



**Nueva Esperanza  
New Hope Girls Inc.  
La Vega, Dominican Republic**

**Case for Support**

**Need in La Vega and the Dominican Republic**

The Dominican Republic is currently ranked as the world's third most popular destination for SEX tourism, and over 25% of the sex workers are FEMALE MINORS.

While sexual victimization is wrong under all circumstances, it easily takes root in abject poverty. And there is much poverty on the island that contains Haiti, and the Dominican Republic. The average family living in the concentrated slums or barrios that Nueva Esperanza- New Hope Girls, Inc. serves, struggles to feed their family with the equivalent of \$1.25 a day making it impossible to provide enough nutritional food for all family members. This reality creates a spirit of desperation that leads to heartbreaking scenarios.

Girls as young as 8 are providing sexual favors in exchange for food for their families setting them up for a life of exploitation. Girls who have been sexually abused are uniquely vulnerable to predators and often pushed out by families as one less mouth to feed-- now that their virginity is gone they must prepare for life as a woman.

As girls develop and reach menses as early as age 10, they are no longer considered niñas or little girls. Now they are señoritas-young ladies capable of bringing life into the world. This is a time of great confusion and creates a perfect storm for predators to seduce girls and their families with empty promises that often lead to even more abuse.

Sexual abuse and molestation is pernicious in all of its forms, and deadly in every geographic location. In the Dominican Republic, it is especially destructive as it damages the innocence of young children and predisposes these children to hopelessness, despair,

violence and multi-generational poverty. And, it is estimated 80% of girls growing up in the barrio experience sexual abuse before the age of 15.

It is common for young mothers to leave their ramshackle houses for a few hours a day to sell themselves and return only with enough food for the next meal. Without schooling and in desperation to feed and shelter their children, they will look for a “man” - any man - to provide for their basic needs. This makes both mother and her children acutely vulnerable to even more abuse, sexual exploitation and even trafficking while the men they seek help from are often their next abuser. Step-fathers are often identified as predators in the lives of the girls New Hope works with.

The cycles of neglect and abuse continue generation after generation. Many girls were conceived when their mothers were in their early teens. Continuing in the cycle, they too become mothers in their childhood.

### **History of New Hope Girls**

In 2004, Vidal and Joy Reyes left their jobs in the United States and came with their two children, Helena (age 4) and Isaac (age 2) to live and work as missionaries in the Dominican Republic.<sup>1</sup> While the Reyes value service, it was not only the desire to do good work that brought them to Dominican Republic. Their sacrifice grew out of their personal faith in God and their commitment to share the good news of God's love with others, especially the least of these. That passion for God defined their lives before leaving the United States, and permeates their service in the Dominican Republic.

The Reyes initially came to lead a private, Christian school in the barrio Maria Auxiliadora under the auspices of another mission organization providing education to poor children in La Vega. It was believed that a good education for these children through the fourth grade would prepare them to matriculate into fifth grade in the public school system. For boys, this goal was often achieved. However, for many girls, it was more like throwing them to the wolves. For children from poverty, even entering school is challenging. Birth certificates are required, and many of these children have none and live with mothers who

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<sup>1</sup> The Reyes family now includes Helena – age 16, Isaac – age 14, Loveka, age 10, and Elijah, age 9.

<sup>2</sup> Although non-denominational, New Hope Girls’ programs are distinctly Christian, and share the love of Christ

have none. Without documentation, exceptions are sometimes made for children who can perform at grade level. When expectations are not met, girls are not accepted into school. Early education and exposure to literacy in any form are rare in the barrio and few of these girls ever transition successfully into adulthood.

### **Reversing the Barrio Trend: Nueva Esperanza -- New Hope Girls, Inc.**

After leading the Christian barrio school for seven years, God placed on Vidal and Joy's hearts a deep burden for the GIRLS exiting the school. They wanted to provide a refuge of light and life for girls trapped in darkness and despair. They wanted to create an organization that would help eradicate the generational cycle of "children having children", ignorance, hunger, desperation, fear and fatherlessness. They wanted to bring the love and hope of our Father in Heaven who has and will rewrite their destinies – from sexual exploitation and hopelessness to JOY, NEW IDENTITY and PURPOSE.

In March of 2011 Nueva Esperanza-New Hope Girls incorporated and began to serve

**Original Vision:** *Model schools will offer access to the highest quality of academic and spiritual training with full integration of life skills including but not limited to extracurricular experiences in cooking, sewing, building, art, music and gardening. We will actively work against child trafficking by providing abuse counseling and relief to girls in the community regardless of their enrollment in our schools. Full boarding including access to feeding and medical programs will be provided for those that need it*

girls ages 5-16 identified as the most vulnerable living in poverty in barrio Maria Auxillidora. Vidal and Joy Reyes, along with a handful of national and international partners, believed God's word that if they were faithful in little they would be entrusted with much. They worked to provide education, spiritual training and a safe-house to girls who have no other hope for schooling and often victims of abuse including sexual exploitation - in a small, rustic structure that was donated by a local Dominican teacher with six

months of her salary. Along the way, the local community and international volunteers joined forces to remodel the sacrificial gift of property in preparation for the work of providing the girls with an education, food, shelter and love.

***“We are dreaming for the girls of the barrio, the same dreams we have for our daughters.” New Hope Staff***

The ministry reflects a partnership of service for both Vidal and Joy. Vidal is active behind the scenes leading maintenance and administration. Vidal takes care of logistics. He oversees construction and repairs, effective transportation, supplies and ensures that all the adults and children within the ministry are safe and secure. Joy is the Executive Director of the ministry overseeing a female staff of interns, teachers, house-mothers (or “aunts” – “tias” in Spanish) and volunteers. Joy often represents the girls in court, and she presents the needs both in the Dominican Republic and the United States.

New Hope Girl's Academy now provides a loving home - a safe haven - to girls (ages 10-16) in the DR who have suffered severe abuse and neglect. Each girl is given the opportunity to become a life-long obedient follower of Jesus Christ and to receive healing from the trauma that they have endured.<sup>2</sup> Each girl has daily access to excellent education, nutritious meals, medical care, exercise and extracurricular activities. While a few girls may someday reunite with their biological families, most will remain at New Hope until young adulthood. New Hope functions as a surrogate family to the girls and gives them the love and skills that they need to succeed as adults.

New Hope Girls Academy is a tangible presence in the earth of God's love for the brokenhearted and will provide a reproducible model HOME (in the Dominican Republic and in other parts of the world) for young girls who are the most vulnerable creatures in all of creation - especially in the developing world.

Missionary support for New Hope Girls has increased to cover the ministry's current operating costs of about \$100,000 per year. This allows the ministry to provide food, shelter, education, medical & special services to the girls and salaries to the staff including an off campus workshop that provides jobs for women in the community and will eventually help sustain the ministry.

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<sup>2</sup> Although non-denominational, New Hope Girls' programs are distinctly Christian, and share the love of Christ to fill the void in hungry hearts as well as providing food, shelter, therapy and education. Our doctrinal beliefs can be found on our website.

### A Campus and a Permanent Home

In the five years since 2011, New Hope has provided an education for 45 girls and housed 29. New Hope Girls currently serves 30 girls in school and 10 girls in the residential program, but the leadership longs to serve more at a higher level of quality. New Hope is currently the only house available to provide refuge in the province and the only program in the country that will receive girls between the ages of 10-16 rescued from abuse. Expansion is critically needed, and the staff and leadership of this ministry have been praying for some time for the opportunity to purchase land, renovate existing structures and build classrooms to increase the quality of care we are able to offer as well as the number of girls we are able

**Staff Testimony:** *I will never forget the day I showed up for work to find Lupita sitting on the front step with all her earthly possessions shoved into a grocery bag. She was eight years old, barefoot and covered mostly by long hair extensions that smelled of urine. My gut told me to take her to the doctor immediately and we did, only to find that she was fighting a raging STD. Lupita was raging herself and was a puzzle for our staff during her first years, but through relentless love, fervent prayer and God's great mercy Lupita is a beautiful 13 year old, smiling, vibrant member of the New Hope family.*

to serve.

#### **We must find a way to care for girls!**

We have from the beginning ONLY wanted what God wants and have asked Him to open and shut doors.

Two offers were made on 2 different pieces of property, BUT the doors were slammed shut. The ministry looked for a rental in the summer of 2015 to make a quick move in order to have time to locate a new property but each time, the doors were shut.

“Owners would decline to rent to us or rentals would rent days or moments before we arrived on the site.”

Those of us in leadership could not decide if we should laugh or cry, but in the end decided to say “THANK

YOU!” Thank you, Lord, for doing all things well and answering our prayers, directing our every step and speaking clearly to us.

In the hunt for yet another rental, we found the PERFECT campus – half an acre of land and a huge abandoned home with 7 bedrooms and 5 baths. There is a fenced-in pool and fruit trees shading the entire property. Although not a large campus, the location is truly ideal for our staff and ministry. In its glory days, when the house was in pristine condition,

the property was appraised at 30 million pesos (\$650,000), but for 15 years vandals removed wiring, toilets, windows etc., leaving it looking rundown and worthless. The owner decided to reappraise and relist without including the house—leaving the house as a “gift” for the purchaser to fix or demolish.

The price initially was unattainable at U.S. \$328,000, yet God worked, and the owner decided to sell the property at a sacrificial price of \$267,000 made payable in 3 installments. Miraculously, early anchor gifts were secured quickly to cover the down payment of \$155,000 which was made last in December 2015. The next payment of \$44,400 is due December 2016, and the final payment of \$67,600 is due December 2017.

With the help of a volunteer architect, civil engineer and other professionals assisting, the plans have been made in detail to rebuild and expand the house, which is quite SOLID considering the age and neglect.

This Capital Campaign WILL PAY OFF THE REMAINING DEBT, RENOVATE AND EXPAND THE HOUSE, BUILD THE SCHOOL AND SUPPLY MUCH NEEDED OPERATIONS COSTS FOR 3 YEARS so that the girls can transition into a new beautiful home. The renovation has begun and NOW gifts/pledges are needed to cover all 3 phases.

**Phase I – Acquisition and Renovation Campaign** *(Commitments to be secured in 2016)*

The goal of the campaign is to complete the balance of commitments for \$509,000 in Phase I costs with tax deductible gifts and pledges that can be paid over the next three years. The money will be utilized as follows:

• Purchase Campus	\$267,000
• Renovate existing structures	54,000
• Construct and Furnish two Montessori classrooms	65,000
• Supplement for three years operations <i>(40% 1<sup>st</sup> year, 26% 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 15% 3<sup>rd</sup> year)</i>	<u>123,000</u>
	\$509,000

***Phase II – Funds Raised and facilities developed later (If God provides additional funds now, Phase II can be completed soon).***

• Equip Kitchen and furnish the house	26,000
• Renovate the pool, add bathrooms/showers beside the pool, campfire space, complete grounds <sup>3</sup>	<u>50,000</u>
<i>Total of Phase II</i>	<i>\$76,000</i>

***Phase III – Future Vision***

- Create reproducible centers adjacent to other barrios in the Dominican Republic
- Work within the legal system to create stronger enforcement for sexual exploitation and more opportunities for vulnerable girls to build productive lives.

Scarcely knowing what a capital campaign means, Joy and Vidal have been thrust into the middle of one. A visionary project requires realistic attention to financial needs in order to turn this dream into a reality. The Board’s desire is to transition into each phase of development debt-free. Each member of Staff Leadership and the Board has made a personal gift and/or pledge, with 100% participation. The Staff and Board have pledged \$75,000 or almost 13% of the total goal.

As of March, 2016, \$236,000 has been given or pledged, leaving a balance to complete Phase I of \$295,000. Gifts are needed now, and pledges may be payable over three years.

In kind gifts will also help complete the campaign. Groups or individuals may adopt a room, taking responsibility for windows, paint, furnishings and decorations. A name-plate may be placed on each room acknowledging the sponsorship. (The “Dare for More” room, the “New Song Church” room... for example.)

A completed campus will increase New Hope’s capacity to serve girls from 10 beds to 20 and will provide necessary outdoor space and classrooms. Supplementing operations for three years will give the Board and Executive Director the ability to increase capacity immediately while building a support base that can sustain the ministry.

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<sup>3</sup> Phase II will include a sustainable garden, raise the security walls and provide children’s play areas like a volleyball net and swings.

## Sustainability

There are two important costs: the cost to get started, and the cost for successful long-term operations. The capital campaign will ensure a good start, and most capital contributions will come from a select small group of individuals.

The ministry is sustained by God's people who pray for the girls & the staff and who give generously of their finances and by a local workshop, New Hope Creations - a for-profit business - that offers job training and equal opportunity employment for women in poor communities so that they can provide for their children and stop the cycle of poverty that destroys families.

Commitments of time, energy, and finances from a wide variety of givers- churches, women's groups, civic clubs and individuals are crucial for Nueva Esperanza --New Hope Girls, Inc. to be successful. In addition to helping with the capital campaign, ten additional churches need to commit soon to monthly support. (Three churches currently have New Hope Girls in their support budget and 19 churches supported the ministry at least once in the last year).

*It might be crazy to say but some of my most beautiful moments during my experience with New Hope thus far have been when I get to see girls be their most vulnerable selves... Normally we try so very hard to hide our brokenness, our fear, our anxiety and disappointment. I see it every day, girls reaching for masks in order to show the world that they can "handle it," that what they're fighting really isn't "that bad," and they don't need to address what is "really going on inside." But really, we know the truth... None of us can truly handle anything alone... We are truly useless by ourselves no matter how difficult it can be to finally arrive at this conclusion. So when I see them cry, soften, and actually FEEL, I realize that there is true healing happening before my eyes.*

*So that's what happened the other night. One of our girls fled about a week ago. She had had enough. She was "done" with New Hope. I didn't see her go, only heard stories, and that's what made it all the more harder for me because I wasn't there. So I just began praying and believing that she would come back. There was continued talk, possibilities of her coming back, while others would say that she had left for good... But still I didn't know what would take place.*

*Until a few nights ago when I was upstairs with a group of girls getting ready for bed. We were relaxed, listening to music, winding down for the night... Then suddenly we began to hear someone knocking on the door... And of course in an instant my group of little ones ran downstairs to see who had just arrived.*



*They began saying her name... The one who had run away... They began shouting, announcing her return. And I waited. I asked the Lord what to do. When the girls returned I decided it was my turn to go look for her.*

*And there she was... In the front room... Curled up in a ball, head squished between her knees, and as I continued to approach I heard faint, muffled sounds of a little girl who was trying to hide her tears of vulnerability. When I approached I didn't say anything, I just came down to her and wrapped my arms around this little ball of tears. I felt her body shaking and I knew I couldn't let her go... Not now... Not when she needed someone most.*

*And I didn't try to stop her crying... I wanted it to continue.... I wanted her to continue to feel, to process, to let it ALL out no matter how ugly, sad, pitiful, broken... It wasn't my mess to clean up... And God was in the midst of us, I could feel Him.*

*I began to ask her what made her come back, or rather who. And with my few little questions here and there, she began to tell her story through the tears that continued to flow. And I realized in that moment I was given the privilege to listen.*

*This story reminds me of the one in the Bible where Jesus is in a crowd of people with his disciples on his way to go and meet someone, to do a miracle and heal a little girl, but while He was on his way something else grabbed His attention. It was the bleeding woman, the one who reached out and touched His cloak without Him seeing. Before she reached out she believed Him for healing, that if only she could just touch the cloth of his garment she would be healed. And Jesus immediately knew something went out from Him... That his power had been released over someone in the crowd. He turned His attention on her, and there is a version of this story where it says that Jesus directly asked her what had happened to her, and she then it says that the woman turned to him and told Him, "her whole story."*

*Now I don't know exactly what story it was that she told. It could have been just her disease, or how she came and found Him and knew he would be able to heal her... But what is most beautiful to me is that He listened. Corinne Carver (New Hope intern)*

Once established, operating costs for food, clothing, personal care items, etc. will increase as New Hope Girls doubles its residential capacity to 20. Staff members are not highly paid—they must be mission-minded, but they should be adequately compensated. There will always be utility costs—electricity, water, propane gas, internet, phones, and other vital utilities. Costs of daily operations are expected to increase for \$8,300 monthly to \$12,500 monthly or \$150,000 annually. Because operating costs, primarily staffing and utilities, will increase as soon as we move into the new facility and add more girls, the capital campaign includes a supplement to cover the increased cost of operations. It should take 2-3 years to build the income base so that there is adequate income each year for the higher operating expenses in the new facilities.

New Hope Girls has 100% giving from the Board of Directors and a growing database of individuals who believe in its mission. The Board's efforts and the generosity of God's people have sustained programming so far with no operational debt.

Following the initial supplements for operations derived from the capital campaign, ongoing operations will be funded by regular donations from people who care in the United States, other countries and in the Dominican Republic. Following the campaign, New Hope Girls will stabilize financially by increasing annual support to the following level:

- Budgeted Missions support by 3 existing, 10 new churches	\$15,000
- Cultivation of existing donor base	50,000
- New Donor acquisition (150 new donors annually) <sup>4</sup>	45,000
- Annual fundraising events	25,000
- Net Support from New Hope Creation activities	<u>15,000</u>
 Total of annual support by 2018	 \$150,000

A completed campus and stable support base will allow New Hope Girls to continue to assist those who have been abused or exploited. New Hope Girls' leadership has the experience and expertise to move the ministry forward, but your help is critical to establish New Hope as the solution for these precious daughters.

**Join us in the fight against child exploitation- Your support changes lives!**

#### **Ministry Partner Testimonies:**

I would like to personally recommend Joy Reyes and Gricelda Roque for the quality service provided by Nueva Esperanza-New Hope Girls, Inc. They are the only organization providing protection and care for girls in La Vega and I am anxiously awaiting their move to this new location. They will be my salvation as I will no longer have to look into the eyes of young girls with no answers for their care.

Licda. Iris Sanchez Taverez  
Attorney General of the Children's Courts, La Vega, R.D.

<sup>4</sup> We believe that if we can increase donors by 150 individuals or giving units annually, we can see an annual increase of \$25,000 per year for operations.

The first definition of the word hope in Webster's Dictionary is: The desire & expectation of good, anticipation. NH Girls is exactly that!

The girls in the barrios/ghettos of DR have only one expectation, of bad things, following in their mother's footsteps, a vicious cycle, a pit of destruction!

New Hope Girls breaks the curse--the hopeless cycle. These girls come into a new & living way. They learn quickly that God is good & that He has good plans for them, a path of healing for life where they are growing into becoming the carriers & messengers of The Good News to others, a living testimony to the whole barrio, not to mention the mothers, the family members that are brought into the same new life with them. New Hope is revolutionary evangelism, a Living breathing Hope, JESUS!!!

Joy, there is so much more that you all do & the healing that is touching the people that are ministering to them & their families, the neighbors, etc. New Hope is truly Revolutionary!

I thank God for you & all the lives that are being touched & touching others! It is contagious!

The girls are becoming the best missionaries any church would want to send, for they are a living hope, following now in the Masters steps!!!

NHG spreads & it is an eternal tsunami in the barrios!!!

I am overwhelmed by God's goodness in raising such a powerful ministry!!!

Diana Crowder, Exchanged Life Ministries, Florida

Three years ago I stood with Joy Reyes on the hill overlooking the barrio and knew that God was up to something amazing through her and the team at New Hope. The need was great, there were reasons to despair, but Joy was dreaming big dreams for those in girls in that place. Since then, I have been to New Hope Girls Academy dozens of times bringing over 100 women to the Dominican Republic to see the work and to get involved in making a difference.

I do this because I have seen first hand the amazing things that are happening. Because of New Hope, girls have the opportunity to get an education, find safety, security, and love. They are given the basics for life today and the tools they need for the future. New Hope is breaking down barriers and giving each girl an opportunity to thrive. Only time will tell how these girls will grow up to be women who will change their families, their country and their world. I am thrilled to say that I was able to be a part of New Hope Girls.

Reba Bowman, Founder/President of Dare for More Ministries, Tennessee

Since visiting the Dominican Republic and witnessing the work that Joy and Vidal do, I have become an ardent supporter of their ministry. They are a wonderful asset to the community, in which they work. Their work with these vulnerable young women is beyond description. The need for assistance is great and Joy, Vidal and their committed staff are making real progress.

The ministry that Joy and Vidal Reyes have become involved with was not of their initial choosing, but it chose them. They saw the need and had to involve themselves. They are doing a valuable service to a greatly underserved segment of society. These girls need help and I urge you to support these wonderful people as they serve our Lord and blaze a path for these young girls to follow. May our Lord and savior bless their efforts.

Skip and Melinda Smyser, Former US Senators of Idaho

The last five years, since New Hope Girls Academy has been established, I have watched Joy and Vidal press into the All sufficient One to meet their own needs and the many needs of others. I get to rejoice with them in the answers to prayer but I am always aware of the minefields they walk through on a daily basis. God has given vision upon vision to them as they walk forward in faith. I admire their faithfulness and their tenacity and wisdom and as a member of their board I support them into this next phase of development.

Barbra Ludy, New Hope Girls Inc. Board of Directors, Idaho