



2nd Mile Missions

2024 IMPACT REPORT



Contents

Welcome Letter	5
Our Mission, Vision & Values	6-7
What We Do	8-13
Where We Work	14-15
Impact	16-19
Partnerships	20-21
Financials	22
Ways to Engage	23
Our Team	24-25
Gratitude	27







A Note from our Executive Director

Welcome to our 2023-2024 Impact Report. As we reflect on the past year, we're reminded of **God's faithfulness and the life-changing power of prayer.**

Our mission to **educate kids in the Dominican Republic and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ** has driven every decision and triumph. Throughout the year, our dedicated staff embraced their roles as changemakers, **impacting students' lives with love and guidance rooted in the teaching of Jesus.**

One of the highlights of the 2023-2024 school year was witnessing the graduation of students like Sonia, who thanks to our sponsorship program, overcame barriers to education, graduated at the top of her class, and now faces a future full of promise. Thirty-one additional students joined Sonia in graduating this year (11 of whom were sponsored) and six have been at the 2nd Mile Education Center since preschool or 1st grade, showcasing the **enduring impact of our commitment to providing quality, Christ-centered education.**

Our achievements are a testament to the dedication of our team, the generosity of our supporters, the strength of our partnerships, and most importantly, the faithfulness of God. As we navigate the challenges and celebrate victories, it is clear that **our desire to serve the Lord has been the driving force behind our success.**

As you explore the pages that follow, may you be inspired by the impact we have collectively created. **Together, we are writing a story of hope, resilience, and empowerment that extends far beyond any single year.** I invite you to celebrate with us, reflect on the lives changed, and embrace the boundless potential that lies ahead.

Mason McIntyre
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Our Mission

2nd Mile Missions educates kids in the Dominican Republic and shares the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We aim to educate, equip, and empower our students with the tools needed to break free from spiritual, educational, and generational poverty.

Our Vision

Education changes everything.

Education empowers, gives voice, and provides hope for a future story. It is the key to alleviating poverty and inequality. Education is worth fighting for.



Our Values



We value Christ-centered action

We will never compromise our ability to share the love of Christ.

We value the ability to impact the lives of children

By providing life change for children, we are impacting the cycle of poverty where it starts.

We value the ability to intimately understand and empower those we serve

Building relationships with people allows us to know their culture so we can help without hurting.

We value the ability to connect through story

Individuals who partner with us are motivated to get involved by what they see, and their experience allows them to share their own story - in turn, inspiring others.

We value the ability to respond to those in need

When God presents an opportunity, it is our responsibility to find a way to respond.

What We Do

Primarily focused on removing the educational barriers that keep over 100,000 students nationwide from attending school, ***2nd Mile Missions exists to educate kids in the Dominican Republic and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.***

Through our initiatives, we aim to equip our students with the tools needed to break free from the spiritual, educational, and generational cycles of poverty that have entrapped them.

What began as a humble two-classroom school nestled behind a small church in the village of Monte Verde has blossomed into the construction of two schools, providing a quality, Christ-centered education to nearly 1,200 children annually.

365

Students Enrolled at
Hope Academy

778

Students Enrolled at
2nd Mile Education Center





Why Education?

According to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 26, **everyone has the right to education**. However, many children around the world experience barriers that make this basic human right difficult to access. In the Dominican Republic, 100,000+ children are denied access to public education every year due to overcrowding and staffing issues. **For us, that's a problem.**

Education changes everything. It is one of the strongest instruments for reducing poverty and improving health, gender equality, peace, and stability. Education needs to be accessible, affordable, and high-quality so students, families, and communities can flourish. **We believe long-lasting change comes from an education rooted in the values of Jesus.** By integrating a biblical worldview into school curriculum, it can transform the minds and spirits of children who grow up to be the world's next thinkers, innovators, and leaders.



2023-24 Sponsorship Theme Verse

*"You crown the year with a bountiful harvest; even the hard pathways overflow with abundance." **PSALM 65:11***

The Gift of Access

The 2nd Mile Missions Sponsorship Program exists to provide educational opportunities and spiritual enrichment to help children disrupt the cycle of poverty in their community. Imagine your child being turned away from attending your local public school because classrooms are at capacity. Your only choice is to send them to private school, which can cost up to \$200/month, but you are making less than \$10/day. It's a choice no parent should have to make, but one many parents in the Dominican Republic are faced with. **Our goal is to remove barriers like these that prevent children in the DR from accessing quality education.** We do this by matching students from the DR with individuals from the US, who provide scholarships to fund education programs that benefit the sponsored students.

During the 2023-24 school year, the sponsorship program experienced tremendous growth. In Fall 2023, we set a goal of sponsoring an additional 30 students at Hope Academy. Through our marketing efforts and opportunities to share publicly about sponsorship, we gained 36 new sponsors that are covering 52 new sponsorships. Words cannot express how grateful we are that these **children have been given the access** to quality, Christ-centered education.

2023-24
FAST
facts

363 SPONSORED STUDENTS

274 SPONSORS

\$2.2 MILLION GIVEN IN SCHOLARSHIPS SINCE 2010



Dignified Employment

In the heart of our mission lies not only the empowerment of communities we serve, but also the empowerment of our own team members. **We recognize that behind every successful school are the dedicated individuals who commit their time, energy, and passion to make it possible.**

At 2nd Mile Missions, we consider our staff members as an integral part of our extended family. With 41 dedicated team members in the Dominican Republic, **we prioritize their well-being by ensuring fair wages** that align with local standards. This commitment extends beyond mere compensation; it's about honoring the dignity of our team members and valuing their contributions to our shared mission.

By providing dignified employment, we not only support our team members and their families but also invest in the growth and sustainability of our organization. **Our staff members are not just employees; they are changemakers and partners in our mission to educate kids and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**





Where We Work

The Dominican Republic is an island nation known for its rich culture and beautiful landscapes. With a population of approximately

10.6M,

it is the second largest Caribbean nation. It occupies the eastern two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola, which it shares with Haiti.

Private schools cost as much as

\$150 - 400

a month and most families in the DR live on less than

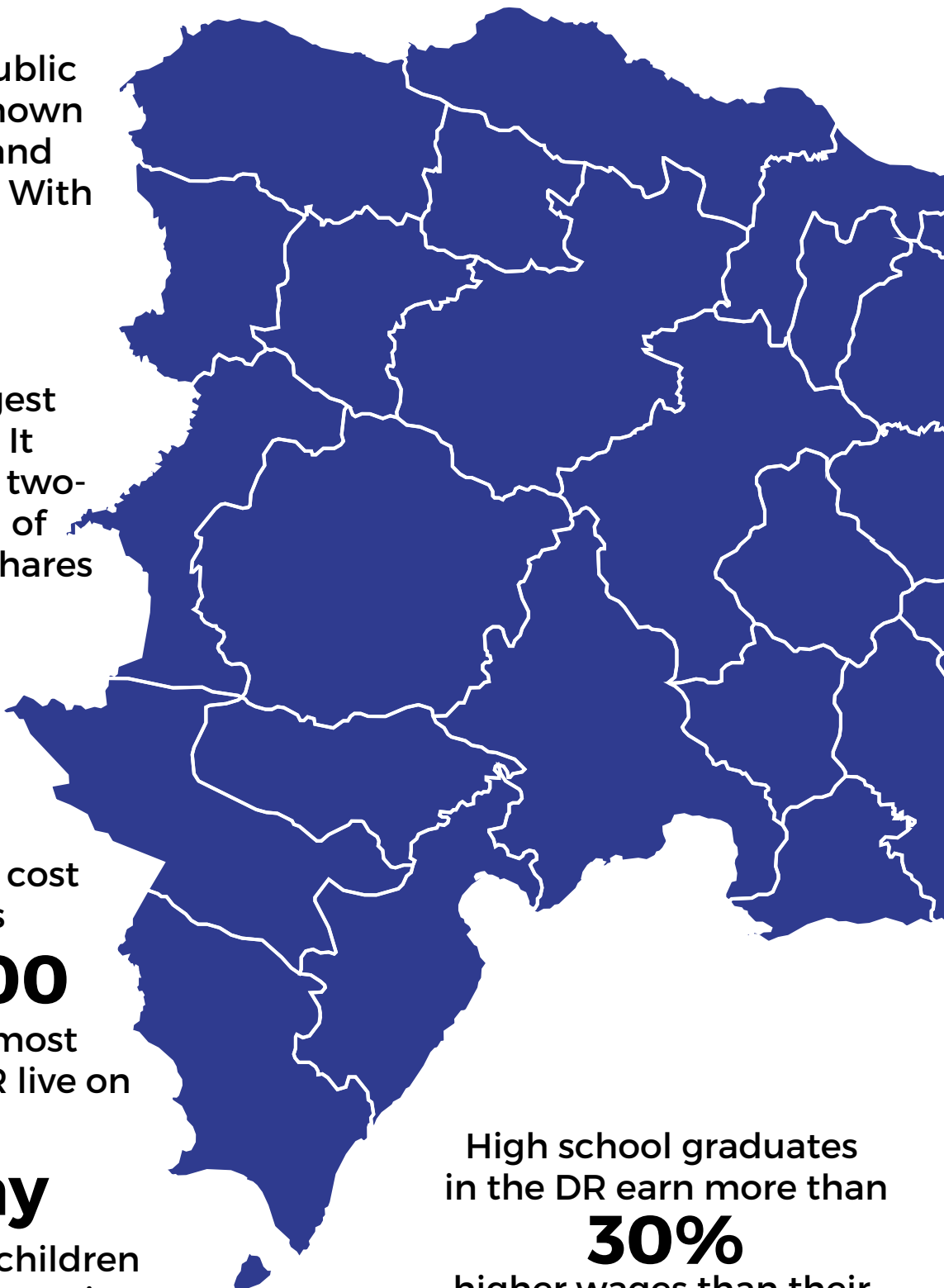
\$10/day

This leaves many children without the opportunity to attend school.

High school graduates in the DR earn more than

30%

higher wages than their peers who do not finish high school.



Friusa, Bavaro, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

8,000+

students in the Bavaro, Friusa community are denied access to public education each year.

Fewer than

10%

of the nearly

3.7

million children in the Dominican Republic will graduate from high school.

Bavaro

Punta Cana

While the Dominican Republic is now a middle income country, more than

30%

of Dominicans still live in poverty.

Roughly

90%

of students in the DR will complete elementary school, but only

50%

of those students will graduate high school.



Changemakers

When you hear the word “changemaker,” who comes to mind? Perhaps Mother Teresa or some other well known leader or advocate whose life work centers around eradicating social injustices or making positive changes in the world. **Being a changemaker is not isolated to those with power, financial resources or great influence. In fact, we all have the opportunity to be changemakers right in our own sphere of influence.**

Last Fall at Hope Academy, just weeks into the new school year, a special lunch was held to honor and celebrate the unsung heroes of our organization: the teachers. Each teacher received a simple yet meaningful token of our appreciation: a t-shirt with the words, “I am a Changemaker” written across the front. Beyond the fabric lay a deeper message—a testament to the profound impact educators have on shaping lives and molding futures. In the classrooms of Hope Academy, **these educators aren't merely instructors; they are architects of change, sculptors of dreams, and beacons of hope.**

To be a changemaker within the walls of a classroom is to possess the courage to ignite minds, instill values, and foster a spirit of resilience and determination in every child who walks through the doors. **It's a commitment to nurturing not just intellect, but character, and to imparting knowledge that each student has value and is loved by a merciful and good God.** Our teachers embody this commitment daily, selflessly pouring their hearts into providing a quality, Christ-centered education for the students of Hope Academy in the Dominican Republic. Their unwavering dedication, compassion, and faith serve as a beacon of light, guiding countless young lives toward a future filled with promise and purpose. **As we reflect on their efforts this school year, we extend our deepest gratitude to these changemakers, for they are the heartbeat of our mission and the champions of hope for generations to come.**





Raising the Bar

Written by Odelice Ramirez, Hope Academy Principal

The past three years have been a journey full of joys and challenges, but **every day we are motivated, dedicated and passionate about “raising the bar” on the education we provide.** We offer a Christ-centered education so that God’s love can be revealed to the students and their families.

Our morning program offers all instruction in English and our afternoon classes are taught in Spanish. The families in each program are different, however, **they all become one big family** when participating in the activities we offer throughout the year such as Family Day, Christmas, and our Mother’s Day celebration in May.

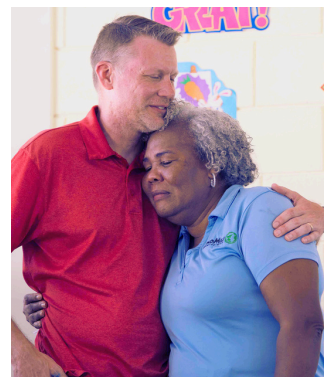
During the 2023-24 school year, **we went through the vigorous process of acquiring accreditation for our school.** The process required endless hours of gathering information to present to the Ministry of Education that will allow us to officially graduate our 6th graders to high school. We are very proud of the effort from all staff members to complete the process and are thrilled to share that **we have passed and are now fully accredited!**

I am grateful for the difference we are making in Bavaro and Friusa by preparing our students to transform the entire community.

Honoring Odelice

Written by Mason McIntyre, Executive Director

It is with a mixture of joy and sadness that we announce the retirement of Odelice, our beloved Hope Academy Principal, who has been an inspiration to all of us over the past 3 years. **Her legacy of selflessness and faithful dedication to our mission to provide a quality, Christ-centered education to children in the Dominican Republic will forever be a part of 2nd Mile Missions.**



Transformational Teaching



Ivonne Hidalgo's mother has always been a huge influence in her life, ultimately motivating her to become a teacher by raising her with deep-rooted values, commitment, respect, and love. Ivonne shared how her mom taught her to be the best she can be in whatever she does - something she has learned to appreciate more since becoming a teacher.

This past year, her first teaching 4th grade, was a year of growth and perseverance. Dealing with a variety of behavior issues made each day a challenge. However, Ivonne set a goal to use her student's behavior as an opportunity to teach them about respect, a lesson woven throughout her teaching all year.

Ivonne knows teachers have many roles in their student's lives - mother, counselor, and nurse to name a few, and it's important to show empathy in dealing with each of the precious little people God places in her care. **Ivonne's ability to accept her students right where they are, while loving them enough to challenge them to be the best they can be, will undoubtedly transform their lives beyond their time in her classroom.**

Do You Have a "YES Story?"

Addison Whitaker, a senior at Warsaw High School, went on a 2nd Mile Missions Awareness Trip to the DR with Wildman in October 2023. Her "Yes Story" started by simply saying yes to going on the trip. "My Grandpa was a pastor and while growing up and attending his church, **I always knew I wanted to go on a mission trip.** So when Leslie Wildman asked me and a friend to go on a trip to the DR, I knew right away, that God was telling me to go. **I am so glad I said "yes," because that trip changed my life forever."**

"On the plane ride home, I started brainstorming ideas about starting a club at the high school and a few months later, the 2nd Mile Club started meeting. **Our main goal is to help disrupt the cycle of poverty locally and abroad.** We also hope to spread awareness to other people our age about poverty."

Addison shares, "Saying yes has changed me in so many ways. Seeing 2nd Mile Missions help children go to school and get the education they need is so incredibly inspiring. **I have grown much closer to God through this journey. He has given me many amazing opportunities and I feel like I am doing what He has led me to do."**



Each of us, at some point in our walk with the Lord, will be given an opportunity, like Addison, to answer "yes" to whatever God is asking us to do. **What is your "yes" story?**

Partnerships



VIDA PLENA

Vida Plena means “full life,” which is the goal for the women who are employed in the workshop. **Vida Plena exists to see the women flourish economically, emotionally, physically, and spiritually.** This is accomplished through artisan trade training, adult literacy classes, and dignified employment.

2nd Mile Missions supports Vida Plena by partnering to provide adult literacy classes and spiritual enrichment to the women employed by Vida Plena.

Impact Spotlight

In February 2023, Caleb & Courtney France applied to the US Citizenship & Immigration Service’s “Haitian Parole Process” as beneficiaries for two incredibly talented team members working in the DR as Haitian refugees. Miraculously, both Mirtha (Vida Plena Shop Manager) and Cale (2nd Mile Missions Sponsorship Coordinator) were approved for 2 year visas to work and study in the US. Mirtha and Cale arrived in Chicago on December 18th and are now living and working in Chicago and Fort Wayne, Indiana, respectively.

VIDA PLENA *fast facts*

Artisans employed full-time: 45

Production for bracelets & accessories: 2,000/day

Loans/Grants and Leases provided:

***100+** grants for medical care & medication

***8** grants for documentation

***\$12,000** grant for food & personal hygiene products

In the heart of our mission lies a steadfast commitment to empowering communities and nurturing hope through education and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our partnership with Wildman exemplifies this commitment through a collaboration that resonates with transformation and purpose. Throughout the past year, our partnership with Wildman has been marked by moments of profound impact and shared purpose.

Led by our Operations Manager, Sue Vercauteren, and Executive Director, Mason McIntyre, we embarked on a series of vision trips alongside CEO, Josh Wildman, and his wife, Leslie, and their dedicated team. These trips serve as powerful reminders of the importance of giving back.

Through their annual contributions, Wildman ensures that 20% of their profit goes towards supporting local and global organizations like 2nd Mile Missions. These trips not only provide tangible experiences, but also ignite a sense of purpose among Wildman employees, reminding them that their hard work directly contributes to creating a better world.



Monte Verde Church



In the heart of Monte Verde stands a humble church, where the vision of 2nd Mile Missions was born. It was here in 2006 that our founders, Rod and Nancy Wildman, had their hearts shattered for the children in this community. Two small classrooms in the back of this church marked the beginning of a journey to change lives.

Under the lasting leadership of Pastor Elvis, **the church continues to be a beacon of hope in a dark and broken community.** Even as 2nd Mile Missions has expanded its reach beyond the church school with the 2nd Mile Education Center and Hope Academy, Pastor Elvis continues to provide education for local children at the church.

In October 2023, Eduardo Castillo, Country Director, led a project to replace the worn-out roof, a crucial step after Hurricane Fiona left its

mark in the fall of 2022. With support of Warsaw Community Church and several generous donors, the church received a facelift, symbolizing renewal and resilience. In January, a team from Wildman, added the final touches, painting the church's exterior.

We're grateful for Pastor Elvis and his long standing commitment to serving this community. **The church in Monte Verde remains a testament to the power of faith and partnership, and will always be the heart and soul of 2nd Mile Missions.**



Outcast Redeemed

Our partnership with Outcast Redeemed began with a chance encounter in April 2022, during a work trip in the Dominican Republic for our US staff members. Through random connections, God brought us together, and since then, our collaboration has only strengthened.

In January 2023, a significant step was taken as Outcast Redeemed purchased a piece of property from us adjacent to the church in Monte Verde. During our ownership, this property had remained idle for about six years. But immediately after the purchase, Outcast Redeemed breathed new life into it, adding a pavilion, kitchen, and bathrooms, transforming it into a functional space to provide ministry opportunities to the residents of Monte Verde. The improved property has served as a valuable asset for the community, and we have benefitted from it as well on our mission trips, allowing us to better serve the children and families in Monte Verde.

Financial Report

2023-2024 REVENUE \$674,272

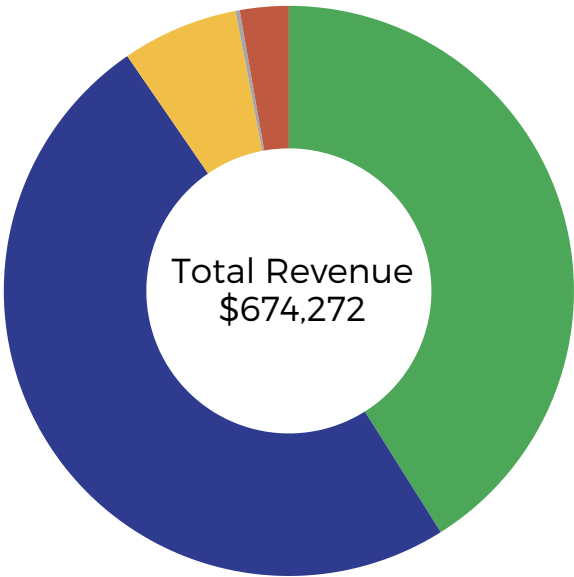
General \$276,832
General Fund Donations \$261,218
Community of Hope \$15,614

Education \$332,751
General Education \$143,677
Student Sponsorship \$189,074

House of Hope \$44,449
House of Hope General \$2,260
Sponsorship \$42,189

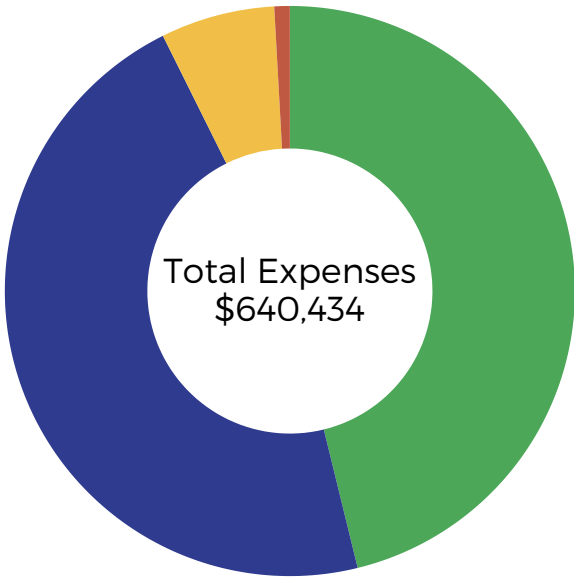
Rod and Nancy Wildman \$1,620
Legacy Fund

Fundraisers \$18,620
Play with a Purpose Golf Outing \$17,389
Hacienda Gives Back \$1,231



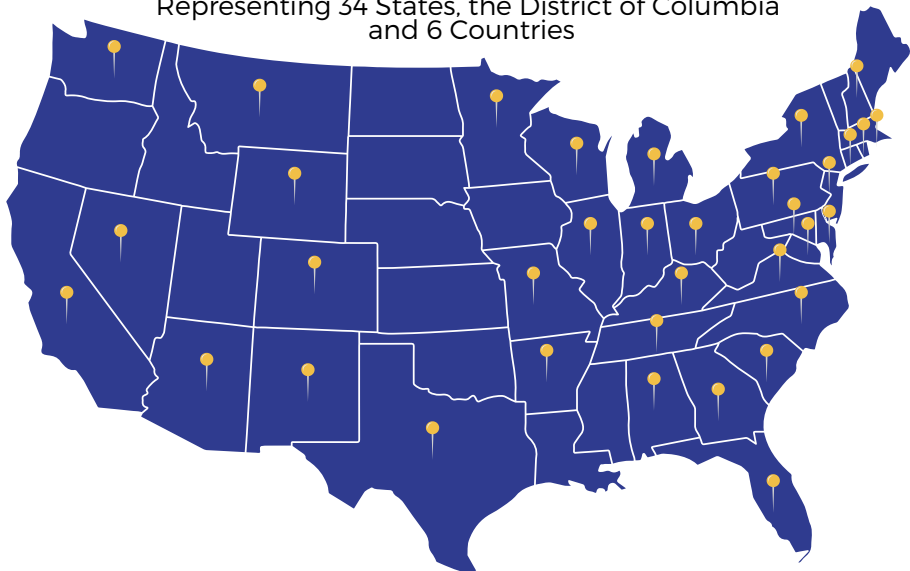
2023-2024 EXPENSES \$640,434

General Fund \$295,747
Education \$297,630
House of Hope \$41,444
Fundraisers \$5,613



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Representing 34 States, the District of Columbia
and 6 Countries



COUNTRIES:

Canada
Puerto Rico
Dominican Republic
Sweden
United Kingdom
Netherlands

Ways to Engage

We invite you and your family to walk with us toward our mission to educate kids in the Dominican Republic and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

PRAY

for our staff, our partners, and our mission. Pray also for school administrators, teachers, and students. Pray for our focus to remain on God's will above our own.



GO

see our work firsthand in the Dominican Republic. Join us on an Awareness Trip to tour our campus, meet your student, and witness how God is using 2nd Mile Missions.



GIVE

financially to further our mission to educate kids and tell them about Jesus. Help us provide quality, Christ-centered education to children in the Dominican Republic.



Discover more ways to engage with us at 2ndmilemissions.org/get-involved/

Our Team

Our staff is full of passionate people who are committed to loving God and serving the community of Bavaro using their unique gifts and experiences.

US Based



Mason McIntyre
Executive Director



Lisa Harstine
Marketing Director



Brooke Price
Sponsorship Director



Sue Vercauteren
Operations Manager

A Note from our Founders...

We have always been passionate about wanting kids to have an education and the opportunity to know and follow Christ. We knew from the beginning, that hundreds of children in Monte Verde in the DR were not given the chance to attend school. Our desire then was to provide the space for them, not only to have equal access to education, but to learn more about God and His eternal gift of salvation.



Today, we are proud that there are two schools full of children learning and growing every day. But the need has only grown since 2006. Now there are thousands of children in Monte Verde and the surrounding neighborhoods who don't go to school simply because there are not enough schools for all of them to attend. **We must continue to fight for these children** and use our resources to help build more schools until the needs are met. With God's help we can continue to follow the mission and vision that inspired 2nd Mile Missions 18 years ago.

DR Based



Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors is full of people with varied talents and experience who provide support, leadership oversight, and accountability to our 2nd Mile Missions team.

JEREMY RIFFLE
Chairman

AUDREY RUSSELL
Vice-Chairman

JIM HALLER
Treasurer

JORDAN ICKES
Secretary

ROD WILDMAN
Co-Founder

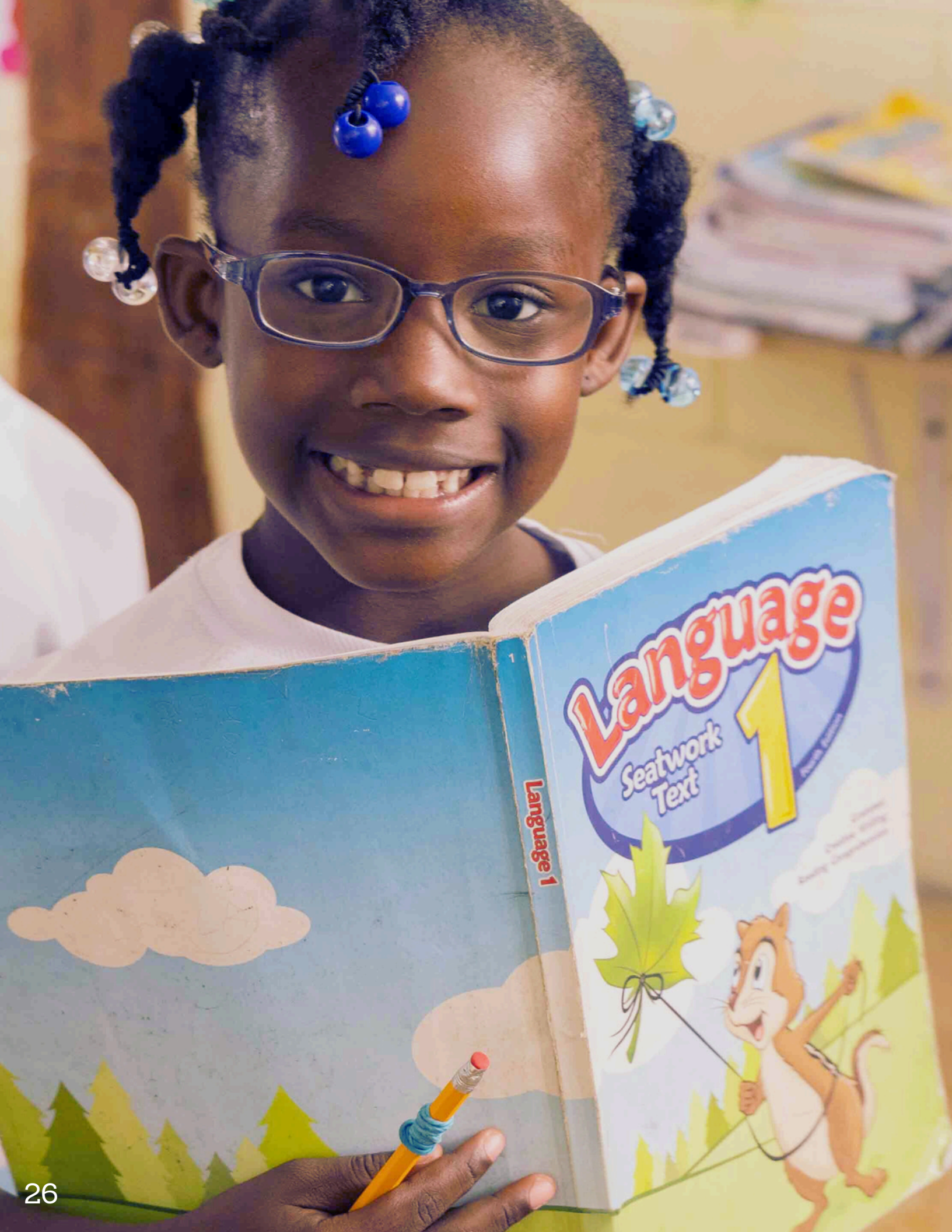
JERRY YEAGER
Member

STEVE SAVAGE
Member

KELSEY BREEDEN
Member

CALEB FRANCE
Member

KIRK BURNETT
Member





Thank You

As we conclude another remarkable chapter in our journey, **gratitude and inspiration fill our hearts.** This year has showcased the **goodness of God and the joy found in placing our hope in Him.**

Throughout the past year, our mission and values have been brought to life in every project, story and life touched. From the graduation of students to the dedication of our teachers and staff, **our commitment to spreading Christ's love by disrupting the cycle of poverty remains unchanged.**

Within these pages, you've encountered the **young faces of hope whose lives were forever changed by access to education.** You've seen the resilience of communities facing adversity, and the steadfast dedication of our team on the ground. Each quantitative figure in this report represents more than just a number; it symbolizes the countless hours, the sweat and tears, and heart poured into every endeavor and every challenge our team faced this year.

As we cast our collective gaze forward, we envision, with God, a circle of compassion. Then we imagine no one standing outside of that circle, moving ourselves closer and closer to the margins until the margins are finally erased (paraphrased from Gregory Boyle). **We imagine a future where barriers that exclude are eliminated, where all of our students know the love of Christ and are no longer bound by the chains of spiritual and economic poverty.**

With heartfelt appreciation, **we thank you for your steadfast support.** Together, we are not only rewriting the stories of today but also shaping the narratives of tomorrow. **Let us carry forward the spirit of unity, hope and resilience that defines 2nd Mile Missions.**

Mason McIntyre
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

