

Global Echoes

Spring 2024



Maria Elena and her son, Edgar, in the resource room.

I Don't Have to Hide My Son Anymore!

Edgar and Maria Elena's Story, El Morro, Guatemala

As a parent, you constantly worry about your child, especially once they start school. When you have a child with a complex disability, you worry if your child will even be welcome at all...

Maria Elena's son, Edgar, was born with a developmental disability.

"I was afraid and sad that people were staring at me and my child," she said. "Not just staring and pointing, but laughing and making fun of him. For all of us moms with children with disabilities, it's not easy."

At the school in El Morro, one-third of the students are sponsored by generous donors like you. Through your sponsorship, you create accessible education spaces and programs for children like Edgar.

"I was hiding him and was very scared," said Maria Elena.

"Teacher Karla came to my home and told me that I need to live without fear."

(Maria Elena, Edgar's mom)

Thanks to your generosity, the school in El Morro has a program where Edgar can learn in a classroom and is equipped to continue his learning at home.

As Maria Elena held her son's hand, she told us: **"Now I know that my child is a blessing, and I am very happy to have him as my son."**





Cristha and her kindergarten class in their gym uniforms!

You Give Children with Disabilities a Better Future



Without an accessible education, Cristha would be labelled a “problem student.” She would likely fail out of school.

Cristha's Story, Managua, Nicaragua

Cristha is four years old, but **her life is already forever changed** because of the teachers and resources available to her at Horizontes Cristianos.

In the preschool classroom, there is a small desk pushed right against the teacher’s desk. It might look like where the “problem student” sits, but it’s actually a simple accommodation for Cristha.

Cristha has ADHD, and during lessons, she sometimes paces at the back of the room, or she lays quietly on her desk or the floor.

Her classmates don’t seem distracted by her and every now and then, Cristha’s teacher calls on her, asking very direct questions and giving specific instructions. During work time, the three teacher aids make sure everybody is on track with the task at hand, especially Cristha, who needs this additional support.

Your faithful donations ensure that Cristha’s needs can be met through accessible education, and students with disabilities can have a better future!

Changing the “Taboo” of Disability

Horizons Academy, Asella, Ethiopia

Your continued donations to the Horizons Academy have given the community of Asella a place where everybody belongs. As the academic year wraps up in Ethiopia, **here is what you made possible:**

- You have allowed our partners in Ethiopia to offer a **practical training class** so teachers can learn to teach accessibly, and families can learn sign language, Braille, and other accessible communications.



“Thanks to your generous donations, Horizons Academy Asella has witnessed a remarkable transformation in its journey toward advancing inclusive education.

What was once a distant dream for marginalized children with disabilities is now becoming a reality, by bringing hope and opportunity to their doorstep!”

-From our partner in Ethiopia



- You helped the physical building become **more accessible** with wide wheelchair-friendly ramps leading up to the building, to the bathrooms, and to wheelchair-accessible showers.
- You have equipped community leaders to offer more extensive advocacy classes for families, teachers, and other leaders to **change the taboo culture of disability.**



Students practicing sign language!

Thanks to your care and concern, children and their families in Ethiopia can have a better life and know they belong too. Thank you!

The Hope of Easter is Haiti's Hope

Cité Soleil, Haiti



**“So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous
right hand.”
(Isaiah 41:10, NIV)**

Spring is in the air and with it, the promise of rebirth and the joy of the Easter season. As you let go of the winter months and step into spring, may we all remember to prepare our hearts and minds for Jesus and the new life and hope He brings through His death and resurrection.

Haiti needs hope. As you may know, Haiti has been facing a humanitarian crisis due to gang activity and political turmoil since 2021. Most families in Cité Soleil have fled due to rampant violence.

While many families have been displaced, we are relieved to say that all sponsored children are alive and relatively safe. Our community partner in Haiti has been able to check-in with everybody in person on a regular basis.

But - as you can imagine - it has been very difficult.

Your faithful prayer and financial support provide consistent hope to families in Haiti during this extremely difficult time.



Amidst all of these disruptions to everyday life, school has resumed in safe locations, and that is because of your dedication and generosity! **Thank you!**

How can you help?

People in Haiti need your support more than ever. Please consider a generous donation today. When you give to our global programs, it always goes to the greatest needs!

You can donate by mail using the **enclosed donation slip**, by phone at **1-866-362-6810**, or give online at **ChristianHorizons.org/Give**.



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