

## PARTNER STORY

*I*t was the first time leading a team into this specific drug hole. Hogar Genesis is not just an orphanage –they mentor drug and alcohol addicted parents, minister to prisoners, and have a street kids camp. This work is all in the hopes of restoring the family unit.

It was late at night and I was responsible for my team of volunteers who traveled from Canada to ImpactHope's project site in Iquitos, Peru. As we got into motor cars to head over to the drug hole, I started feeling a mix of excitement and fear. Little did I know, this would be one of the most memorable and emotional nights out of all my trips to Iquitos.

I met a little boy that night. A boy who barely spoke but his love and affection spoke louder than words could ever speak. As someone who lost their father at a young age, I connected deeply with this child. I had Rodolfo, the Director of Hogar Genesis, translate for me as I spoke words of hope: "you are loved by a heavenly father who will never leave your side. Whenever you feel alone, know that you are loved, cared for, and seen. You are never alone."

As I spent more time with this little boy, I saw his demeanor change. This was hope. He jumped into my arms and gave me the biggest hug. I could not stop crying as I went back to Hogar Genesis that night – I too felt the impact of hope. With every trip I make to Iquitos, I grow a stronger connection with the community and a sense of belonging. This connection has changed my life and it continues to encourage me. I hope it continues to encourage them too.

"I am beyond grateful of the opportunities I have had through ImpactHope. Throughout my time partnering, I've built an even greater appreciation for the amazing organization that it is, and look forward to see it continue to grow, bless, and shape stronger communities!"



Mae has committed to **advocate** for Hogar Genesis, one of our orphanages in Iquitos, Peru.

With her small business, she has already fundraised close to \$2,000 for the operations of the home. She has visited Iquitos several times and plans to return. We love Mae!

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