



2022

Annual Report

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A Letter from Our Board of Directors

Dear Friends,

For us, 2022 felt like the year of the harvest. After sowing many seeds and years of planting, we saw lots of fruit! We celebrated 5 graduations in the New Dawn Residential Program, a graduation of 7 trafficking survivors from the Free The Girls project, and our first group of 6 graduates from our level system in the Lighthouse Resource Center. It was exciting and humbling to see so many reach their goals and take the next steps in their lives! It was also a year where we saw how much need still exists. There was an explosion of youth on our waiting list wanting to enter New Dawn and attendance at our resources in the Lighthouse steadily rose. We saw the continued need in mental health and addiction related issues, and we saw hunger for spiritual nourishment. As the post-COVID reality in San Salvador changes, we have worked to adapt where we need to adapt. We have listened to the heart cries of our neighbors and brainstormed new ways to respond to the expressed needs in the urban world where we are based. It has not been a year without challenges and obstacles to overcome, but we have seen a harvest in our own hearts as God has met our own needs and allowed us to keep responding to the needs of our neighbors. We thank you for walking with us in 2022, for your consistent giving, for your prayers, and for your encouraging words. We look forward to continuing to grow in 2023 and beyond!

For Freedom,
The MTES Board of Directors



Our Mission

We exist to empower Salvadorans to find freedom to realize their dreams and pursue their futures.



Impacts for Growth

There were many graduations as we saw fruit from our work over the years and also lots of growth! Here are the top highlights from 2022!

1

FIVE BOYS GRADUATED FROM THE NEW DAWN PROGRAM

2

WE SENT SIX LIGHTHOUSES OUT INTO THE COMMUNITY FROM THE LIGHTHOUSE RESOURCE CENTER

3

SEVEN SURVIVORS GRADUATED FROM THE FREE THE GIRLS PROJECT

4

OUR BIBLE STUDIES AND SPIRITUAL RESOURCES GREW

5

OUR THERAPEUTIC RESOURCES HAVE BEEN EXPANDED

6

WE FINISHED PAYING OFF OUR SECOND BUILDING

Our Initiatives

We understand that processes are much more important than programs, and so we work to develop initiatives that are vehicles to demonstrate our core values of love, dignity, and respect and to carry out our mission in our community. Each program and project that we undertake has that purpose. We have a strategy dedicated to accompanying members of our community who have been most affected by the devastating consequences of poverty, addiction, exploitation, and violence. We work to identify assets and work together to bring God's truth to bear in every situation in both word and deed. Our primary initiatives include:

- Lighthouse Resource Center
- New Dawn Residential Program
- Community Outreach



Lighthouse Resource Center:

The Lighthouse Resource Center is a drop-in center open five days a week for vulnerable members of our community including those facing homelessness, individuals dealing with substance abuse, survivors of exploitation and trafficking, and those who are at risk because of deportation or family abandonment. Many of our clients have overlapping needs because they fit into several of these categories. **We serve a wide range of ages from 18 years old through 85 years old.** Our staff works to connect those who are vulnerable through the resources that we have available or to refer our clients to outside resources if their needs are beyond our scope of care.

Many of our resources are open to those who need them on any given day including our gym and soccer court, showers, breakfast and lunch, support groups, Bible studies, art and vocational workshops, job training resources, and special activities which provide social support. Beyond these general resources we also have a program for

those who wish to enter into a deeper process of change and commitment. **This program is called "the level system."** As our clients advance through this system they have access to individual therapy and an individualized recovery plan as well as additional resources and support. **This year, 6 of our clients completed the level system!** We were excited to hold our first graduation from that program.



"I found emotional support, clothes, food and showers. Others have died because of their addictions but with God and community support you can do it."

- Rosa, Lighthouse Graduate

37 enrolled in
an art or
recreational
workshops

6 level
system
graduates

10 in work
projects

14,413 meals
served

33 women
received group
therapy

7 clients in
individual
therapy

22 regularly
attending
Bible Study

16 enrolled in
the level
system

7 enrolled
in job
training

7 graduated
from Free The
Girls project

65 men
received group
therapy

15 trafficking
survivors received
care and
reintegration
services

Program Overview:



New Dawn Residential Program:

This was a big year in New Dawn! **We had a record five graduations this year, and our 20th graduation since the beginning of the program.** We were full with six residents in the program for nearly the entire year. **Each time someone graduated, someone moved in.** We also had a waiting list of youth ready to enter into the program. At this point in time, with the staff we have, the maximum number of residents that we can handle while still maintaining a quality program

is six. **Many youth in El Salvador continue to struggle with addiction issues. Factors that contribute to high rates of addiction among youth, particularly boys, include machismo, family disintegration, early exposure to drugs and alcohol, and trauma.** Our hope is that intervening early in the lives of these youth and their families will help them to break the cycle of addiction before it destroys or takes their lives.

For each resident, the program lasts between 9-12 months with 3 phases including initial detox, rehabilitation, and transition. **Education, recreation, spiritual care, emotional and addiction therapies are all part of the program.** We also work closely with each family throughout the process to ensure that each resident has a safe family environment where they can return following their time in the program. We continue meeting with the graduates in long-term follow-up care.



As more time passes since the first residents graduated, we are able to see the long-term benefits of early intervention. New Dawn has a 75% success rate among all graduates since 2017.

Program Highlights:



- Twelve boys received attention in the program ranging from ages 14-17 and they came from private families or government referrals
- They faced issues primarily of alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine abuse
- Many had very intense trauma histories requiring multi-disciplinary interventions on the part of our team

- Five new boys entered the program
- Five residents graduated
- All the residents participated in regular or modified schooling as they worked to catch up to grade level
- Residents participated in welding, graphic design, public speaking, art, sewing, English, gardening, and karate workshops



One of our residents shared a powerful testimony with a visiting partner church as he marked a year of sobriety.



A therapeutic environment is part of the program



New Dawn continues to be recognized by El Salvador's Anti-Drug Commission with the "Seal of Good Practices."



Graduates are always invited to return to celebrate as each resident finishes the program.

Community Outreach:

The immediate emergency needs in our community weren't quite as urgent as they were during the height of the pandemic but we are still very much involved in reaching out to our community.

We continued with meal distribution although some political factors did change our ability to move freely in the streets for several months. We were able to begin distributing meals again by the end of the year. We also have focused on reaching out intentionally to our community by spending more time walking around our neighborhood and inviting people to come to our program.

We continued our partnership with Latin American Children's Fund at the Quinta Dolores Health Clinic in the Santa Ana department. We also were able to provide warm blankets and dry clothing when Hurricane Julia hit Central America and tracked across El Salvador. Thankfully the damage was minimal to our community.



WAYS WE ARE REACHING OUT TO OUR COMMUNITY:

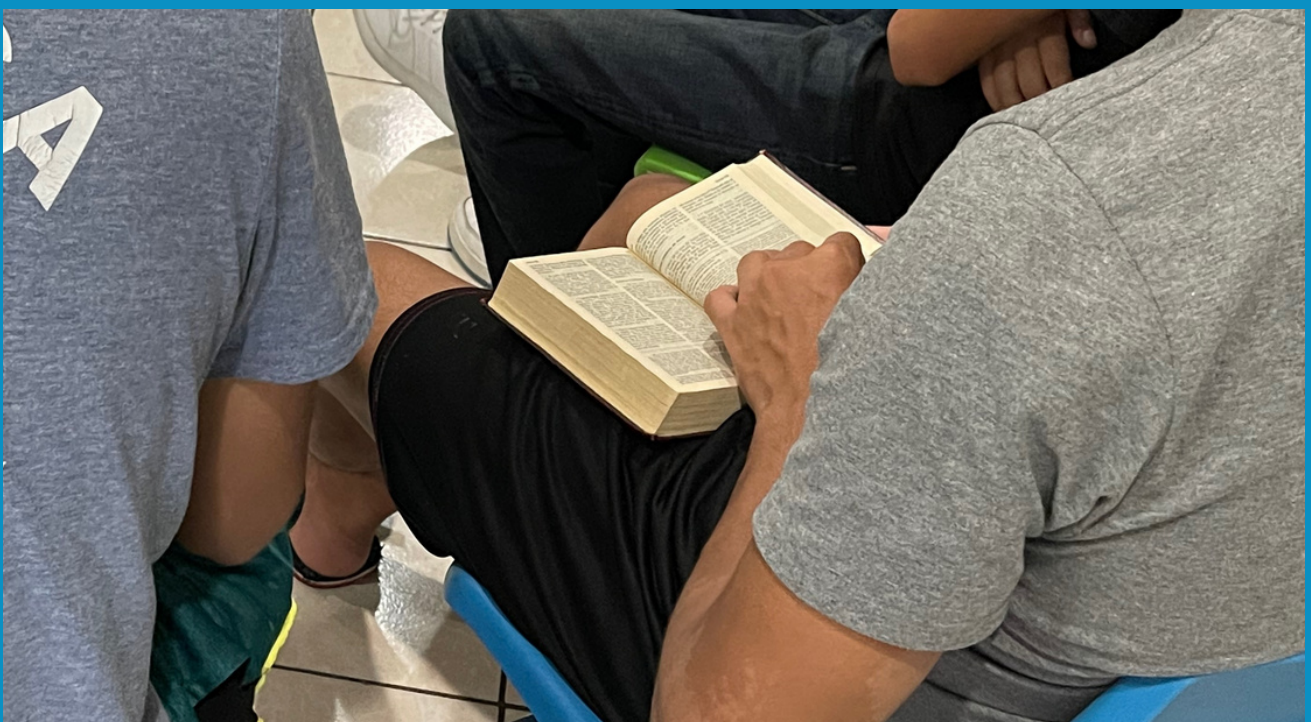
- Meal Distribution
- Street Outreach
- Drug and Alcohol Prevention
- Medical Care
- Emergency Relief

Spiritual Growth

Our core values come from examining Jesus' life on earth and how he lived and moved in the streets and among people on the margins. So much of what we strive to do is to build those same kind of relationships based on showing the love, dignity, and respect that Jesus showed as he worked to meet needs through both words and actions.

This year, we added a new part-time staff position to our team. That position is Spiritual Life Coordinator. This person is responsible for coordinating spiritual resources to support the spiritual growth of our programs and the rest of our staff. We feel that providing consistent spiritual resources to those seeking them is an important part of the healing and recovery process for our clients and residents. This year we had Bible studies several times a week in the Lighthouse Resource Center. We also had a weekly time of dedicated Bible study

and worship just for the residents of New Dawn. Because they can't leave the program to be a part of regular youth and church activities, we wanted to make sure to bring these resources to them each week so that they can grow spiritually. By opening more space for God's Word, 32 people came to faith in Christ this year! We began to be more intentional about building a network of local churches to walk with those who come to faith and we look forward to growing those connections.



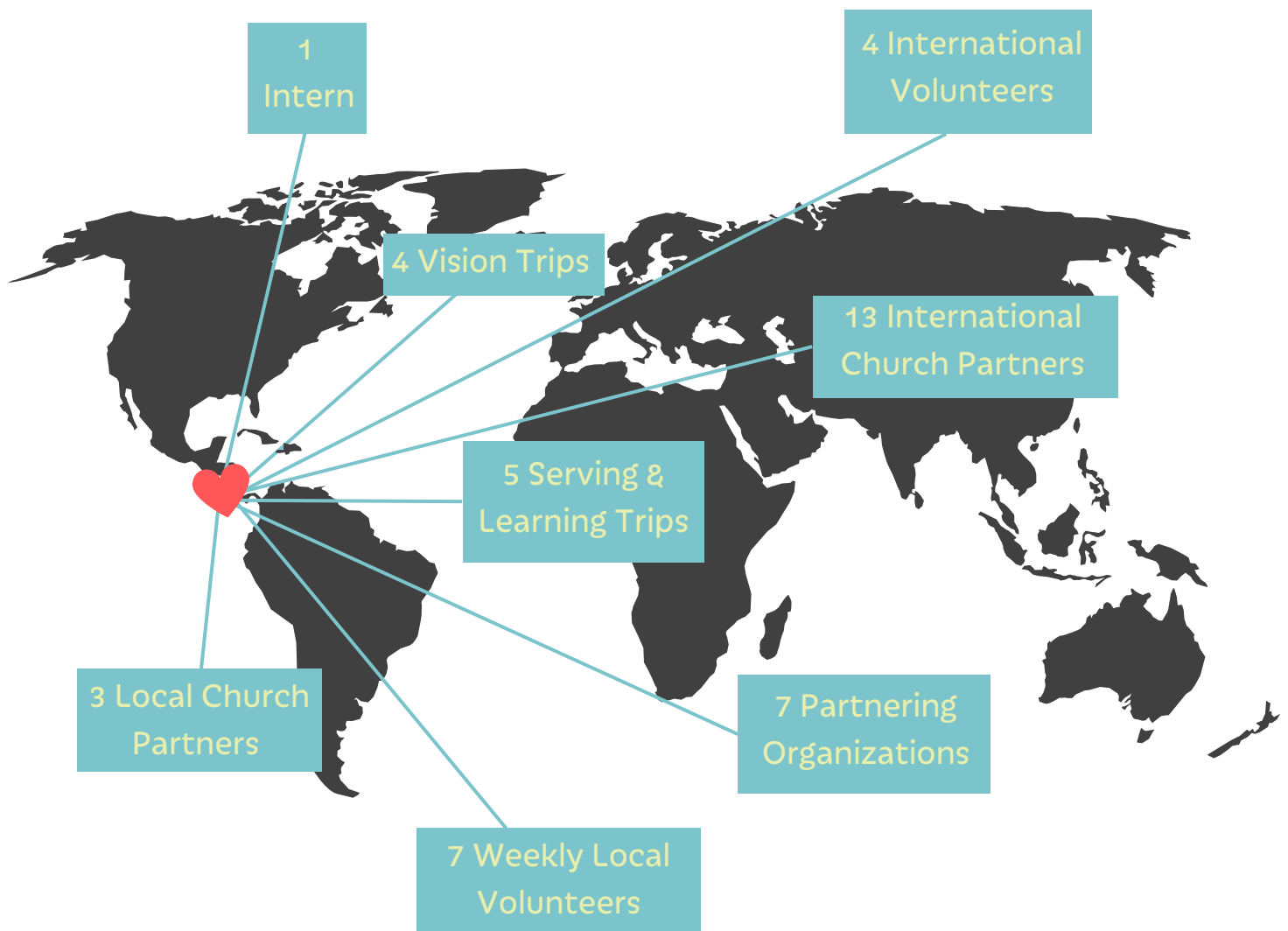
Strategic Partnerships

We know that so much more work can happen when we join together! We continued to focus on building strategic partnerships in our community, our city, and around the world. In 2022, we relied on local and global churches that assist with long-term financial partnership and volunteer support. We enjoyed hosting our international partners in El Salvador again after a long break due to COVID, and we had lots of new local volunteers join our team as well. We continue to depend on major donors to support large projects, as well as consistent committed donors to pay our monthly bills and support our staff for the long-haul. Local organizations also provided gifts in kind to help us meet the needs of our community. Our hope is that as these pieces of the puzzle come together we will all continue to be transformed in the process as we are part of God's story in El Salvador!



"When my family signed up for a mission trip to El Salvador, I was excited but nervous. Nervous because I didn't speak Spanish, didn't see how my skills would help the people of El Salvador, didn't know if El Salvador was safe, and didn't know how my teenage sons would fit into the group. You might have noticed a pattern. I....I....I. I was making the trip about my family and me, but, as He always does, God met me in my uncertainty and showed me mission trips are all about His glory and that I didn't need to worry."

-Kelly, Learning & Serving Trip Participant



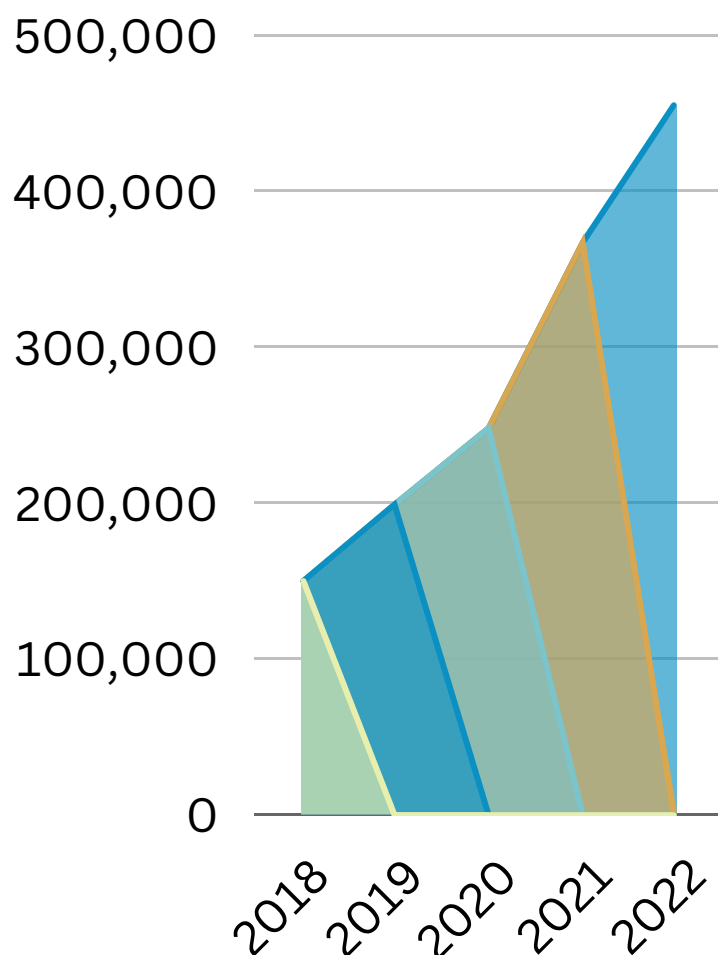
Partners in El Salvador and Beyond

As we grow our strategic partnerships, we are seeking to make deeper connections in El Salvador and all around the world. We have donors from El Salvador and the U.S., and as far away as Australia! This past year we had both local and global volunteers. Our goal is that everyone who serves with us would learn about not only our work, but also about El Salvador and the populations that we serve.

Room To Grow Campaign

We are so excited to report that in 2022 we made the last payment on our building! Our "Room to Grow" campaign is officially over! Thank you so much for your support along the way! Here is the campaign breakdown:

- In **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.
- In **2019**, \$49,000 was paid.
- In **2020**, an additional \$49,000 was paid off on the balance.
- In **2021**, \$119,000 was paid off leaving us with a balance of \$91,600 left to pay.
- In **2022**, thanks to the support of generous donors we were able to make payments allowing us to fully pay off our balance!

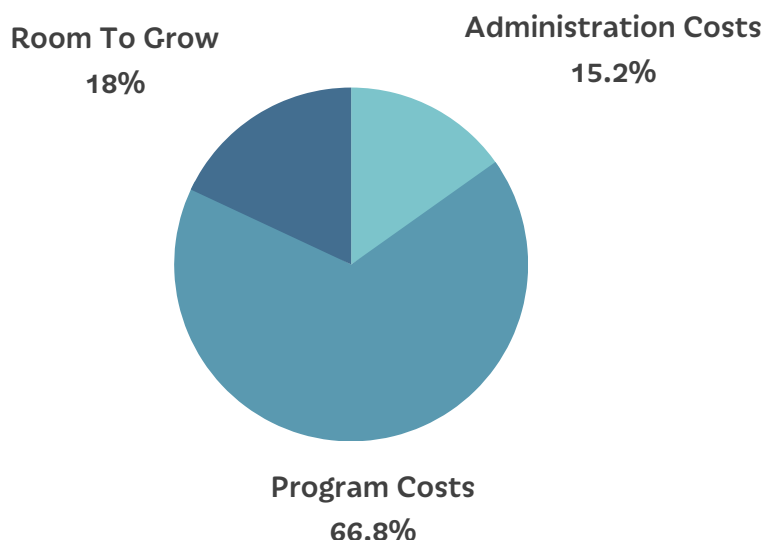


Financial Highlights



Here are some of our financial highlights of 2022:

- We received a total of \$481, 610 in donations.
- Our total expenses added up to \$487, 713.
- The majority of our donations came from donors and partnering churches in the United States.
- We continued to grow a consistent support base in El Salvador. While our local donors accounted for only 4% of financial donations, we received gifts in kind and volunteer support from local donors.
- The budget breakdown of how are funds were spent is below:



All of our funding is donor-based and comes from churches, partnering organizations, and individual donors. We don't receive any funding from the government and so we rely on financial gifts and gifts in kind to sustain our programs, pay our employees, and continue to reach out to our community. All of the programs that we provide are also free to those that we serve.

We once again received the Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid, formerly known as GuideStar. Candid is the world's largest source of information on non-profits and their Seals of Transparency indicate each organization's level of commitment to financial and organizational transparency. Platinum is their highest level and requires submission of financial reports, goals, strategies, and organizational metrics. We also submit to an annual third-party financial review which is available upon request.

Goals for Growth

This past year we were able to meet the goals we set for 2022, or made significant progress toward meeting them. We have continued to respond to the addiction crisis with our busiest year yet in New Dawn, we have worked toward strengthening our leadership and we will continue to do so, and we have expanded our community outreach efforts. We will also be working toward new goals for 2023.

2023 Goals:

1**EQUIP OUR STAFF IN THREE MAIN AREAS THIS YEAR.**

Those areas include addictions, mental health, and cross-cultural understanding as we work to better engage in our community.

2**BUILD A NETWORK WITH CHURCHES IN THE CITY.**

We have begun this process but we want to see more local churches engaged with serving together and we want to facilitate and encourage those efforts.

3**BECOME MORE TRAUMA-INFORMED.**

We have taken steps to be sensitive to the trauma histories of our staff and clients but we recognize we still need to grow in this area in a way that fits with the cultural context.



Join our Mission

What is your mission to El Salvador? How can you get involved? What can you do? There are lots of ways to join us and experience your own growth and transformation in the process!

- **PRAY** for our clients, residents, staff, and for financial provision.
- **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.
- **LEARN** about the issues facing El Salvador.
- **SPONSOR** one of our programs monthly or contribute to supporting our staff.
- **DONATE** bras, personal hygiene items, school supplies, or other gifts in kind.
- **INVITE** someone from our team to give a virtual or in-person presentation to your group.
- **ENCOURAGE** your church to become a partner with us.
- **HOST** an online fundraiser.
- **ADVOCATE** by doing all of the above!

Sponsorship Opportunities

This year we are updating our website and our new look will include new sponsorship opportunities! You can help to sponsor everything from the New Dawn residents' journey through addiction recovery to trainings for our staff. Make sure to check out our website for more information on how you can be involved in our mission everyday!



Connect with Us

We hope that you will stay connected all year long! It's easy to get involved no matter where in the world you are! You can sign up for our e-updates, follow us on social media or send us an email!

We are so grateful for the support and prayers of our partners. As we reflect on 2022, we also look forward to seeing great things happen together in 2023!



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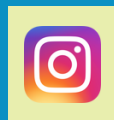
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