

# HOLISTIC HOPE JOURNEY

### A NEW JOURNEY:

First things first:

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Another year has come and gone; I have no clue how that happened! And yet, one thing remains: we serve a GOOD God. His faithfulness amidst trials and transitions has never wavered. I continue to be supported and blessed by churches and individuals around the country. To you all, I say THANK YOU!

In September I left Sucúa, Ecuador after two eventful (and COVID crazy) years. While my heart still misses the girls and tías of La Casa Esperanza everyday, I know I made this transition with the Holy Spirit's guidance.

I moved to Springfield, MO and took up residence as the new Research and Curriculum Development Coordinator for AGWM's Protect Me Project under the Nurture Hope Network, serving 12 countries of Latin America. This transition to International Ministries has already pushed me to grow in ways I couldn't have imagined.







During the end of September / beginning of October I was privileged to travel to Medellin, CO with my new Director Carla Marroquín and our amazing LATAM Directors - Patricia & Jesús. I have already been so blessed by this new team. I can't wait to see what we accomplish for God and in the work for prevention of commercial sexual exploitation during 2023.

I've begun several projects that will continue into the new year, including: updating current teaching materials, helping create new deep dive course for volunteers, new prevention flyers for adolescents, an age delineated guide of didactics (such as games, songs, and crafts) that can be used to supplement lessons, and a brand new training course that we hope to offer our grassroots coordinators!

### WHAT'S NEXT?

With all these new projects on the table, somehow, there's still more!

In December I'll be hosting the second reunion for a small commission of volunteers who work with Protect Me Project in the context of indigenous or tribal populations. We want to improve our youth and parent prevention training materials to serve in these specific settings in the most culturally appropriate ways possible!

Over New Years and the beginning of January, I am blessed to be traveling to Nairobi, Kenya in support of our amazing MK (missionary kid) office staff, as they prepare activities for a retreat. Even thought PMP currently only serves Latin America, we are keeping our eyes and hearts open to where God may lead our work for the future. Plus - what better way is there to give back than to serve some other amazing families on the field!

Finally, we'll be planning our in person and online trainings for the 2023 Latin American volunteer teams to start back up in February!

## PRAYERS & PRAISE

Here are some ways you can pray with me and the Protect Me Project Team:

- Safe travels to and from Kenya in January
- Successful coordination of 2023 trainings
- That God would bring us new volunteers with a passion to protect kids and youth in their neighborhoods
- Blessings and encouragement for our 49 volunteer coordinators and facilitators
- Open doors to new places with the message of prevention and Jesus.

#### **RACHEL GIRDLER, MSW**

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#### **PARTNER WITH ME:**

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Just for Fun: Y'all know I love animals... Dolly is adjusting to being a dog in the USA. She loves crunchy leaves and pup cups (ha!) but hates the cold. But no worries, my dad got her a jacket!

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