



FOUNDATION FOR HIS MINISTRY

Transforming communities starting with kids

THEY WILL SEE THAT I AM DIFFERENT:

ANDRÉS SANTOYO

AGE 15, BAJA CHILDREN'S HOME

I have always lived with my siblings. When we were kids, my mom wasn't around much. And, when she was, she was always sleeping. That left me to take care of my siblings. I was even the one changing my little brothers' diapers and preparing food. My mom would get home, sleep, and then leave again going into town. In total, she would be around for like 4 hours.

Both of my biological parents struggle with issues of drug addiction. I was told that my mom had always been very smart and even spoke English. However, some time in high school, she fell into drugs. They were the only ones from their families that fell into this life. And it made it hard for our other family to want us around.

After some time living like this, social services came to the house and tried to bring the 3 of us to the mission. However, at this time, I went to live with my aunt. My mom tried to come for me, but my aunt told her that my siblings and I would no longer live like this. My mom got very angry about this, but, ultimately, the police intervened and brought me to the mission.



Before I got to the mission, I never really had any friends. Always taking care of my siblings, I wasn't very close with anyone. At first, I didn't like it. No matter how distant my mom was, I missed her a lot. However, I came to find the mission to be different. It was a safe place, where everyone was very friendly. I have been helped in so many ways and know that I am loved. I have so many opportunities here and am so grateful that, one day, when I leave, people will see that I am different.

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One of my favorite things to do in the mission is play sports. I love running, playing basketball, and participating in track and field. Sports help me relax and are a great way to release my energy. Likewise, through sports, I have experienced God working in my life. Last year, I wrote down that I wanted a coach. I wanted somebody to train me to be a better athlete. Then, a new staff member, Ernesto, came and he had experience in coaching. He agreed to train me, and then I remembered my request – I was like, “wow -- God is listening to me, and He answered me.”

In the near future, I want to finish my studies and, someday, be a professional athlete. I want to go to college, and it would be awesome to play basketball there. While I don't know what I want to study yet, I am thinking about architecture or software engineering.

I am so grateful for everyone that has prayed for me over the years. Likewise, I am thankful for the staff at FFHM that have shown me God's love over the years. I am grateful for Jessica and Sara at the mission. They have been such a big part of our lives and are like family. I am thankful for Susan, who started the run club and fueled my inspiration to run. I am grateful for Franco because he constantly spends time with us boys, and we know how much he cares about us. And, I am grateful for Mia and Mane because they have been close with me and are just *good vibes*.

HE HAS RESTORED ME:

KEILA HERNÁNDEZ

TEACHER, *BAJA OASIS SCHOOL*

I arrived at the children's home in Oaxaca when I was 15 years old. It was sad to have to leave my family and go to a new place, but I grew to feel loved and protected over time. Once I was in the home, I began to see God's love for me, and I saw how He took care of me. He provided for me by bringing me to the home



and introducing me to the wonderful people who are still my family today.

My favorite memory from when I lived there was when I was sick. I had a ruptured appendix and spent time in the hospital after emergency surgery. During this time, the staff took care of me and showed me God's love. During this time, my housemother, Jill, had to bathe me, which was something difficult to receive. However, it is something that meant a lot to me.

When I was 17 years old, I went back to live with my mother. If I'm being honest, this was a really difficult time for me. I made some bad decisions, and doors in Oaxaca started closing for me. When I reached a really difficult point in my life, I reached out to the staff I had known in the Oaxaca home. God is the one who

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Maranatha Evangelistic Association

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brought me back to the ministry and has connected me to the people here. After speaking with the administration, I was given the opportunity to serve in the Baja mission.

In the beginning, being in Baja was difficult, but there have been many changes in me over time. God has been working on me for years, and now I can see that He has completely restored me. Currently, I'm working as a preschool teacher in the mission school. I feel very blessed to be in the children's lives and be a part of seeing how each one is advancing. They have taught me how God can use me and use my gifts. He gives me words to say to them and shows me how to love each of them. I want them to see that God can restore their lives like He has restored mine.

I'm now working on my university degree in early childhood education in order to be a better teacher. Knowing that God will continue to work in me and form my character, I look forward to carrying out all of His purposes for my life.



SPONSORSHIP IS ABOUT RELATIONSHIP:



The work being done through each child's life is of God. Because of His incredible blessing, we have seen such beautiful stories come from each of our homes -- another testament of how good He is!

The greatest support you can show His children is through prayer and sponsorship. Through prayer, we have witnessed God respond in so many miraculous ways. And, through the people He has called, we have witnessed the impact they have made within the children. Sponsorship is about relationship. Each sponsor has the opportunity to build a bond with the child they sponsor — someone praying for them, writing them letters of encouragement, and visiting them at the mission.

If you would like to take the next step and walk through life with one of His children, please visit us at ffhm.org/sponsorships, call (949) 492-2200, or email us at sponsorship@ffhm.org.

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Give a gift in memory or honor of someone special. The individual will be recognized in the following month's newsletter and a card can be sent to the individual's family. For more info, please visit ffhm.org/donate or call us at (949) 492-2200.

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Will Hedman ("Peanut Butter Man") and Charla.

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