

ANNUAL REPORT



MISSION TO
EL SALVADOR



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A Letter from our Board of Directors

Dear friends,

In 2021, we saw the launch and the relaunch of many things. During the ongoing pandemic, we had to work to reimagine and restart our programs. We also saw a rise in mental health and addiction issues, just like in many other places around the world. However, in 2021 El Salvador was unique in earning the number one spot in the world for alcohol related deaths. These issues are truly sad, but they also offer many opportunities for ministry and service to those around us.

We celebrated a year of sobriety with those who had been in the emergency shelter during the quarantine of 2020, relaunched the Lighthouse Resource Center, and saw a waiting list of youth hoping to get into the New Dawn Residential Program. We strengthened our addiction recovery and mental health resources to respond to this need as El Salvador began to emerge from the COVID-19 crisis.

By the end of 2021, we certainly found a rhythm as a team and we feel blessed to be working with a remarkable group of people who are dedicated to serving the country of El Salvador in body and soul. The immense difficulties of 2020 were laying the groundwork; and in many ways 2021 felt like cultivating the land. Our team has been faithful in this work and remains dedicated to all that is coming in 2022 and beyond.

We thank you for your partnership and as you read this report we hope you will celebrate the many victories small and great that were experienced in El Salvador in 2021!

FOR FREEDOM,
MTES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our mission is to empower Salvadorans to find freedom to realize their dreams and pursue their futures.

Impacts for Growth

In 2021, we saw big impacts for growth in El Salvador...here are our top 5 highlights:

ONE

7 TEENAGERS TREATED FOR DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE IN THE NEW DAWN RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM

TWO

THE LIGHTHOUSE RESOURCE CENTER WAS RESTRUCTURED TO RESPOND BETTER TO THE NEEDS OF OUR CLIENTS

THREE

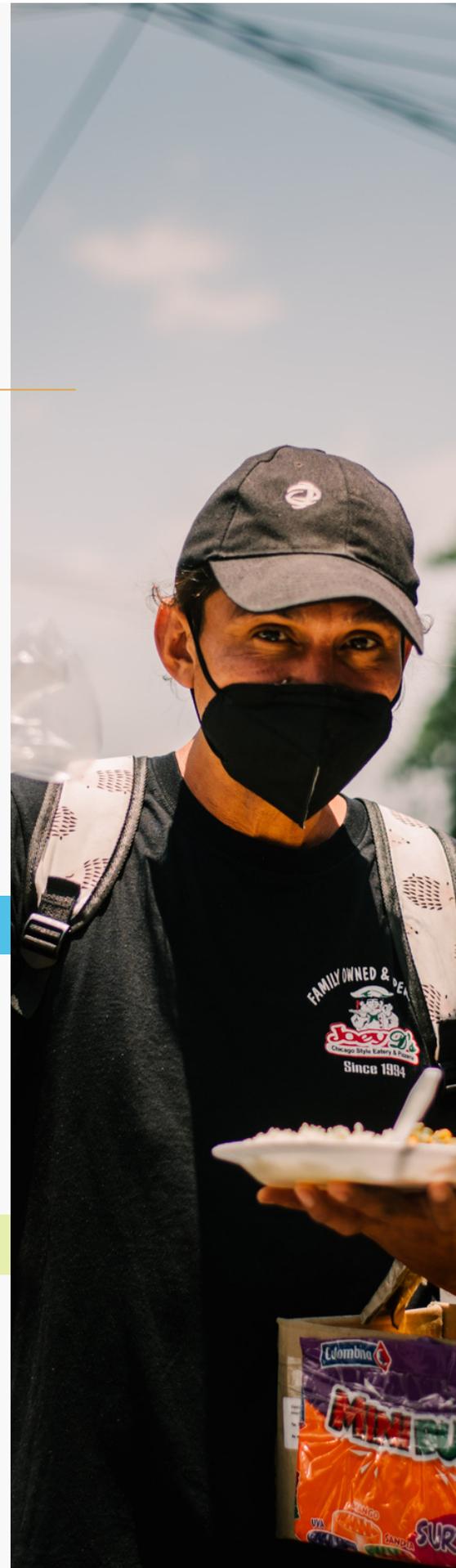
OUR STAFF RECEIVED TRAININGS TO EQUIP THEM TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF MINISTERING TO HIGH-RISK POPULATIONS

FOUR

ELEVEN CLIENTS WHO WERE IN OUR COVID SHELTER CELEBRATED ONE YEAR OF SOBRIETY

FIVE

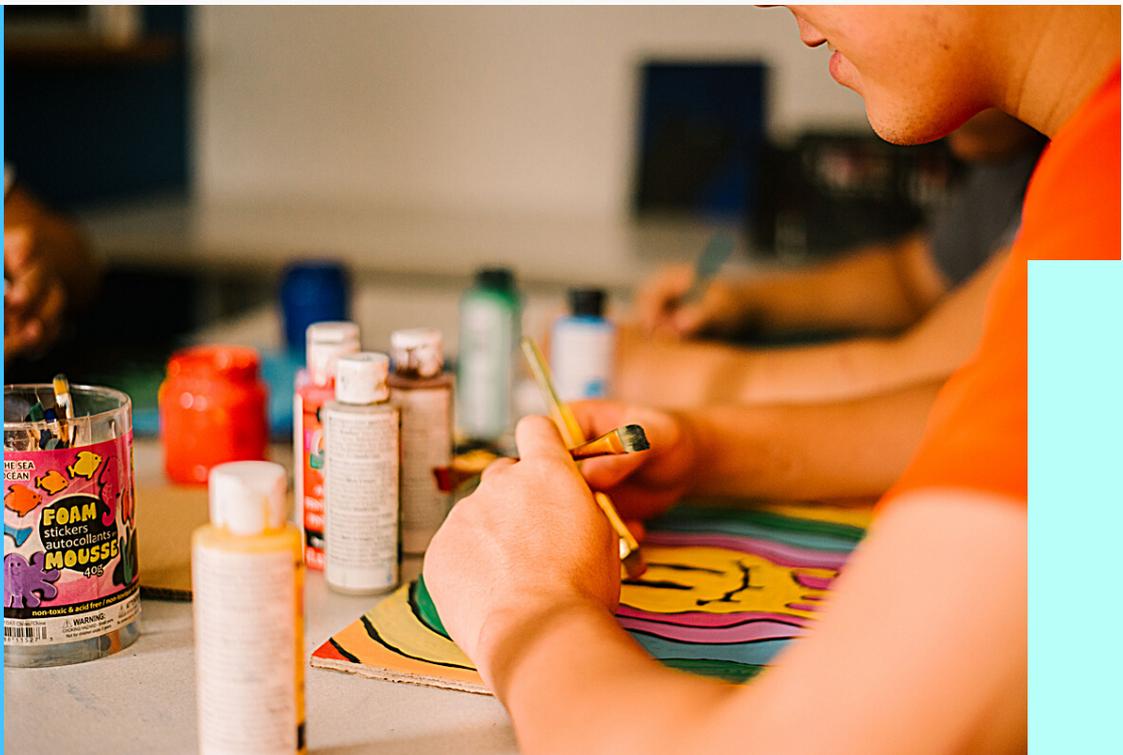
OUR WORK WAS EXPANDED TO INCLUDE MORE THERAPEUTIC AND TRAINING RESOURCES



Our Initiatives

Throughout the year we worked to implement our initiatives in ways that blessed and served our clients and our community. Our work included the following programs and areas of focus:

- New Dawn Residential Program
- Lighthouse Resource Center
- Focus on Therapy and Training
- Community Outreach



New Dawn Residential Program



Increased Need and More Families Served in 2021

In 2021, we saw our biggest demand for the New Dawn Residential Program since we opened our doors in January of 2017. The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly shed a light on issues of addiction and mental health in El Salvador and families are reaching out for help.

Our residents in 2021 came from not only private families but also from the government who referred us cases where teenagers were facing serious issues with substance abuse. The boys we served through the program in 2021 ranged in age from 14-17 years old and faced issues primarily with alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine.

This year's residents also came with very intense trauma histories which made their cases challenging ones for our social workers and psychologists to manage. We have worked to provide a better framework for case management. We have also worked to implement healthy self-

care practices to help all of our New Dawn staff cope with the challenges of ministering to this population.

The program lasts approximately 9 months and consists of group and individual therapy, spiritual formation, addiction treatment and therapy, academic studies, sports and recreation, arts and crafts, and vocational training. We also work closely with each resident's family to ensure the best possible chance of success upon graduation. This first "post-COVID crisis" year was a challenging one but also one of much fruit and growth for New Dawn, the only residential addiction treatment program for minors in El Salvador.

El Salvador has the highest rate of alcohol related deaths in the world, so early intervention is so important for success!

2021 Program Highlights:



Special Celebrations and Achievements :

Along with completing the goals of the program, the residents participated in special activities to mark 3, 6, and 9 months of sobriety. They also celebrated Mother's Day and Christmas with their families, Valentine's Day (Love and Friendship Day in El Salvador), Children's Day and other holidays.

In addition to marking special days, during their time in the program the residents this year also reported improvements in their family connections, their relationships with God, friendships with each other, a sense of personal responsibility related to school, and some even connected with family members for the very first time.

Despite the difficulties, 2021 was a great year in New Dawn!



Graduations

Two residents graduated in 2021.



Intakes

Five new residents joined the program.



Interventions

- Individual and group emotional therapy
- Individual and group drug-dependency therapy
- Family meetings, visits, and therapy
- Psychiatric attention as needed



Formation, Education, & Workshops

- Ongoing education inside program
- Morning and evening devotions
- Soccer, gym, and karate classes
- Basic English classes
- Graphic design classes
- Art and painting classes
- Auto mechanic workshops

Lighthouse Resource Center



Restructuring to Respond to the Needs of our Clients

In 2021, we worked to restructure following the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic lockdown and tropical storms of 2020 wreaked havoc on El Salvador's economy and those who were most vulnerable were particularly affected. In 2021, we worked to "relaunch" the Lighthouse Resource Center with some changes to the structure of the program to allow our clients to participate with more agency, meaning that they had more choice and direction in their own healing process.

Due to health restrictions, we started 2021 hosting smaller groups of clients inside of our facilities which gave us the opportunity to build deeper relationships and develop a stronger social support system and sense of community. These deeper connections provided firm foundations to continue relaunching the program throughout the year and include more clients as health restrictions began to loosen.

Eleven clients from our 2020 temporary COVID shelter celebrated one year of sobriety in 2021!

Some of the most positive changes we saw in 2021 were deepened interest from our clients in changing their own lives, more of an initiative in serving others, and better understanding from those in the center on how issues like exploitation and addiction are affecting their lives. Trust increased this year between our staff and clients, which has led to a more positive, respectful atmosphere.

Throughout 2021, our team devoted a lot of effort to helping our "clients in transition" who we originally began working with because of the 2020 COVID shelter. Through those relationships we were able to help these clients see achievements in their lives throughout the year.

2021 Program Highlights:



Resources for Our Community

The resources, benefits, and special events we offered to build relationships and meet the needs of our community included:

- Meals (daily lunches, breakfasts, and dinner outreach)
- Emotional and addiction support groups
- Individual and group therapies and addiction treatment
- Vocational and life skills workshops
- Social resources (games, movies, reading corner)
- Bible Studies
- Workshops on various topics of interest to our community
- Sports and recreation (gym, soccer, basketball)
- Work projects
- Partnership with Free The Girls for trafficking survivors
- Hair cuts and showers
- Activities for Christmas, Valentine's Day, Women's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Independence Day, etc.



- ✓ **14,055 Meals Served**
- ✓ **582 Attendance at Social Activities including Movies, Games, etc.**
- ✓ **9 Survivors of Trafficking and Exploitation Running a Business with Free The Girls**
- ✓ **5 Clients in Card-Making Project**
- ✓ **566 Total Bible Study Attendance**
- ✓ **433 Support Group Attendance**
- ✓ **452 Group and Individual Addiction Support Attendance**
- ✓ **7 Clients in Individual Therapy**
- ✓ **80 Total Attendance in Life Skills Workshop**
- ✓ **46 Total Attendance in Workshops**
- ✓ **429 Attendance at Special Events**

Focus on Therapy and Training

Change Therapy and Training Center

In late 2021, we were able to begin the launch of a new initiative to strengthen our Therapy and Training efforts with the hopes of furthering our impact to our clients and to El Salvador. The Change Therapy and Training Center enabled us to provide outpatient therapy as well as follow-up for graduates of our other programs. It became apparent that Change could not become a sustainable initiative into 2022, but we were able to take much of what we learned and continue to apply the concepts into ongoing efforts to strengthen and deepen our efforts to provide quality therapy for our clients as well as train our staff and other churches and organizations in our areas of expertise and experience.



Therapy

This year we invested in strengthening various therapeutic aspects of our programs including case management, understanding trauma, managing crisis with our clients, family therapeutic interventions, and increasing the number of certified addiction therapists on our staff. Increased understanding of how to incorporate therapeutic interventions in our programs has enabled us to strengthen the quality of care that we are able to offer our clients and residents.

Training

In addition to strengthening the therapeutic aspects of our programs, we developed a training series to specifically prepare our staff to confront the unique problems faced in our programs. The training series included Poverty Alleviation in an urban Latin American context, dealing with Human Trafficking in Central America including a trafficking simulation based on what our clients have faced and a training about Substance Abuse and Addictions. In addition to this training series, three of our directors were able to attend an immersion in Mexico to visit other programs similar to ours to learn more about dealing with addictions.

Community Outreach

In 2021 we did not see the same level of crisis that we did with the pandemic or heavy tropical storms of 2020, but we continued to be present in our community to meet urgent needs. As part of our work through the Lighthouse Resource Center we distributed meals each week in San Salvador. We also went out into the community to connect with those on the streets and let them know that we were relaunching with resources and benefits designed to serve those in need.

Reaching Out...

Besides our programs, there are other ways that we were able to reach out in 2021...

- **Quinta Dolores Clinic:** Through our partnership with Latin American Children's Fund we are able to provide medical services to a rural clinic in the Santa Ana department and distribute meals to over 500 families facing economic crisis.
- **Substance Abuse Prevention:** In 2021, we provided substance abuse prevention for one school in El Salvador through a virtual program that educated students, parents, and teachers on the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse among teens



Spiritual Growth

We are a faith-based organization and our core values come from our faith. The call to love and serve others flows out of our own relationship with God. We are saved by His grace for us, and so we seek to show that grace to others. We understand that there are many components to overcoming the devastation caused by poverty, addiction, and trauma and so we worked in 2021 to continue to address the spiritual components that are pieces of the puzzle in the lives of our clients and residents.

We offer opportunities for spiritual growth for both our staff and clients, but we do not require a commitment of faith for our clients or residents to access any of our programs or services. However, we do pray that they will come to understand how very much God loves them and desires a relationship with them.

Discipleship

In 2021, we saw the number of clients attending our weekly Bible studies triple as the year went on. Our clients expressed a desire to learn about the Bible and understand a more practical way of knowing God. In the first half of 2021, we had an intern who also led our clients in worship at least once a week.

New Life

For many in addiction recovery, "new life" can mean different things but for several of our residents in 2021 it meant the decision to follow Christ. One of our residents made the decision to also be baptized as he was finishing up the program which truly marked a new life for him in every sense.



Strategic Partnerships

Together We Can Do More!

No one person, ministry, or organization can do everything! That's why building strategic partnerships is so important! Throughout 2021, we partnered with local and international partners to make sure that we aren't alone in this work!

Our partner churches in the U.S. are key to keeping our work consistent and growing. The investment of individual donors and foundations both globally and locally also kept our work moving forward. This year we maintained our key partners, and added a new global partner church. We were also able to bring on international and local donors that help us to continue to provide holistic support to those whom we are serving each day in El Salvador!



1 intern and
2 international volunteers

18 global partner churches
and organizations

8 Salvadoran partner churches
and organizations

6 regular local volunteers

Room To Grow Campaign

We began 2021 over halfway to our goal of paying off our building! You can look at the timeline below for more information about our journey to being debt-free! Mission To El Salvador owns the New Dawn Residential Program building, and the "Room To Grow" campaign has been our effort to pay off the building housing our main offices, the Lighthouse Resource Center, and our storage areas. We are so grateful to those of you who have donated toward helping us pay our mortgage and balloon payments in 2021!

2018

MTES purchased the building for \$410,000. A down payment of \$150,000 was made and the remaining \$260,000 was financed for a 5 year term.

2019

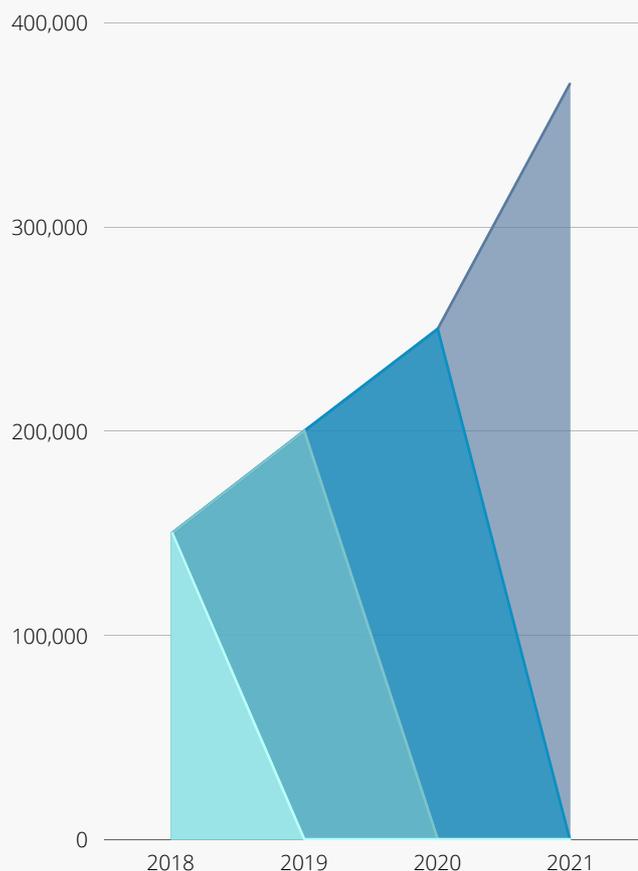
\$49,000 was paid on the building balance.

2020

An additional \$49,000 was paid off on the balance of the building.

2021

This year we began with a remaining balance of \$197,000 and paid off \$119,000 leaving us to start 2022 with a balance of \$91,600.



Financial Highlights

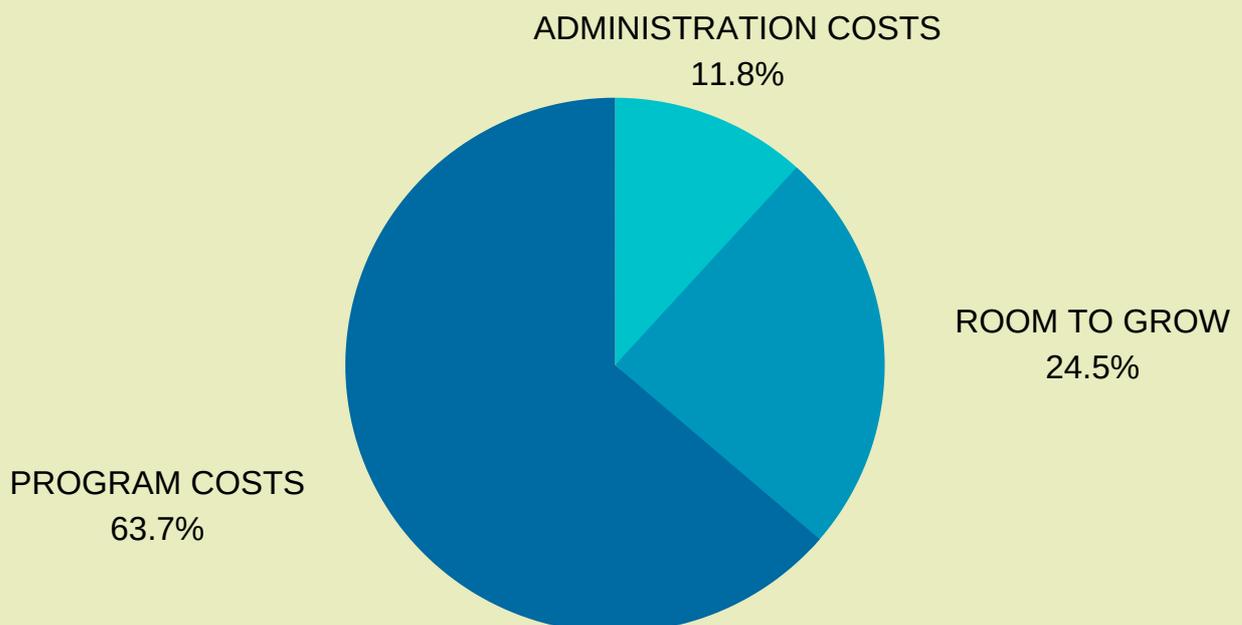
Sources of Funding and Financial Transparency



As a non-profit organization, we are completely dependent on the donations of individual donors, other organizations, and churches. In 2021, all of our funding came from these sources. We are committed to financial transparency and we submit to an annual third-party financial review which is available upon request. We also received a Platinum Seal of Financial Transparency from GuideStar, the world's largest source of information on non-profit organizations. GuideStar's Seals of Transparency are used to indicate each organization's commitment to financial transparency. Platinum is the highest level and requires submission of financial reports, as well as goals, strategies, and metrics to chart the success and progress of our organization.

2021 Highlights

- Over 200 individual international donors contributed to our work this year
- 19 donors in El Salvador contributed including 2 monthly donors
- \$520,699 were received in financial donations and gifts in kind
- \$485,493 were spent in total expenses
- 6.78% of all donations were received in El Salvador
- You can see a breakdown of how our funding was spent below:



Goals for Growth

In 2022, our main goals include:

Respond to the Ongoing Mental Health and Addiction Crisis in El Salvador:

In El Salvador, there has been an increase in addiction related issues as the COVID-19 pandemic slows down so we are working to respond to those in 2022.

Strengthen Leadership Development Through Training and Therapy:

We will work to equip our staff in understanding trauma and culturally-appropriate interventions and strategies for ministering to those with trauma histories.

Deepen Connections in Complex Environments:

Our goal is to deepen our relationships with our clients but also to grow deeper relationships with others who are working to address the same complex areas.



Join Our Mission

What is your mission to El Salvador? How can you get involved? What can you do? Check our our list of ways to make an impact and experience your own growth in the process!

-  PRAY for our clients, staff, and finances.
-  SHARE our social media updates, newsletters, and other communications.
-  GIVE a one time or recurring financial donation.
-  SERVE by volunteering, leading a team, or doing an internship.
-  EDUCATE yourself about the issues facing El Salvador.
-  SPONSOR one of our programs monthly.
-  DONATE bras, personal hygiene items, school supplies, or other gifts in kind.
-  INVITE someone from our team to give a virtual or physical presentation to your group.
-  ENCOURAGE your church to become a partner with us.
-  HOST an online fundraiser.
-  ADVOCATE by doing all of the above!



Contact Us to Learn More...

Want to join our mission? Get more info?

In order to make an impact in our community, we need a community! In 2021, we made a big impact in El Salvador and we hope that you will follow along as we continue to make an impact!



Facebook: Mission To El Salvador
Instagram: missiontoelsalvador
Twitter: _MTES



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