

Jen's Story:

A Heart Changed. A Life Transformed

For Jen Stevenson, supporting 2nd Mile Missions is not just about giving; it's about changing lives—including her own.

A year ago, Jen packed up her life in Toledo, Ohio, and moved to Angola, Indiana, with her two sons, Isaiah and Tytus, and their dog, Ruger. **Little did she know, a mission trip to the Dominican Republic in May 2024 would change her heart forever.**



Jen first heard about 2nd Mile Missions through Josh Wildman, who has long been a champion for the organization. **When Jen joined a Wildman Business Group team trip to the DR, she couldn't have anticipated how deeply the experience would impact her.** "All I wanted to do was help and go back!" she shared.

Meeting the children, witnessing their joy, and understanding their daily challenges opened Jen's eyes to how much she had to give. "I have so much," she explained. **"I wanted nothing more than to help in any way I possibly could."** That desire to give led Jen to sponsor Lisanne, a student at Hope Academy.

For Jen, being a sponsor is more than financial support—it's a deeply personal connection. She loves receiving pictures and worksheets from Lisanne and is thrilled that her sons are just as invested. "My boys want to see where Lisanne lives and help in any way they can." **Their family has been profoundly impacted by the opportunity to make a tangible difference.**

Jen's favorite memories from her trip are etched into her heart. She recalls visiting the village of Monte Verde shortly after a border patrol raid. Despite the tense atmosphere, the children's faces lit up with excitement. "All they wanted were hugs and smiles," she said. **Even with a language barrier, the connection she felt with the children was instant and undeniable.** Another unforgettable moment was listening to the women from Vida Plena worship God in song—a powerful reminder of resilience and faith in the face of hardship.

"These kids didn't choose their circumstances," Jen said passionately. "They deserve better. They can be better. I am amazed at how full of life, energy, and hope they are! They deserve to achieve whatever they want to in life—and we can help."

Since visiting the DR and becoming a sponsor, Jen's perspective has shifted. She sees her blessings more clearly and feels a deep responsibility to share them with others. **Her heart has been forever changed, and her life is richer for it.**

Jen's story is an invitation for all of us to step into the lives of others and make a difference.

Like her, you, too, can be part of giving a child the chance to thrive through education, faith, and love. And who knows? You might just find your own life transformed in the process.
