Smiles of Hope

Learn the Story Behind These Smiles!

Prince Calvin Smiles!

Prince Calvin before his surgery

THANK YOU

ANNUAL REPORT
2021
ISSUE NO. 11

MAYA’S HOPE
Every Child Has Value
Our Mission
Maya’s Hope works to improve the quality of life of orphaned, impoverished, and special-needs children on a global scale. Whether providing funding for loving caregivers, vitamin-rich formula, or access to quality medical care, Maya’s Hope improves lives, one child at a time!

What We Do
- We facilitate emergency surgeries and procedures for children whose hospital costs are not covered elsewhere when the surgeries are urgent, life-saving or life-transforming.
- We provide immediate needs such as diapers, wipes, and formula for the relief of poverty and the preservation of good health of disabled, impoverished or orphaned children.
- We advance the education of children through access to sponsorship opportunities, educational materials, and field support through our caseworkers and partners.
- We provide support for orphanages, loving caregivers, and medical equipment as well as basic needs and humanitarian assistance to children affected by war.

Where We Bring Hope
Ukraine and Philippines. All New York City and our donors from around the world!

Our Objectives
- To help children receive life-saving surgeries, when the child has been placed on a waiting list that would outlive the child or when they would otherwise not receive surgery
- To improve living conditions for orphans and children with disabilities living in orphanages and foster homes
- To provide direct assistance to families of children with disabilities, in order to ensure that these children receive adequate medical care and nutrition, to support their families and ensure these children can thrive despite abject poverty

Loving Care
- Caregivers
- Toys
- Special Care Packages

Medical
- Surgery & Treatment
- Massage Therapy
- Checkups

Education
- School Supplies
- Field Trips
- School Fees

Nutrition
- Feedings
- Vitamins
- Nutritious Formula
Greetings!
Welcome to our 2021 Annual Report!
2021 was an astonishing year for Maya’s Hope.
Despite it being a pandemic year, we managed to accomplish so much thanks to our donors, our volunteers and supporters and everyone who lends a helping hand to nurture the children we serve!
This year we continued to focus on surgeries. We funded 38 surgeries! We decided to put together a beautiful “Before and After” Surgery Smiles feature for both Ukraine and Philippines in this issue so you can see the impact of your support.
These are real children and each one has a story of overcoming great challenges. They are the true heroes. Your support is important to us. These beautiful children’s lives were transformed thanks to you.
Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Maya’s Hope has facilitated and fully funded surgeries (including X-rays, CT scans, MRIs, lab work and all other expenses around safeguarding surgery success) for 110 children, most of which were emergency surgeries. They included cranial surgeries, primary surgeries (Urachal cysts, cystic hygroma, sacrococcygeal teratoma, hernia, esophageal, abdominal, imperforate anus), spinal surgeries, hip surgeries, and tongue surgeries.
Every donor who contributes to Maya’s Hope is helping save and improve lives. For this reason, we have listed all our supporters in this Annual Report.
We, our volunteers and fieldworkers, the doctors in our network, our partners, and, of course, the children, and their families, are so grateful to you all.
As you know, Maya’s Hope helps children who would otherwise not receive help. These are often forgotten children in institutions and slum areas, as well as children with disabilities whose parents cannot keep up with their children’s complex needs.
I’m proud to say that Maya’s Hope has been active in Ukraine for over 10 years. Understanding that children are better off in families, we moved from a model of solely supporting orphanages to expanding our reach by supporting families directly. We also support foster homes, where children are more likely to receive the love and care they so desperately need.
In addition to providing assistance to foster homes and orphanages in the Zaporizhe region, this year we provided supplies and therapy to over 50 children in families as well as diapers, formula, bottles to children living in orphanages and foster homes each month. The impact of Maya’s Hope in Ukraine in 2021 has been to help hundreds of children.
Hundreds more children are also helped each month in our immediate needs program in the Philippines.
We also ensured uninterrupted education for children during the pandemic through access to sponsorship opportunities, educational materials and field support. There are currently 95 children in the Maya’s Hope Education Sponsorship program and an additional 70 children in 2021 receiving Immediate Needs assistance in the Philippines (most of them are receiving medicines, nutrition and support monthly).
Thank you for giving hope to disadvantaged children born into poverty.
We couldn’t do it without you!!
Hugs,
Maya
Maya Crauderueff, President and Founder

Maya’s Hope Team
Maya Crauderueff, Executive Director
Keshia Melton, Ukraine Program Manager & Social Media Manager
Maria-Joelle Morris, Operations & Compliance
Caron Katz, Bookkeeper
Jennifer Fenimore, Director of Marketing
Lori Seward, Administrative
Jenna Lafta, Data Analyst
Ollie Koshelieva, Program Manager
Gina Tega, Strategic Advisor
And many more volunteers

Board Of Directors
Michael Meltzer, Chairman
Maya Crauderueff, President
Julia Maksimova, Vice President
David Cohen, Treasurer
Semanti Datta, Secretary
Jacky Flood Soeda
Ava Mehta

Maya’s Hope Board of Directors (from left to right) David Cohen, Jack Flood Soeda, Michael Meltzer, Semanti Datta, Julia Maksimova, Ava Mehta, Maya Crauderueff
Why Help Children in Ukraine?

There are more than 100,000 children confined to 663 orphanages and other residential facilities in Ukraine - one of the highest rates of institutionalization in Europe*. These are soviet-style orphanage systems that are difficult to reform.

According to a national audit of the Child Protection System in Ukraine:

- Child protection in Ukraine still relies on a vast institutional network, where children live in isolation from the rest of society, condemned to arbitrary regulations and impersonal routines
- Institutional care remains the most common response by the authorities to children whose own families are struggling to care for them, largely because of poverty and disability
- There have been fragmented improvement but overall the foundations that are needed to prevent family breakdown are significantly lacking


*Source: “Hope and Homes for Children”

The Approach of Maya’s Hope in Ukraine

In Ukraine, parents of children with special needs are encouraged to hand their children over to state care. They are told their children will be a burden on society. Children are therefore sent to orphanages and institutions where they are often subjected to abuse and neglect.

There is minimal support available to parents who fight to keep their children with them. Maya’s Hope aims to relieve some of the burden on these parents.

Maya’s Hope has been active in Ukraine for more than 10 years. We moved from a model of solely supporting orphanages to expanding our reach and supporting families of children with disabilities as well as foster homes, where children receive adequate love and care. Our work in Ukraine provides educational, psychological, social and financial help to orphaned children and children with special needs.

Maya’s Hope is able to operate in Ukraine through a trusted network of charity partners. Our main partner in Zaporizhzhya is salaried through Maya’s Hope. We have been working with our charity partners in Ukraine for over a decade and have a deep network of connections. This allows us to effectively provide assistance to families, foster homes, orphanages and regional hospitals in Eastern Ukraine.

We have an in-country presence - Maya’s Hope has an international team with program managers and partners in New Zealand, Ukraine, Philippines, and throughout the United States and Europe.

In Ukraine, Maya’s Hope funds the salaries of one program manager and his assistant and three caregivers (one at a state-run institution, two at foster homes).

Previously Maya’s Hope funded the salaries of a doctor in Ukraine as well as other caregivers, but Covid and other events have put a pause on outside employees.

- Since 2010, more than 50+ children have been adopted from institutions in Ukraine by Americans thanks to awareness spread by Maya’s Hope.
- Since 2019, 110 life-saving surgeries and hundreds of medical procedures have been performed.
Maya’s Hope is currently sponsoring and providing care for 400+ children in the Philippines.

While the pandemic threatens to incur exceptional human costs around the world, the cost for low- and middle-income countries is greater. As of mid-January 2021, COVID-19 had spread throughout the Philippines, with over 600,000 confirmed cases and 12,837 deaths. In addition to the direct health effects from the transmission of COVID-19, there is growing evidence that the pandemic, and the actions taken to control the virus, have caused severe economic and social hardships. (Source: Unicef Philippines. (2021, July).

**The Philippines: 2021 in Review**

Feb: The Philippines receives its first shipment of COVID-19 vaccines, with the arrival of 600,000 doses of Sinovac Biotech vaccine CoronaVac.

March: President Duterte approves placing the Greater Manila Area under enhanced community quarantine until April 11.

May: President Duterte places the Philippines under a state of calamity for a period of one year due to the African swine fever outbreak.

October: Journalist Maria Ressa, the founder and chief executive officer of the online news website Rappler, is awarded the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize by the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

December: Typhoon Rai (Odette) makes landfall in southern Philippines causing at least 407 deaths and $33.2 billion worth of damage to infrastructure and agriculture.

**Why Help Children in the Philippines?**

Maya’s Hope is able to provide direct assistance to families. Social media allows applicants to connect directly with Maya’s Hope. Maya’s Hope leverages a network of trained volunteers to interview applicants and a committee-based approach to allow applicants to receive aid. Once approved, applicants are then able to apply monthly for renewal of their assistance. This means that a child can receive consistency in medications, treatments and nutrition. We follow each child’s progress.

In addition to this, when a family is consistently applying for assistance, we enter the child into a sponsorship program, and find them a sponsor.

The Philippines has socialized medicine, but the charity ward may take 5 or more years, depending on the case, and children are dying before they can get their needed surgery.

For surgeries, Maya’s Hope raises funds for each individual child. Maya’s Hope covers all incidentals related to the surgeries, including COVID testing and PPE, as well as follow-up check-ups and nutritional support for the child.

Working with a network of healthcare professionals including doctors, Maya’s Hope also provides a dedicated facilitator and fieldworkers in order to facilitate the surgeries and safeguard the health of the child.

Of the 20 million kids living below the poverty line in the Philippines, almost 2 million children are often forced to work so they can get enough food to eat instead of getting an education. This is why Maya’s Hope sponsors children and provides them with an education, often all the way through college!

Maya’s Hope sponsors children at 3 key locations, one of which is the “Centro Salvador”, designed to provide support for young adults transitioning to school and work after their stay at the orphanage. The multipurpose facility has deep roots in the community and supports many activities, including educational needs such as housing and support for students, temporary housing for displaced mothers and children and child sponsorship programs, as well as community feeding and outreach.

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The community where Prince Calvin lives is so thankful for the blessings of having a simple life with their vast resources of vegetables and fish which they can get from the rich land and bodies of water surrounding the town.

We can say that life is at its best when you’re living very close to nature. But what about those people, especially the children, who have physical deformities and disabilities? How can they cope if even the simplest diseases are difficult to address because of limited doctors and medical facilities? How can they be cured if it’s very far from the city? How will a day end when there is hardly food on the table to feed five hungry mouths by a single mother? How can they live day by day?

Thankfully, there is Maya’s Hope, there is someone they can turn to; there is that spark of hope, a silver lining which promises a new day.

This is the place where our little prince, Prince Calvin and his four other siblings were born. Aside from being a happy child, Prince Calvin was born with a deformity known as Macroglossia and Lymphatic Malformation.

Macroglossia is a disorder characterized by a tongue that is large in proportion to other structures in the mouth. In the congenital type of the disorder, protrusion of the tongue from the mouth may interfere with feeding of the infant. Later, talking may be affected. The large size of the tongue may also cause abnormal development of the jaw and teeth, resulting in misaligned or protruding teeth. Ulceration and dying tissue on the tip of the tongue may be other symptoms of the disorder while a lymphatic malformation may appear as a lump just under the skin anywhere in the body. Superficial lymphatic malformations can look like small bubbles under the skin. Some lymphatic malformations are not visible on the surface of the body.

It was on the 2nd day of September 2018 when Mommy Zarah gave birth to a bouncing baby boy whom she named Prince. She noticed something about his mouth but shrugged her shoulders thinking that it was because Prince had round cheeks. Days, months and years passed by, he grew and so did his tongue until it couldn’t be tucked inside his mouth. Saliva flowed, he had a hard time eating and the worst, he couldn’t utter a single word.

Mommy Zarah begged for help, went to different charitable institutions to ask for help until she came upon the MAYA’S HOPE Facebook page. She wasted no time and eagerly messaged MH and prayed hard to get her wish. Prince Calvin’s expedition began through Maya’s Hope’s coordination with Ms Eunice Cheng-Chua of Bless the Children. They came to Manila all the way from Nasugbu, underwent various procedures like swab tests and other workups before the big day came.
An ENT specialist and Otorhinolaryngology surgeon handled the case of Prince Calvin. The excision took place and after almost 3 weeks in the private ward of the hospital, he came home with a sutured tongue.

Follow ups, hygiene and wound care for Prince were done and it was indeed a RESOUNDING SUCCESS!

Once again, Maya’s Hope has made another brighter future for a little prince.

We can see the genuine happiness through Prince’s smiles. No oversized tongue can be seen but a totally smiling face from once a timid and shy boy.

Now, he can talk, eat, sing, play normally and pray to God for the blessing our Maya’s Hope has bestowed upon him.

What a wonderful world it has been with Maya’s Hope.

The donors of Maya’s Hope made another cutie pie’s life worth living. 🌸

BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT

- Maya’s Hope sponsors and provides care for 400+ children in the Philippines.
- Maya’s Hope brings hope to 500+ children in orphanages in Ukraine.
- Since 2010, more than 50+ children have been adopted thanks to awareness spread by Maya’s Hope.
- Since 2018, thousands of medical procedures and more than 110 life-saving surgeries have been performed.
In Ukraine, parents of children with special needs are encouraged to hand their children over to state care. Forgotten, children languish in orphanages and institutions where they are often subjected to abuse and neglect.

Vladi was born in Ukraine in June 2003. His parents decided they could not care for him. He was sent to an orphanage where he spent his days laying in a crib. A tiny baby turned into a toddler and then a little boy. Slowly he wasted away.

In 2012, the first child out of Vladi’s institution, was allowed to be adopted by a family from the US. Meanwhile days turned to months and months to years for Vladi. He was transferred to yet another institution where nothing was familiar to him and where he continued to waste away. He was almost 16 years old and weighed just 30 lbs.

Dasha was born in 2009. She was blind. Keshia Melton met Dasha for the first time in 2014. She wrote about her. She was tiny, like a toddler. Having spent her entire life in a crib, she was easily overwhelmed. She liked to sit quietly and dangle things in her fingers. She chewed on her hands. She too was slowly fading away. Maya’s Hope provided a caregiver and formula for Vladi at Kalinovka and then caregivers at his second institution. Maya’s Hope also provided a caregiver and formula for Dasha at Kirova and covered medicines and medical treatment for her in the hospital.

The Richardson family found these children and recognized them as their son and daughter. They decided to adopt 3 children from Ukraine–Dasha, Vladi and another little boy named Ezra.

In December 2019, the Richardsons traveled to meet Dasha and Vladi. They came back in January 2020 to go to court and were given permission to take them out of the orphanage. But then, disaster struck. There were more obstacles to get through in order to get them home. They were not out of the woods yet.

First, Vladi’s lungs, damaged from years of infections, caused him to fail the Tuberculosis X-ray. He was not allowed entry to the USA for 8 weeks. He was barely hanging on.

Then came the COVID-19 pandemic. The borders shut before they could get him out. Then, a miracle. One flight out. One chance to fly out - but would he be able to fly without his family? Would he be able to hang on?

A wonderful family traveling back to the USA offered to care for him on the plane. It was to be a direct flight. Several people were watching the flight tracker when they saw the plane turning back...

It landed in Dublin for a medical emergency. But it wasn’t for Vladi! He was ok. A few hours later the plane continued on its way.
And soon Vladi was finally back in the arms of his mama.

Today, Dasha is a Daddy’s girl and loves to dance. Vladi is surrounded by love, by his brothers and sisters. They are both now receiving the love and care that they lacked for so long.

Their birthdays are celebrated.

They are cherished as son and daughter, brother and sister in a beautiful family.

One of our biggest goals here at Maya’s Hope is to raise awareness for children hidden away in orphanages and institutions around the world. The children that have been forgotten, abused and neglected. Because every child deserves a chance at life, every child deserves a family. 💫

Love and Family

Help Children Thrive
Part of the mission of Maya’s Hope is to perform and facilitate emergency surgeries and procedures for children whose hospital costs are not covered elsewhere when the surgeries are urgent, life-saving or life-transforming. Maya’s Hope funds and facilitates emergency surgeries in Ukraine and the Philippines. Although Maya’s Hope began funding surgeries in 2013, our efforts have increased meaningfully over the past few years. In Ukraine, the surgeries themselves are often covered by the government. However, many other costs are not - medicines, consumables, metalware for orthopedic surgeries and the shunts used in hydrocephalus surgeries. Maya’s Hope assists Ukrainian families with these expenses. The Philippines, on the other hand, has socialized medicine but the charity ward may take 5 or more years, depending on the case, and children are dying before they can get their needed surgery. Working with a network of healthcare professionals including doctors, Maya’s Hope provides a facilitator in order to schedule the surgery and covers the expenses of the surgery and related procedures. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Maya’s Hope has facilitated and fully funded surgeries for more than 110 children, most of which were emergency surgeries, including cranial surgeries, primary surgeries (Urachal cysts, cystic hygroma, sacrococcygeal teratoma, hernia, esophageal, abdominal, imperforate anus), spinal surgeries, hip surgeries, and tongue surgeries. Here are our sweet Before and Afters from 2021.

Maria Princess
Hydrocephalus

Maria Princess was born with hydrocephalus. Her family lives in a very poor squatter area. Maya’s Hope fully funded her surgery. Maria Princess’ Mother said: “We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your help and support to baby Princess since day one! Maya’s hope has helped us a lot especially in treating princess. From placing her shunt until her last hospitalization this past few months. Fortunately, Maya’s Hope is always at our back to help us.”
Saviona

Occipital Encephalocele - Cranial Surgery

Saviona was a referral from one of our doctors in network.

Saviona’s Mother said: “I’m lucky with my children. My son loves his sister. He helps me in taking care of her. He told me mom you can start to work I will take care of her. I am really thankful for making Sav operation possible. I will never forget this. God bless Maya’s Hope so you can help more children.”

Alessandro

Hernia - Herniotomy

Alessandro lives with his mother, older siblings and grandfather. Alessandro was born with an inguinal hernia. Maya’s Hope funded the surgery.

“I would like to say from the bottom of my heart how grateful I’m feeling right now for helping my son’s condition. I don’t know what words I can say how much thank you to Maya’s hope and the people behind it, this is Alessandro right now, he is doing good and happy.”

Jwell

Congenital Conditions

Sadly, J-well has had to endure a life of pain and suffering due to the family’s extreme poverty. She was born with several serious congenital conditions including a heart ailment, impaired vision, imperforate anus (imperforate anus is a congenital defect in which the opening to the anus is missing or blocked and the elimination of feces may not be possible until surgery is performed) and global development delay. J-well suffered physical discomfort including having a colostomy bag and she is extremely malnourished and underweight. J-well had 3 surgeries to fix the imperforate anus, the last of which was in July, and was ready to begin the long recuperation period. But her living conditions made her recovery very challenging.
Ariana
Severe Atlantoaxial Instability - Spinal Surgery

Beautiful Ariana has been in our sponsorship program since 2016. Everyone who meets her falls in love. Ariana is 10 years old and she has Down syndrome. She’s so sweet that our field-worker calls her “The happiest girl on earth”. Ariane urgently needed spinal surgery due to instability in her neck. Ariana had severe atlanto-axial instability (abnormal, excessive movement of the joint between the first two vertebrae in the spine). Thanks to her sponsors, Ariane was able to receive her surgery.

Sofia Kate
Amelia Syndrome - Tongue Surgery

Sofia has Amelia syndrome. She was born without legs. She could not speak or eat solid foods. Sofia needed surgery to correct a severe tongue-tie.

Kristoff
Urachal Cyst

Kristoff had a urachal cyst which was causing his belly button to weep. Kristoff needed surgery to excise the cyst but both of his parents had lost their jobs due to the pandemic. His mom had been able to find temporary work to support her family while his father cared for him and his sibling. Maya’s Hope paid for his surgery. Here he is giving his Dad a high-five!
Eliaszar
Esophageal Artesia - Esophageal Surgery
“We arrived home yesterday afternoon... sorry if we didn’t update so soon no electricity in the area so no internet... Once again from me and all of my family we thank you so much for helping us... this is just a start of a new journey for eli and we need to be ready for more ups and down... May your foundation continue to bless alot of children who are in need.. and may God bless you always give you strength to fulfill your mission... Thank you very much.”

Irish
Hydrocephalus and Schizencephaly - Shunt
Look at this cutie-pie! Baby Irish was only a few weeks old when she received surgery through Maya’s Hope. Doctors advised her family she needed urgent surgery to prevent brain damage. Her father who works as a tricycle driver’s income was heavily affected by COVID restrictions. Her mother was working as a street sweeper. Their income was not enough to pay for Irish’s surgery.

Samantha
Aqueductal Stenosis, Hydrocephalus - Shunt
Samantha was born with aqueductal stenosis, a narrowing that blocks the flow of cerebrospinal fluid in the brain. Her father works as a vendor in a large market in Manila. The family were unable to afford their rent so they were living at the market. Maya’s Hope funded Samantha’s surgery; just look at her now!
Surgery Smiles! (continued)

**Rhowie**

Abdominal

Rhowie has Intussusception where a portion of his intestine is folded into the other. His mother updates us – “His wound is completely healed, he is also happy and healthy. I just want to say thank you for everything you’ve done for our baby. Especially to Mam Maya Crauderueff and Maya’s Hope, thank you so much. May God continue to Bless all of you.”

**Emerald Jade**

Hydrocephalus - Shunt

Emerald Jade was born with hydrocephalus and mylamingocel. Her father is the breadwinner of the family who drives a tricycle.

“Jade is better now. The scar is also healed. Her head got smaller too. It was 53” before and now it’s 50.”

**Angel David**

Frontonasal Encephalocele

Angel David was born with a frontonasal encephalocele and hydrocephalus. His case is complicated and needs to be done in three steps. The first surgery will be to place a shunt to drain the fluid that is building up. The second surgery will be to repair the opening in the front of his skull. The final surgery will be to close up the opening completely and remove the outer part of the encephalocele.
Ash Cayden  
**Hydrocephalus - Shunt**
Ash was born with hydrocephalus and dandy walk malformation. 12 days after birth, his head was filled with liquid and was getting bigger as days went by. His father is a store shift leader who is the breadwinner of the family.

Francine  
**Hirschsprung’s Disease - Abdominal**
Francine was a 1 year old when she was referred to Maya’s Hope. She lives in a squatter’s area with no running water. Now she is doing very well thanks to supporters of Maya’s Hope. She is running and playing with other children. Look at that cheeky grin!

Kylo  
**Myelomeningocele - Hip Surgery (2nd surgery)**
Kylo was born with hydrocephalus and myelomeningocele. He underwent surgery to close the opening in his spine. However, the surgical wound got infected so Kylo had to undergo another surgery to remove the dead tissues from his back. He then had two more surgeries (shunt and clubbed feet). Later on, an x-ray showed a dislocated hip, and Kylo underwent surgery immediately with the help of Maya’s Hope.
Baby Queen  
Myelomeningocele - Spinal and Cranial

Baby Queen was only a month and a half old when her family reached out to us. Born with a myelomeningocele and hydrocephalus, her family were struggling to provide her needs, let alone pay for multiple surgeries to close her spine and relief the pressure in her head.

“We are always grateful and thankful to all the people behind Maya’s Hope Foundation... Again thank you thank you very much for everything... God Bless you all”

Chleo  
Hydrocephalus - Cranial

Baby Chleo was born without eyes. His family noticed he was becoming more uncomfortable and irritable recently. The bump on his nose was getting bigger and more painful. They took him to a doctor who diagnosed him with hydrocephalus and advised that he urgently needed surgery to place a shunt.

Chelsea  
Spina Bifida - Myelomeningocele Repair

She was born with a myelomeningocele, hydrocephalus, and club foot. Chelsea’s father works hard to provide for his family but his earnings were not enough to pay for her expensive and complex surgeries. Look at this cutie pie today!
Neildan
Hirschsprung’s Disease - Abdominal
Neildan was born with Hirschsprung’s disease. His father works hard as a teacher but his salary is meager. Neildan’s family reached out to Maya’s Hope and thanks to your donations, Neildan is now thriving!

Jania
Hydrocephalus - Cranial
Jania was born with hydrocephalus and was referred to us through one of the doctors in our network. Jania’s mother is a single mom selling vegetables to survive. Maya’s Hope was able to fund Jania’s surgeries and she is doing well!

“After her 5 surgeries funded by your foundation, my Baby Jania is recovering very well. To Maya’s Hope many more blessings to come, again thank you very much, I will take care and look after baby Jania, I will always tell her the goodness and help of Maya’s Hope as she grows up I will always tell her how you all loved her and care for her.”

Mira
Encephalocele
Baby Mira was just 10 days old when her mother reached out to Maya’s Hope. Mira urgently required surgery to correct an encephalocele, but her parents, farmers, were heavily impacted by COVID-19 and did not have the means to pay for her surgery! Just look at Mira at the end of 2021!
The world faced a lot of challenges due to the crisis brought by the Covid-19 pandemic and for the past two years, these impacted lives of Maya’s Hope children in the Philippines. Even though we are used to a difficult situation, there were more challenges and uncertainties that we encountered in the past year. Regardless of the different obstacles we have to overcome, all of the experiences brought by those challenges have become a motivation for the children of Maya’s Hope foundation. This motivation creates the eagerness and willingness of these young people to dream and aim high for their future. Maya’s Hope is the light and hope of these young dreamers to overcome and win their battles in their journey of life.

It’s been a year since the students engaged in new modes of learning because of the health restrictions due to the pandemic. Some of the students are taking online classes and some of them are studying through modular learning or blended learning. Even though they are now used to the new system of education, there are still challenges that they have encountered. It’s been a crucial year for the students to shift to a new mode of learning and some students are still not adjusted to be in this kind of system.

- Some of the students have problems with the internet connections and it sometimes affects their learning. Moreover, not all students have an internet connection and gadgets that they can use for online classes.

- Another challenge has been finding a conducive place to do their school works. Noise and other distractions affect the focus of students when doing their tasks or even attending online class.

- Since the students are taking their school work and online classes at home, there are instances when they find it difficult to handle their school activities together with their household chores, so they needed to be responsible and have proper time management.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also affected a number of families because some family members have lost their jobs. But most have figured out a way to survive and have at least a small income. Some have tried selling street foods, selling various products online, planting vegetables and fruits to sell, and so on just to make money. In fact, it was not only the parents who thought of ways to earn money; even the sponsored kids are eager to help the family in their own simple way. And of course, with the help provided by the Maya’s Hope Foundation, kids and their household are able to buy their daily needs.

It cannot be denied that the pandemic the world is currently experiencing really made a vast impact on students, especially in terms of studying method and habits. But despite all the changes and challenges that came along the way, none of these has prevented the sponsored kids from excelling in their academic performances. All Maya’s Hope kids are re-
minded that education is an important thing that no one can take away from them and that it will certainly open doors of many opportunities in the future. These kids have their motivations that inspire them to continue believing in the power of their dreams. And with that, the sponsored kids always give hundred percent in doing school activities, performance tasks, and projects assigned to them. They do their best in order to pursue and achieve their dreams and get the better life and future that they want to have. The strong desire to continue learning helps them focus and persevere in turning their dreams into reality one step at a time.

As a result, many of the sponsored kids received awards and recognition as the fruit of their hard work and dedication in their studies. Some received a certificate for their active participation during discussion even in virtual class. There are kids that are recognized for having high computed grades either with honors, with high honors or with highest honor. And lastly, there are students who completed junior high school or graduated senior high school.

Some of the college students also excelled in their academic performances and received recognitions. They maintained a general weighted average that is needed to be included in the Gold Gear Award of their University like President’s or Dean’s List Award. The graduating students also successfully completed their on-the-job training or internships in the industries where they are deployed.

Aside from having academic awards, some of the students also actively participated in extra and co-curricular activities that also play a major role in nurturing and enhancing their skills and abilities. Some of the activity includes joining a student organization as officer or member where leadership, responsibility, and other skills and values are honed and developed. Also, there are sponsored kids who participated in contests that don’t just showcased their God-given talents and skills but also provide fulfillment, joy and satisfaction from doing what they love and what they are good at.

It is true that working for the attainment of one’s goals is not that easy. It is actually quite challenging and full of obstacles but by having focus, strong will, and faith, nothing will be impossible. And overcoming these adversities will result to the harvest of a pleasant reward just like what Maya’s Hope Kids are experiencing. But all these achievements, rewards and recognitions are not only attributable to the passion, hard work and determination of the kids. The people who ceaselessly provide support as they go on with their journey are a great part of the success. Medals, trophies and certificates are just symbols of achievement but what is more rewarding is making their family, friends and Maya’s Hope Foundation proud. Nothing is more fulfilling than giving back to the people who trusted and stayed even in times of challenges.
Meet Marleen!
A Maya’s Hope Volunteer

Tell us a little about yourself and background?
My name is Marleen and I am a volunteer interviewer and HR recruiter for Maya’s Hope. I’ve lived in New York all of my life and currently reside on Long Island. I have had an eclectic career ranging from working in the private business sector to teaching. In addition to Maya’s Hope, I volunteer with a local literacy organization providing services for disadvantaged populations and the American Red Cross, in multiple capacities. I began working with Maya’s Hope in July 2021 and am so fortunate to be part of this wonderfully amazing foundation.

How did you find Maya’s Hope?
I saw an ad posted on Indeed and visited the Maya’s Hope website. Maya’s mission and philosophy resonated with me because of the tremendous
 Meet Our Great Volunteers. Thank you for all you do!

indigence of the families and of course, because of the sweet children who are suffering and in dire need.

What attracted you to the organization in the first place?
My attraction to Maya’s Hope was founded on my desire to make a difference in the lives of families with children who are in desperate need.

What do you like best about Volunteering at Maya’s Hope?
Volunteering with Maya’s Hope has given me an opportunity to meet so many wonderfully diverse people and form connections with both our team members and the families we help. And, of course, seeing the children thrive and their parents smile is priceless.

What is the most challenging thing about volunteering at Maya’s Hope?
I find it very challenging to know that the families’ plights are ongoing and will probably be lifelong. The help we provide is invaluable. I am glad when I hear of a child that was sponsored through Maya’s Hope doing well in college and graduating, despite their life’s circumstances! It’s good to know that we also focus on the long-term well-being of children. Lack of money forces these children to work - and they deserve to wear a school uniform. I am comforted knowing that we are truly making a difference on a day to day basis.

What have you learned about yourself while volunteering?
I learned that I am happiest when I am doing something for others. I also learned that I am blessed to have the life and opportunities I have.

Any book recommendations?
Seedfolks by Paul Fleischman

Favorite thing to do in New York?
EAT!!! 🍎
The Maya’s Hope Lotus Ball was held at the Players Club in Gramercy Park. We were delighted to welcome our special guests, The Richardson Family, who adopted Dasha and Vladi from Ukraine. Dasha and Vladi had received assistance from Maya’s Hope prior to being adopted.

Thanks to our donors and sponsors, we raised over $190,000.00!
Steven T. Young accepted the Michael T. Meltzer Humanitarian Award. This is awarded each year to acknowledge the efforts, dedication and service of extraordinary individuals making an impact in the lives of children around the world.

Steven is the Chief Marketing Officer of Poshmark, where he leads growth, product, and brand marketing. He has been a supporter of Maya’s Hope since its inception, and he deeply believes in its mission. We were delighted to acknowledge Steve’s contribution to helping children in need!

The Richardson Family
Jamie Richardson, who together with her husband Christopher, adopted Dasha and Vladi from Ukraine. Dasha and Vladi had received assistance from Maya’s Hope prior to being adopted. We were honored to have Jamie tell us her family’s story via video message at our gala.
Thank you again for your kindness and generosity, for helping us to make this the best gala yet, and for joining us in celebrating ten wonderful, productive years. We extend a warm expression of appreciation to all of our sponsors and donors, notably the John & Daria Barry Foundation, Fairy Pardiwalla, and Stephanie & Philippe Dauman. We also would like to recognize our honoree, Steven T. Young, for his generous contributions and continuing Ambassadorship.

During the last 10 years, Maya’s Hope has provided nutrition, medical supplies and education to some of the poorest children on the planet. These are some of the children. We asked them what they wanted to be when they grow up.

Lucy Anne wants to be a nurse!

Angelica wants to be a teacher!

Wilfredo wants to be a policeman!
Gala Chairs
Julia Maksimova
Michael Meltzer

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Alexis Wilpon
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Vivek Kovivalla
Before I started working with Maya’s Hope, I used my laptop to do regular tasks like type homework assignments, video chat with friends, and watch TV shows. However, after becoming an intern at Maya’s Hope in March of 2021, my laptop quickly transformed into a portal to the Philippines, over 8,400 miles away with a 12+ hour time difference - right into the homes and lives of the children we serve as an organization.

As I got the chance to directly speak to and hear the stories of these families on my laptop, some common themes appeared. The houses in the videos sent to us are humble, but they are woven together with love and pride. The mothers and fathers are tired, but they are fiercely committed to making sure their children receive proper and adequate care. The hardships they face are tough and all-consuming, but the relief and joy from the help we provide is palpable.

My laptop also connected me to the Maya’s Hope team, an international collection of people from all ages and backgrounds, united in tirelessly working for the children in our organization with compassion and dedication. Guided by Maya, a network of translators, interview committees, field workers, and many more team members make magic happen every day. Behind the scenes, the donations from our supporters are turned into both life-changing things like emergency surgeries and caregivers and basic necessities like formula and diapers.

One day, while working, a video popped up on my screen that a mother sent us, snuggled up with her baby and crying tears of joy. We were able to fund several diagnostic tests for her son, along with his other monthly needs like medications and vitamins.

Our team was also simply there for her as a mother going through uncertain and frightening times. We listened to her concerns, offered comfort and support, and cheered her son on as he grew stronger. In those moments, 8,400 miles away never seemed closer.

When I log off and close my laptop, this portal doesn’t close. These most deserving children and the love and perseverance they represent have formed deep roots in my heart. Always grateful for the experiences Maya’s Hope has provided, I have since graduated college and started a full-time career in nonprofit management.

I hope the next time you open your laptop, you are inspired to donate to this worthy cause, to read the stories of the Maya’s Hope children, to become a volunteer on our team, or to just spread hope as far as you can reach. 💜
Baby Rai Christopher – a Miracle!

Baby Rai is probably one of the more miraculous cases we took on in 2021. The doctors predicted he would most likely not make it.

“Hi Maya’s Hope. We talked to the doctor who will operate. There is a high risk that the operation will be dangerous and will take the baby from us. Whatever the result will be, we will be ready. Instead of just taking my baby home and see my baby suffer. So now we’re here and we will continue the surgery. We’re ready for any outcome. I know my baby will fight during the operation. Thank you Maya’s Hope for the never ending support and help especially for my baby. Thank you Maya’s Hope.” – Baby Rai’s mother

Baby Rai was born in January and lived in a very poor household. He was born with hydrocephalus and Dandy-Walker syndrome. His head was extremely oversized when his mother reached out to Maya’s Hope. He urgently needed a surgery to relieve the pressure in his skull.

Post surgery, he needed very specialized care in the ICU. Thanks to your donations, Baby Rai went home with his mother! Just take a look at him today!

“He started to be active and stubborn, he laughs a lot and he moves around like if he wants to reach his bottle, since he can’t crawl or stand, he’ll roll until he is able to get his bottle. He would also reach his legs to his hands so he can get it. As a mom, it’s a joy to see his improvement!”

This year was the year of changed priorities. Orphanages we supported before became more sustainable and part of the help they needed was covered with their own budget.

More than the usual number of kids found their parents.

At the same time the number of families who looked for our help increased.

More than 50 families who needed surgeries, medicines, medical exams, special nutrition, diapers etc. were supported by us in 2021.

Some of our kids received special equipment such as wheelchairs, strollers, verticalizers (special equipment to hold children in a standing position), orthopedic shoes, blood analyzers etc.

Eight new kids found their parents in the foster homes supported by Maya’s Hope!

The teachers hired by us are trying not just to teach something new but to give activities and tasks to children so their life become more interesting and colorful.

A Note from Rafael

Maya’s Hope Program Coordinator in Ukraine
Families We Have Helped
THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 CORPORATE SPONSORS!

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2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets, Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</th>
<th>Statement of Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets:</strong></td>
<td><strong>2021</strong>  <strong>2020</strong>  <strong>2019</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Equivalents</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>354,008</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Statement of Activities**

**Public Support & Revenues**
- Contributions                     513,708  408,574  211,779
- Paycheck Protection Program       –        11,263  –
- Special Events (net of expenses)  180,952  84,515  108,229
- Donated Goods & Services          –        3,566  10,101
- Return on Investment              430       201   366
- Net Assets Released from Restriction –        –       –

**Total Public Support & Revenues**
695,090  508,119  330,475

**Expenses**
- Program Services                  517,347  349,470  227,933
- Management & General              81,070   67,581   64,863
- Fundraising                       11,050   6,576   15,531

**Total Expenses**
609,467  423,627  308,327

**Change in Net Assets**
85,623  84,492  22,148

**Net Assets - Beginning of Year**
201,913  117,421  95,273

**Net Assets - End of Year**
287,536  201,913  117,421

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Excerpted from the 2021, 2020 & 2019 annual financial statements audited by Wegner CPAs.
Thank you to all of our 2021 Donors!

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Fatima Hernandez
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Hall
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Joy Hanchett
Lori Haney
Huma Haq
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Mary Harrington
Lammi Harrison
Teal Hart
AnTracey Hawkins
Joanne Hedstrom
Jeremiah Helm
Nicholas Henschel
Eric Hernandez
Fatima Hernandez
Rebecca herrick
Vanda High

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- Molton Brown
- New York City Ninja
- NY Kids Club
- NUORI
- Ophelia & Indigo
- OPTE
- Pink Chicken New York
- Poshed & Proper
- Punk Rope
- Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers
- Sailor’s Sweet Life, LLC/
- Nicole Seawell
- SEAK
- Slip
- Sola Spa Club
- Strand Book Store
- Stumpy’s Hatchet House
- Tac Ops: A Tactical Laser Tag Experience
- The Goodnight Group
- The Savory Slate
- Theory
- Todd Harris Makeup
- Valery Joseph Salon
- Vena’s Fizz House
- Watson Adventures LLC
- Win Son Bakery
- Yip Fitness LLC

NY Kids Club
NUORI
Ophelia & Indigo
OPTE
Pink Chicken New York
Poshed & Proper
Punk Rope
Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers
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The Goodnight Group
The Savory Slate
Theory
Todd Harris Makeup
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Watson Adventures LLC
Win Son Bakery
Yip Fitness LLC
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Janet Ang
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Valerie Angelitud
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Crystal Ayala
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Sarah Aymar

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The 2021 Donors generously donated to Maya’s Hope from January 1 - December 31, 2021. Every donor is valuable to Maya’s Hope. We apologize if we have omitted any name from this list.
The thought of being an ambassador did not cross my mind initially. In 2020, I was looking for an organization to volunteer with and help children. I was lucky enough to stumble upon Maya’s Hope. The Maya’s Hope mission of working to improve the quality of life of orphaned, impoverished, and special-needs children on a global scale truly resonated with me. The fact that the Philippines was one of the countries was an added blessing to me given that I was born and raised in the Philippines. After about two solid years as a volunteer serving distinct roles within Maya’s Hope, I had the opportunity to truly see and understand the needs of our children and their families. I was amazed at what our families were going through and how they can manage with very little support financially, physically, and emotionally. There were happy moments but there were also many unforgettable sad times with our children. Life in the Philippines is hard, I cannot imagine living there with a special needs child with very little help. Hats off to our Maya’s Hope children and families.

When the opportunity to be a Maya’s Hope ambassador opened, I did not even think twice. I wanted to be an ambassador. I want to be able to help our vulnerable population, I want to help more children by sharing the life-changing work of Maya’s Hope. I want to recruit and create a community of people like all of us who care about helping children experience life in all its fullness. I have a strong passion for helping people. I believe in giving hope and light to the people around us especially to those whom most people would consider the least of these. I hope to promote work to improve the lives of children and families living in poverty through inspiration, commitment, and collaboration amongst others. I want to shine a light in our children with the help of our Maya’s Hope family because in these children’s day-to-day lives, it is dark and unfriendly...together, we can illuminate kindness.

Why I Chose to be an Ambassador for Children Through Maya’s Hope

by Mari Pantoja-Smith

Do You Want to be an Ambassador?

• Help disabled, orphaned and impoverished children survive and thrive!

• Help us to share our mission and message, online and in-person, and actively be an advocate for the children we serve.

• Become a valued and philanthropic member of a reputable non-profit organization.

• Mission Ambassador Yearly Award and preferred invitation to the Maya’s Hope Gala.

Interested in becoming a Mission Ambassador for Maya’s Hope?
Contact maria@mayashope.org.
Sponsor a Child
Find their campaigns on our social media

MAYA’S HOPE
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www.mayashope.org

Maya’s Hope is a 501(c)3 non profit dedicated to helping cutie pies around the world.

Every Child Has Value.
You Can Transform A Child’s Life Today!