The fact that my sisters and I arrived at Hope House together was very comforting. I knew my sisters were in a good place where they could be loved and cared for. Hope House is very important to me because it became a family that I needed at the time. I received so much love. I was hurt, and they helped me heal on the inside. Here, I knew God. I feel like that is one of the most important parts of my life. Hope House was the key to being the person I am today. I thank the donors. Their investment is not in vain. It’s not about saving just one girl, but a whole generation. I am grateful because, thanks to them, my life has changed.”

The love and security that these girls were once denied can now be found at Hope House. Thanks to your giving, these girls have a home, healing, and a hope for tomorrow.

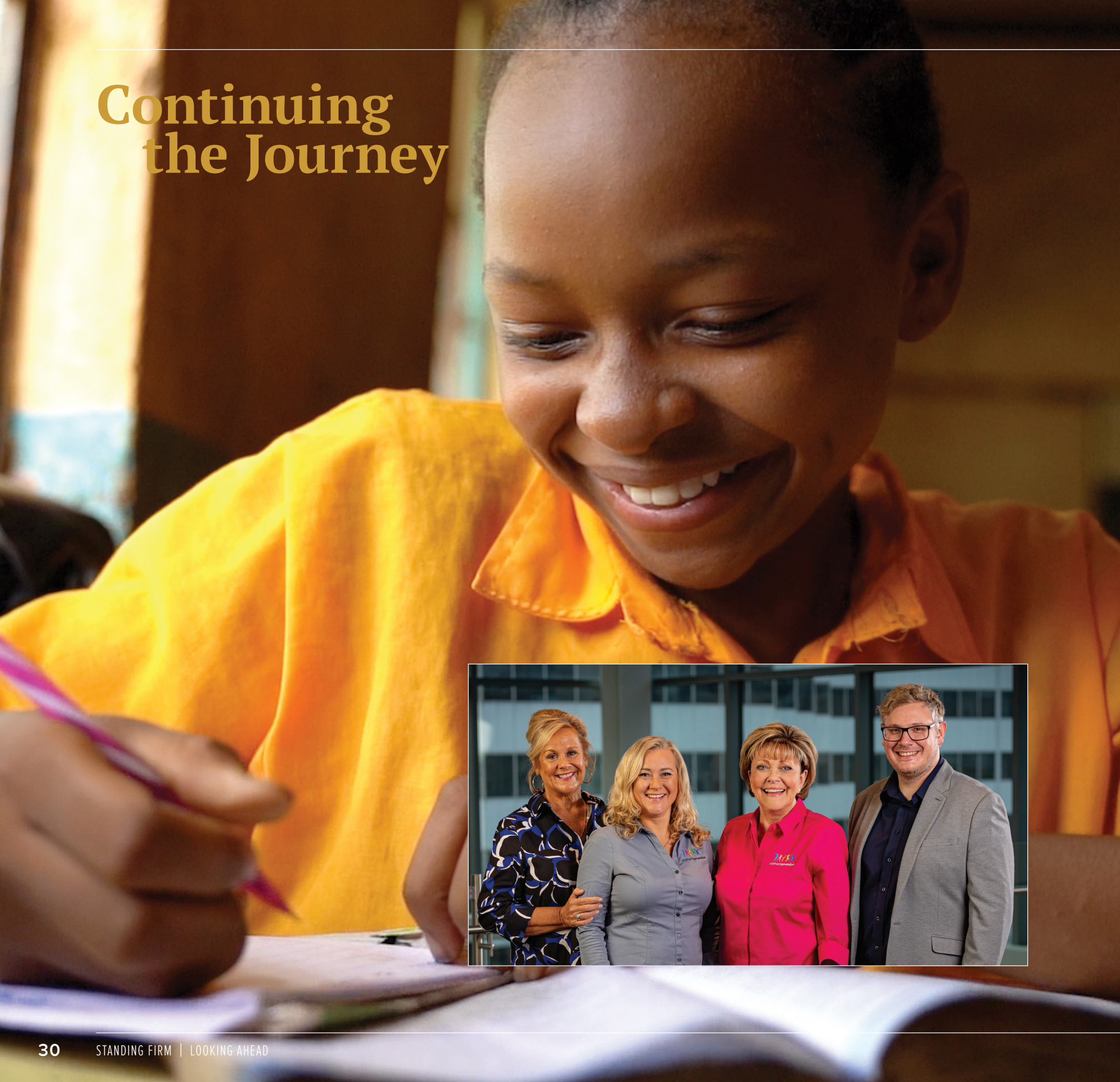


Through your generous support, Orphan’s Promise joined Andrea and her team to give these girls a chance to move from a place of pain to a place where love, faith, and hope abound.





# Continuing the Journey



## What's Next for Orphan's Promise?

Whether it's politics, food prices, or a situation in our own lives, change is inevitable. Yet, because we can trust in the One who never changes, we can look to the future with hope. We know that in order to face our ever-changing world, we must be prepared to meet the needs of others while holding firmly to the vision God has given to Orphan's Promise.

Former U.S. president John F. Kennedy said, "Change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."

As we approach the 20-year anniversary of our ministry, we are so thankful to the Lord and all who have been on this journey with us. We want to keep pressing forward so that those who desperately need hope can find it in Jesus Christ. In the years ahead, we will continue to walk out our vision with faith and obedience, standing upon the promises of God.

Thank you for saying yes and being a part of this incredible story that God is writing.



INSET: Orphan's Promise leadership (L-R)  
**Beth Meadows**/Director of Development  
**Nataliya Khomyak**/Director of Operations  
**Terry Meeuwsen**/Founder & Executive Director  
**Adam Howard**/Director of Media & Communications





Thank you  
for your  
continued  
partnership  
with us  
this year.

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*Let us not become weary in doing good,  
for at the proper time we will reap a  
harvest if we do not give up.*

—Galatians 6:9

**ORPHAN'S PROMISE**  
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**EDUCATION | NUTRITION | DISCIPLESHIP  
COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION | STRONG FAMILIES | ANTI-TRAFFICKING**

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