



Orphanage Support Services Organization

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021



HOLD A HAND, CHANGE A LIFE



OrphanageSupport.org

changing the world, one child at a time



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MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER & MEDICAL DIRECTOR

The last year has been unlike any before it in the history of OSSO or the world. International flights have been closed, totally shutting down some countries to travel. Orphanages have closed their doors not only to volunteers but to workers who were forced to live at the orphanages for long periods of time. Many of the orphanages are run by loving, aging nuns, several of which were lost to Covid. In every orphanage we work in, the kids attended school online the whole year despite very limited computer resources. The countries that orphanages reside in saw soaring inflation, hospitals exceeding their capacity, fear, uncertainty, food scarcity, and a host of other difficult situations.

This could have been a report of calamity in the orphanages OSSO serves in.

Instead, I can report that none of the children we serve were significantly ill with Covid. The leaders and workers in the orphanages, sometimes without salaries for months, worked tirelessly, often living at the orphanages day and night to provide care and love to the children—proving that they worked for love, not money.

Without exception, the orphanages report that the children had adequate food, shelter and a sense of security at this time of uncertainty. Indeed, the orphanages were, and felt like, a safe refuge for the children as they played, studied and lived apart from the craziness and insecurity that flooded the world outside their doors. One of the nuns said, "it felt like watching an ominous rainstorm from the security of a warm, dry, safe home."

The children and the homes that care for them have been able to feel sheltered from this storm because of increased support from their local communities and the increased support of OSSO's generous donors. It has been a difficult time, but as I periodically review the new donations that come in I feel warmed and grateful as I see familiar names that I have known for years on the list. I have also been lifted as I see many, many new names. We have an increasing number of one time and recurring donors who are not only unknown to me but whose names I don't even know how to pronounce.

As our base of support broadens, the world seems to have gotten a little smaller as our team spans borders, races and religions as we all pull together to serve God's children. Regardless of the name you give God, they are His.

We look forward to emerging from the pandemic. We are excited to again be able to send more volunteers and continued financial support to orphanages worldwide. We have taken this unplanned travel break to plan an enriched and improved volunteer experience for those who serve with OSSO. We also are looking into serving in other countries where we will learn to pronounce new names as we embrace new friends. Come with us in person, or in spirit, as we reinforce old bridges of love and build new ones.



Rex Head, MD
Founder & Board Chair



OSSO VALUES

The greatest healing, transforming, and comforting power comes from loving and being loved.

Caring for children is a God-given, divine right, privilege, and responsibility that rests first with families, then communities and governments. When they cannot, or will not, care for them it becomes the responsibility of good people everywhere to do so.

While our primary focus is on young children, we endeavor to help OSSO youth throughout the course of their lives, especially those we serve with physical, mental, or emotional disabilities.

OSSO MISSION STATEMENT

OSSO's primary mission is to provide nurturing care to the world's disadvantaged, abandoned, severely disabled, and orphaned children in order to help individual children realize their potential.



Our corollary mission is to give volunteers and donors meaningful, life changing opportunities to personally be involved in making a difference in the lives of vulnerable children.

2020-2021 FISCAL YEAR IMPACT REPORT

OSSO 2020-2021 Impact Report

The support offered to orphanages during the 2020 fiscal year was a source of hope in the midst of challenging times. Orphanage Support Services Organization and our supporters helped provide:



6 orphanages with support



220+ children with support



50+ disabled children, teens, and adults with 24-hour care



2,200+ hours of physical therapy services



54,700+ nutritious meals



45,400+ hours of loving care from local consistent caregivers



Donations also cover other necessary costs like doctor visits, medicine, education, social workers, psychologists, and other care costs.

*The 2020 fiscal year covers July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.



PROGRAMS & VOLUNTEER REPORT BY ABE LARSEN, MANAGING DIRECTOR



PROGRAMS REPORT

Despite recently changing our funding model to rely on more private funding and the onset of a global pandemic, OSSO has maintained the **same level of support to the orphanages we helped this past year**. This is possible thanks to our generous donors and supporters. Together we've provided stability to the children we support during a difficult and unstable time. Thank you for continuing to fight with us during this time!

In July of 2021, Rex and I visited each of the seven orphanages we support in Quito, Cuenca, and Azogues, Ecuador. We've maintained regular contact with them throughout the pandemic, but it had been almost 20 months since we had been allowed to visit in person. With volunteers now allowed in Ecuador, we are excited to begin more regular orphanage visits like we used to do before the pandemic. We also visited two **new** children's homes in Azogues. Each home has about twenty children. We look forward to forming a relationship with each of these children's homes and supporting them however we can.

Orphanages' challenges have varied during the pandemic. Some children's homes have reduced the number of children they can care for. Without increased financial support, these changes may become permanent. Despite the challenges, orphanage staff continue fighting to provide the children with the love and care they need to thrive and OSSO continues to be there for them.

VOLUNTEER REPORT

OSSO's volunteer program exists to change and improve the lives of the children we support and the volunteers who support them. When Rex and I visited each orphanage in July of 2021, it reminded us of one thing: The pandemic has not changed the fact that there are children who need **more** people to love them. If anything, the pandemic **increased** the number of children needing someone to show them they are loved.

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Due to travel restrictions, we had no volunteers in Ecuador for 18 months. We are happy to have volunteers serving again as of September 2021 after such a long period. Program capacity is limited and volunteers are required to follow orphanages' health and safety protocols.

Throughout the pandemic we've been anxious to restart the program. The evolving nature of the pandemic and its impact in both the U.S. and Ecuador have presented unique challenges in deciding when to restart the program.

We reworked our volunteer program to open it up to more people. All of the previous volunteer opportunities that we offered are still available with these new additions:

- The ability to volunteer part-time and work or study part-time. Full-time opportunities are still available.
- New Volunteer Experience Coordinator to give volunteers a fun and engaging cultural experience along with volunteering.
- Volunteer Directors can now work or study part-time while they serve. Directors can be single individuals, married couples, families, or retired couples.
- A new pricing structure that decreases in cost the longer you serve.

If you want to learn more about our program, you can do so with the QR code shown on this page.





CARLOS

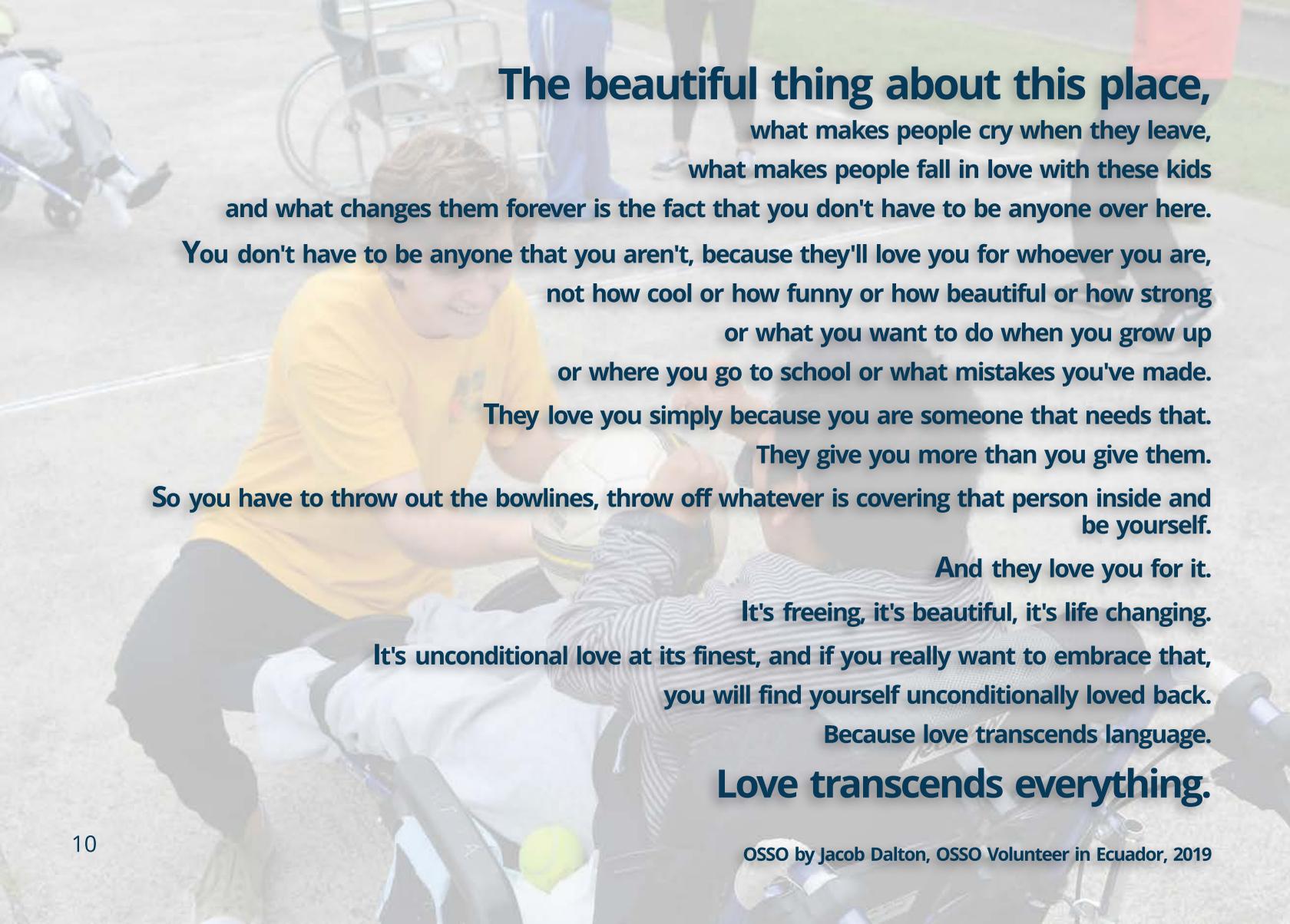
Carlos*, an eleven-year-old in Ecuador, lived in a hostile and abusive environment. Carlos' mother felt trapped in a dangerous relationship. She thought about leaving many times but couldn't picture a way out. Eventually, she found the courage to start making a better life for herself and Carlos. They abandoned their home to seek refuge at a home for domestic violence victims. The shelter lacked the resources to care for both Carlos and his mother. He was placed in the care of one of the orphanages OSSO supports while his mother recovered and worked on putting her life back together.

Today at the orphanage, Carlos is able to continue his education, meet with a psychologist, and doesn't have to worry about his environment being safe. OSSO's orphanages will love and care for Carlos until his mother is ready to care for him again or until a good long-term family can be found for him if this doesn't happen. The support OSSO offers orphanages helps children like Carlos have a safer place to live so they can survive, thrive, and be protected from fear and harm. Thanks to the generous donations of our supporters, OSSO helps kids like Carlos around the world live a better life, full of joy, love, and hope.

FAMILY REUNITED

Three siblings--Hector*, Laura*, and Johan*--were living with parents who could not safely care for them. The children's parents needed to make many changes to show they could properly care for their kids. Professionals from an OSSO-supported orphanage that the children were placed in were able to develop a plan to help the parents create a better, safer home for the children. After three years of effort and improvement, the rehabilitated parents were happily allowed to bring their children back home and be reunited in a healthier, safer home environment.

* Actual names are changed in order to protect the identity of the children we serve



The beautiful thing about this place,

what makes people cry when they leave,

what makes people fall in love with these kids

and what changes them forever is the fact that you don't have to be anyone over here.

You don't have to be anyone that you aren't, because they'll love you for whoever you are,

not how cool or how funny or how beautiful or how strong

or what you want to do when you grow up

or where you go to school or what mistakes you've made.

They love you simply because you are someone that needs that.

They give you more than you give them.

**So you have to throw out the bowlines, throw off whatever is covering that person inside and
be yourself.**

And they love you for it.

It's freeing, it's beautiful, it's life changing.

It's unconditional love at its finest, and if you really want to embrace that,

you will find yourself unconditionally loved back.

Because love transcends language.

Love transcends everything.

OSSO by Jacob Dalton, OSSO Volunteer in Ecuador, 2019

FINANCIAL INFORMATION FY 2020-2021



**WE APPRECIATE THE INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES WHOSE GENEROSITY
MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE:**

TOTAL NUMBER OF OSSO DONORS	468
NUMBER OF US STATES WITH DONORS	34
NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WITH DONORS	7



OSSO STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Rodrigo & Lorena Rosero, Ecuador

We started working with OSSO in March of 2001. We were project directors for several years before we became the Orphanage Directors for OSSO's Hogar de Angeles orphanage for severely disabled youth in Cuenca, Ecuador.

We have the privilege of overseeing the volunteers, caregivers, staff, and finances for the orphanage. We remember every volunteer who has served with us since we started. **The best experiences we've had as a family have been during the time we had with OSSO.**

Each child we serve, and the volunteers who serve them, have left a permanent mark in our hearts that has molded our lives. The best part of our job has been to meet new people full of the spirit of service.

As Orphanage Directors of Hogar de Angeles we have learned that it is a blessing to be able to see the world through the eyes of an innocent child.

The children and youth we help are angels and it is a privilege to have them in our lives.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

The **Crocker Catalyst Foundation** wanted to do something to **make a difference in the world during the pandemic**. One of their board members served with OSSO and knew that OSSO's orphans could use their help.

They started by funding a grant in the amount of \$30,000 to help with emergency COVID costs for OSSO's orphanages throughout Ecuador.

Their donation made a huge impact on OSSO's ability to buy the necessary medical equipment, sanitary supplies, in-orphanage physician visits, and access to care that our orphans needed to stay healthy and safe during the pandemic.

A few months later, they gave OSSO an additional \$40,000 to finish the renovation of an existing building into a New Volunteer House at OSSO's orphanage for severely disabled orphans in Cuenca, Ecuador.

Over the course of four months, the Volunteer House was finished and furnished to be able to house an additional 20 volunteers, families, and study abroad volunteers. **This additional space will significantly increase the amount of love we can give to each of our orphans throughout Ecuador in the future.**

We are grateful for the experiences of our OSSO volunteer who led us to the Crocker Catalyst Foundation and their unceasing generosity.

Thank you, Crocker Catalyst Foundation!



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Elizabeth Heying & Bruno Suarez-Bango were getting married on January 1, 2021.

After a long year of quarantining, they wanted their wedding day to make a difference in the world.

Bruno's family lives in Ecuador and he visits often. Elizabeth and Bruno wanted to find a cause that supported orphans in his home country. They found OSSO online and decided to ask for donations to OSSO in lieu of wedding gifts.

Within a few short weeks of their wedding, they had raised over \$1,500 online to help feed, nurture, and care for orphans in Ecuador.

They look forward to visiting Ecuador together soon and want to visit the orphanages that OSSO helps support so they can personally meet the children and severely disabled youth who were recipients of their donation during a very tough year.

Thank you, Elizabeth & Bruno, for sharing your wedding day with OSSO's kids!



DONOR SPOTLIGHTS

In the summer of 2021, OSSO and the **doTERRA Healing Hands Foundation** worked together to raise funds for orphans and severely disabled youth.

Through a doTERRA Wellness Advocate, OSSO was able to raise over \$15,000 online. The Healing Hands Foundation then matched the donation for a total of \$30,720.

We couldn't be more grateful to doTERRA for sharing the generosity of their employees with the children of OSSO.



The **NuSkin Force for Good Foundation** has once again partnered with OSSO to support six orphanages throughout Ecuador.

NuSkin donated \$32,000 in 2021 to help purchase emergency Covid supplies, pay for food costs and protein supplements, and cover costs of medications and medical equipment.

The consistent support that NuSkin provides OSSO's kids is vital to our ability to give OSSO's orphans the love and care they deserve.



Over the last year, OSSO and **Udo** were brought together and have partnered up to help support Ecuador's orphanages.

In Fall of 2021, Udo sent a group of **Udo Gives** employees to tour orphanages in Quito and Cuenca, Ecuador.

OSSO appreciates Udo's ongoing support of our mission and we look forward to working more closely with the Udo Gives Foundation over the next year.



TOGETHER WE CAN

OSSO Partners with many individuals, foundations, companies, anonymous donors, nonprofits and businesses. Our supporters contribute in a variety of ways. Their donations, grants, in-kind support, volunteer power, and ideas help us enrich the lives of the orphans and severely disabled youth we serve around the world. We thank you all for your generosity!

We couldn't do what we do without the support of the communities we live and serve in. Thank you to these wonderful partners and the numerous *large* anonymous individual and corporate donors who make our work possible.



OSSO BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Rex Head

Melodie Head

Amy Pulsipher

Corbet Miskin

Nikita Wright

Josh Garner

OSSO NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL STAFF



Abe Larsen

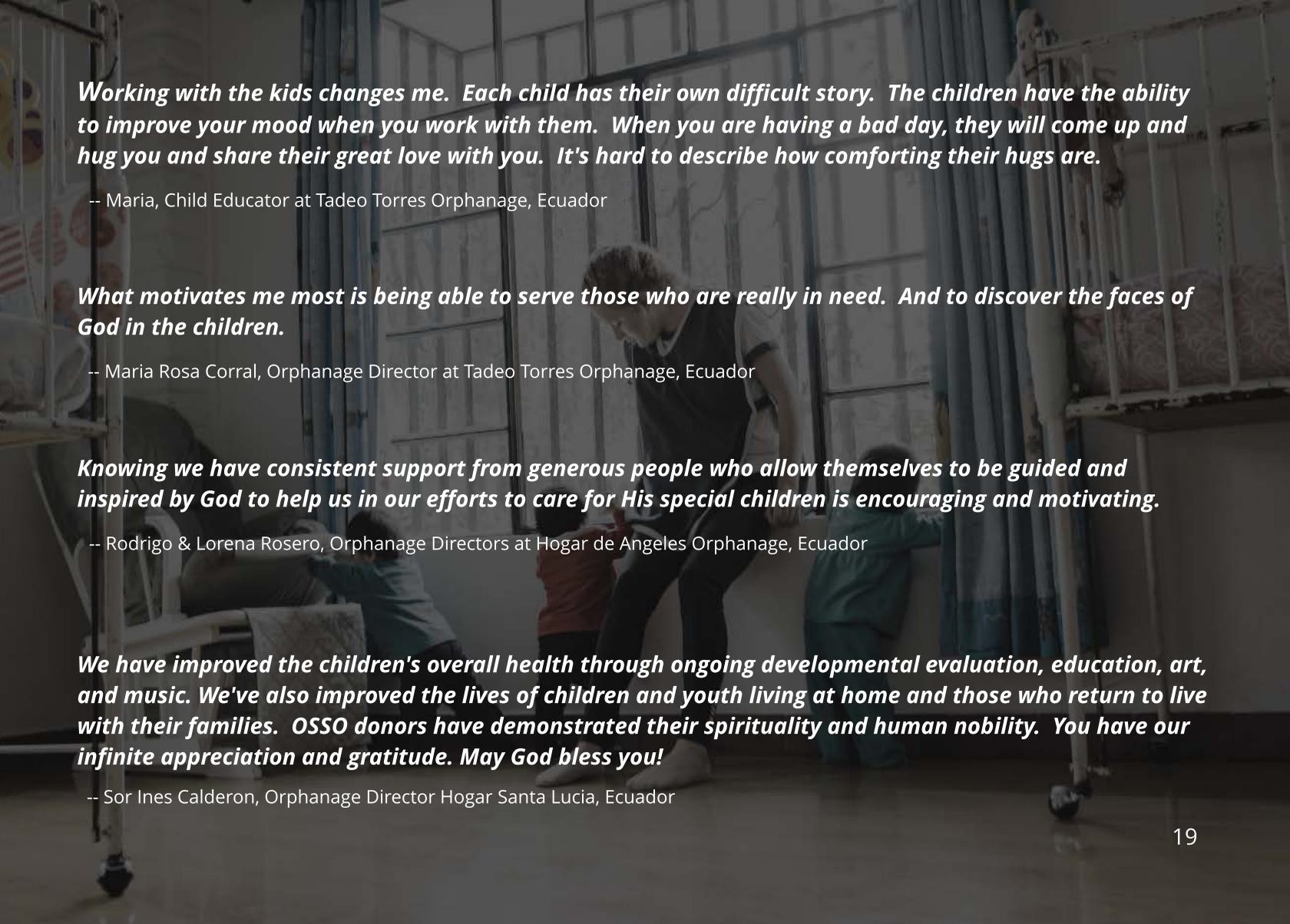
Jill Angerbauer

Kailan Hernandez

Jazmin Zambrano

Lorena Rosero

Rodrigo Rosero



Working with the kids changes me. Each child has their own difficult story. The children have the ability to improve your mood when you work with them. When you are having a bad day, they will come up and hug you and share their great love with you. It's hard to describe how comforting their hugs are.

-- Maria, Child Educator at Tadeo Torres Orphanage, Ecuador

What motivates me most is being able to serve those who are really in need. And to discover the faces of God in the children.

-- Maria Rosa Corral, Orphanage Director at Tadeo Torres Orphanage, Ecuador

Knowing we have consistent support from generous people who allow themselves to be guided and inspired by God to help us in our efforts to care for His special children is encouraging and motivating.

-- Rodrigo & Lorena Rosero, Orphanage Directors at Hogar de Angeles Orphanage, Ecuador

We have improved the children's overall health through ongoing developmental evaluation, education, art, and music. We've also improved the lives of children and youth living at home and those who return to live with their families. OSSO donors have demonstrated their spirituality and human nobility. You have our infinite appreciation and gratitude. May God bless you!

-- Sor Ines Calderon, Orphanage Director Hogar Santa Lucia, Ecuador

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a striped t-shirt, is blowing bubbles with a green wand. She is holding a purple and orange container of bubble solution. Several children are gathered around her, some reaching out to catch the bubbles. The children are wearing various winter clothing, including hats and jackets. The background shows trees and a building.

ORPHANAGE SUPPORT SERVICES ORGANIZATION
5513 WEST 11000 NORTH #215
HIGHLAND, UTAH 84003
UNITED STATES
(801) 214-8849

WWW.ORPHANAGESUPPORT.ORG

