

# Project RED 2022 Annual Report



## A Note from our Director

*Hope-filled.*



That's the word that summarizes 2022 for us at Project RED. It was a year filled with **changes, milestones, opportunities and, of course, challenges**. But it was, perhaps, the most meaningful year we have had since Project RED's establishment more than a decade ago.

Project RED, a grassroots initiative in El Salvador, was started in response to a great need with little more than an idea and a few bucks to get going. Each year, we have **organically grown** and developed - in size, in programming and in our understanding of how to best achieve **our mission**, which has remained unchanged since the very beginning.

In 2022, we experienced a great deal of change as an organization. From closing our emergency children's shelter as a result of policy changes in El Salvador to opening a new site in the heart of the most extreme need in the region, and even being invited to participate in the implementation of the new law for child protection - **2022 was a momentous year!** It was one that was filled with memories and lessons learned. 2022 has set the stage for more organizational development, programmatic replication and for new, countless cases of children **who will be rescued and families that will be restored in 2023.**



Our passionate, committed, **local team of professionals** is truly a team of heroes. They are so willingly going into the most dangerous, vulnerable and uncomfortable situations to be a light. They fill us with hope.

And you do, too. Our important work would never have begun or continued to thrive if it were not for every single dollar, prayer and word of encouragement from you. On behalf of the entire RED Team, we thank you and invite you to learn about all the good you have been part of in 2022. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to have **hope**.

*Thanks for bringing hope, ♥*

**Kara Wilson García**

Founder and Director of Project RED



*Kara, Óscar & Elsie García*



## Our Mission

**Project RED is a community.** We bridge gaps for children and bring hope to families through **Reintegration, Education and Development.**



## Our Vision

**A safe and permanent home** for every child in El Salvador



## Justice

We believe that we are called to practice justice by loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Project RED pursues justice for the poor and oppressed, advocating on behalf of children and bringing hope to those in need.

## Mercy

God shows us mercy each and every day through His abundant grace, of which we are so completely undeserving. In turn, our goal at Project RED is to imitate Him by loving others well through our words and actions.

## Humility

When we choose to think of ourselves less, making this a regular practice, we will begin to see the fruits of the Holy Spirit in our work and relationships.

Humility means living in a way that constantly recognizes that our talents are gifts from God; therefore, we joyfully use these gifts to serve others.

## Integrity

Integrity motivates us to act in a way that is transparent and consistent. We are committed to transparently using these resources to achieve our mission every single day, as we bridge gaps for children and bring hope to families in need.



# Our Programs

## Family Strengthening

Our team of local social workers and psychologists provides wraparound services and holistic support for the families of children who have recently been subject to processes within Child Protective Services.

Once we receive a case referral, our team assesses the family's situation, creating a comprehensive plan to cater to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of each family and individual. We conduct home visits and families also travel to our office, where they receive counseling and participate in different group activities, such as play therapy, after-school tutoring and teen support groups.

Families move through various phases of intervention, entering and graduating from the program on a rolling basis. The end goal is for families to graduate successfully from the program, having become self-sufficient and able to successfully break cycles of poverty and abuse in their family.



## Child Advocacy

While our hope is for families to flourish as a result of our Family Strengthening program, we continually encounter cases of children who are in danger. Upon identifying these situations, which can include abuse, neglect, abandonment and other tragic issues, our Child Advocacy team immediately springs into action. **We don't rest until every child is safe.**

Our Child Advocacy program includes:

- ♥ An in-depth analysis and observations from clinical professionals (Social Workers and Psychologists)
- ♥ Legal representation of and advocates for specific children in various public spaces, including Child Protection agencies, Family and Children's court, among others)
- ♥ Close coordination with Child Protection authorities among various agencies in El Salvador
- ♥ Transportation services in emergency situations
- ♥ Collaboration with other public and private service providers

# Our Impact in 2022



**168** families were impacted by our *Family Strengthening* program in 2022.

Thanks to your support and the work of our multidisciplinary teams, these families have the opportunity to have a healthier, hope-filled and brighter future beyond brokenness and extreme poverty. Instead, they are on the road to self-sufficiency.

 We are so very thankful. 



97

**children and teens were *rescued* from abuse, neglect and harmful situations.**

Our team of social workers and attorneys worked diligently to protect the rights of the children and ensure that they were removed from harm's way.



# Moments to Celebrate in 2022

124

**new families were added to Project RED's Family Strengthening program and 16 families successfully graduated.**

February, May and December, 2022

With several celebrations over the course of the year, we ended 2022 by rejoicing in the great accomplishments so many of our families were able to achieve over the course of their time at Project RED.



**We enjoyed a *special visit* from our friends from Storyline Christian Community.**

May, 2022



“Carlos y Ben”, leaders at Storyline, provided a spiritual time of rest and renewal for Project RED’s leadership team. We are so thankful for meaningful partnerships like this one, which motivate us to do our work in a healthy and sustainable way.



**The new law for child protection, "Crecer Juntos",  
was approved by Congress in *El Salvador*,  
effectively replacing the LEPINA law.**



June, 2022

Perhaps the most important milestone in Project RED's history has been the implementation of this law.

The LEPINA law was what motivated Project RED to begin its work in 2011, when thousands of children were removed from orphanages and forced to live with members of their biological families.

The struggle to work amicably with the government has challenged us over the years; however, the situation has completely changed for the better. Project RED is a strategic partner of El Salvador's Child Protection System, allowing us to achieve greater impact for every child we serve.

**We ask that you *join us in prayer for the government leaders as they implement this new, hope-filled* law, whose implementation begins on January 1, 2023.** ❤️

## Project RED opened its third location in San Miguel, El Salvador.



July, 2022

Since Project RED's founding in 2011, we have long anticipated this momentous milestone. The Eastern side of El Salvador, from where the majority of Salvadoran immigrants living in the United States come, is ridden with crime, violence, abuse and unimaginable poverty. The resources are scarce and programs like Project RED's are nowhere to be found. Having reached a point of organizational capacity at which we are able to replicate our programs, several of the Project RED team members made the move to the other side of the country to launch this new location.



# We ended the year with a bang!

December, 2022

With the pandemic restrictions in El Salvador finally at ease, we were able to conduct our normal, community-building and life-giving activities at the end of the year. We poured love into the lives of the kids and families we have the honor of serving and further built community.





# Goals in 2023



## ♥ Expand our scope to impact more children and families at our new San Miguel location

The Eastern side of El Salvador, has greater poverty and abuse rates than any other region of the country. Social services are scarce and, in some places, nonexistent. We believe that Project RED's support is most urgently needed in this region and plan to continue to expand our scope to include more cases in this area in 2023.





## ♥ Explore additional opportunities for program replication

Because Project RED has grown organically as a local, grassroots organization, its reputation in El Salvador continues to build. As the organization gains institutional capacity, we believe that more opportunities will continue to arise as we expand our work in the region.



## ♥ Deepen technical skills through training opportunities for staff



Project RED's team of local professionals is committed, passionate and talented. With a mixture of staff members who have been part of the team for many years and possess a deep knowledge of the work, as well as newer team members whose specialized professional experiences help to provide quality care for those we serve, we are committed to providing growth opportunities for our staff as the organization continues to develop.



♥ **Implement new, evidence-based policies and procedures as we professionalize the organization's operations**

Project RED works with cases of children, adolescents and adults who have experienced unimaginable trauma. In El Salvador, the very concept of trauma, trauma-informed care and the competencies required to effectively impact services are not commonly known. We are committed to being a trauma-competent “system” in which our staff is protected from secondary trauma through our collective practices, as we learn techniques that can best impact these cases in the most effective way possible.



# Our Financial Partners

We are so *thankful* for this wonderful  
**RED Community!** ♥

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Eliot & Julie Young  
Jake & Kayla Young  
Matt and Cindy Zahodnik

*Thank you*  
**to each individual for helping us  
to accomplish our mission.**



Project RED brings  
*hope*  
to families in El Salvador 



**PROJECT RED and AFFILIATE  
COMBINED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
As of December 31, 2022**

	Asociación			
	Project Red	Proyecto Red	Eliminations	Total
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current Assets:</b>				
Cash	\$ 763,346	\$ 23,556	\$ -	\$ 786,902
Accounts Receivable	-	25,827	-	25,827
Prepaid Expense	-	5,145	-	5,145
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>763,346</b>	<b>54,528</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>817,874</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets:</b>				
Land	-	9,500	-	9,500
Building and Improvements	-	116,802	-	116,802
Furniture and Fixtures	1,293	44,127	-	45,420
Vehicles	-	158,133	-	158,133
Tools	-	2,182	-	2,182
Total - Property and Equipment	1,293	330,744	-	332,037
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(1,293)	(104,299)	-	(105,592)
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>226,445</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>226,445</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 763,346</b>	<b>\$ 280,973</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,044,319</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>				
Other Current Liabilities	\$ 110	\$ 9,056	\$ -	\$ 9,166
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>9,056</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,166</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>				
Without Donor Restrictions	763,236	271,917	-	1,035,153
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>763,236</b>	<b>271,917</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,035,153</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 763,346</b>	<b>\$ 280,973</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,044,319</b>
<b>Without Donor Restrictions</b>				
	Project Red	Asociación Proyecto Red	Eliminations	Total
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Contributions	\$ 629,912	\$ 577,449	\$ (555,000)	\$ 652,361
Fundraising Income	1,617	-	-	1,617
Interest Income	93	-	-	93
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>631,622</b>	<b>577,449</b>	<b>(555,000)</b>	<b>654,071</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Program Services	555,000	394,588	(555,000)	394,588
Fundraising	348	-	-	348
Management and General	198,338	172,244	-	370,582
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>753,686</b>	<b>566,832</b>	<b>(555,000)</b>	<b>765,518</b>
Change in Net Assets	(122,064)	10,617	-	(111,447)
<b>NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>885,300</b>	<b>261,300</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,146,600</b>
<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 763,236</b>	<b>\$ 271,917</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,035,153</b>



**PROJECT RED and AFFILIATE  
COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022**

	Project Red	Asociación Proyecto Red	Total
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Change in Net Assets	\$ (122,064)	\$ 10,617	\$ (111,447)
Cash Provided By (Used For) Operating Activities:			
Depreciation Expense	-	3,606	3,606
(Increase) Decrease in Accounts Receivable	-	9,464	9,464
(Increase) Decrease in Prepaid Expenses	-	(3,905)	(3,905)
(Increase) Decrease in Other Liabilities	110	(2,334)	(2,224)
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED FOR) OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(121,954)</b>	<b>17,448</b>	<b>(104,506)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Purchases of Property and Equipment	-	(76,477)	(76,477)
<b>NET CASH USED FOR INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(76,477)</b>	<b>(76,477)</b>
<b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH</b>	<b>(121,954)</b>	<b>(59,029)</b>	<b>(180,983)</b>
<b>CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>885,300</b>	<b>82,585</b>	<b>967,885</b>
<b>CASH - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 763,346</b>	<b>\$ 23,556</b>	<b>\$ 786,902</b>



Thanks for bringing  
*hope!* ♥



PROJECT RED EL SALVADOR

[www.projectREDelsalvador.org](http://www.projectREDelsalvador.org)