

Darla's Story:

A Heart for Making a Difference

Darla Carter, an Operations Manager from Marmaduke, Arkansas, **never imagined that a vacation to Punta Cana would change her life.** As she took in the beauty of the Dominican Republic, she was struck by the stark contrast of the poverty surrounding the resort. **Burdened by what she saw, Darla returned home determined to make a difference.** A simple Google search led her to 2nd Mile Missions, and our mission to disrupt the cycle of poverty through education resonated deeply with her.



Darla's journey of stepping into action began two years ago when she joined a sponsorship work trip and sponsored her first student, Johangel. **Reflecting on her decision, Darla shares, "Knowing I am making a difference in the life of a child is so rewarding. God has blessed me, and I pay it forward."** Even when Johangel transitioned out of our program, Darla didn't hesitate to continue her support, sponsoring Miguel, a 6-year-old student at Hope Academy.

Through sponsorship, Darla has discovered the power of compassion in action. "\$45 a month can change the entire trajectory of a child's life—not only theirs but their families as well," she says. **For Darla, sponsorship is about more than just financial support; it's about embracing our God-given responsibility to care for others, whether through physical acts of service or financial generosity.**

Darla's story is a reminder that when we open our eyes to the needs around us and step into the shoes of those in need, we find not only an opportunity to give but also to grow. Her faith and commitment to helping others serve as an inspiration for all of us to see the need and do something about it. **Together, we can follow her example and be a part of changing lives—one student, one family, one story at a time.**
