

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



www.sushijos.org



SusHijos / HisChildren



@SusHijos

Our 2022

Our 2022

2022 has been a busy year. This year we have experienced changes in the government centers and leadership which have caused us more paperwork, more forms to fill out, and special permission for different activities. As you know papers do not move fast anywhere, but especially in El Salvador so the children have suffered and have not been able to participate in all the activities that we had planned. Then on the 31 of December, a new leadership stepped in with new laws protecting the children. I am happy to say that our mission and vision of providing love, hope, and teaching that the Bible has not changed. We continue to help them every day.

Our work supporting the country's children and young adults is something that sets us apart as a Foundation. Not everything has returned to normal, but this can be a good thing. We continue to invite young adults who have aged out of the government orphanages and youth detention centers to come live at our Home. We continue motivating them to move forward, to fulfill their dreams and goals with work and education. When young hearts see who we serve and showing grace, is our biggest accomplishment. 2022 has been full of activities within the centers, with beach trips, sports, weekly bible studies, games, and celebrations. The States Diner Culinary school project is receiving new kids and even more from the youth incarceration centers. Partnering with our groups of missionaries that come to serve in El Salvador is proving that we are helping to change lives not only in El Salvador but around the world.

This work is a team effort with our staff, volunteers, and translators here in El Salvador and our United States His Children board, and Churches and organizations in the United States.

We are pleased and humbled to present our annual report for His Children / Sus Hijos.

"Working for the Lord, Working for His Children".

HIS CHILDREN / Sus Hijos

His Children, a 501 c-3, and Sus Hijos is a non-governmental organization created in 2011 to help girls, boys, and adolescents in government and private orphanages, and youth prisons in El Salvador.

After the Ackermann family moved here to El Salvador in 2003, called by God to work for the children of El Salvador, they started with the ministry of working with orphans in the centers and implementing projects to reunite families and show them God's love and grace. We wanted to make a permanent difference in children's lives, restore families and keep them together, whenever possible, or become the family they never had. For that reason, we are constantly growing to meet the ongoing needs of His children.

MISSION

That every child in orphanages and prisons will have an education upon which they can build a better life and job skills that will support them and their families. That they will have healthy families both mentally and physically. That they will have a loving relationship with God, and one day, eliminate all orphanages, so we will have a healthy generation.

VISION

We believe that the Bible is the word of God. We believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died on the cross to forgive us our sins. We believe in the Holy Spirit. We believe in the Trinity. We believe that God can do anything through prayer. We believe in Grace.

STAFF

Our strategy as a team is intimately linked to what we believe and our hope for the foundation, in such a way that our efforts are a tangible manifestation of the spirit that drives us in giving love. Our projects are divided into different programs about which we will share more details and their achievements.

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Since His Children / Fundación Sus Hijos began its work here in El Salvador, we have always been committed to improving our programs and projects. Over the years we have learned to know the needs the children and adolescents face in their daily lives in a country where crime, bad family conditions, unemployment, and lack of opportunities are prevalent. That is why as a Foundation we want to give them the necessary tools, teach them to respect others, and show everyone the love of God and His grace. Each of our projects directly affects another project. That is why we are committed to remaining focused on who we serve and why we serve them.

The projects that directly serve our beneficiaries are as follows:

1. States Diner Culinary School Program
2. Transition Homes
3. House Building
4. Bible Studies in centers which
5. Bible Studies in centers which
6. Feeding the Homeless
7. Mission Teams
8. Events and Celebrations

1. STATES DINER CULINARY SCHOOL PROGRAM

The States Diner Culinary School Program was launched to provide training and education to individuals who have experienced displacement, and who have left either private or government-supported orphanages or education support programs in El Salvador. The program encompasses four projects situated across five separate locations: our flagship establishment States Diner, The States Bakes - a bakery, States Diner Café - two snack bars and our second restaurant location, States Diner Station.

Our beneficiaries are the young adults who have been impacted by displacement, including those who have been involved with orphanages or the justice system. This population typically lacks prior job experience and financial literacy. Through our program, these individuals will be provided with their first job experience, as well as financial education, including opening a bank account, which is a key component of financial stability. Additionally, we will provide them with training, references, and other resources that will enhance their employability and increase their chances of finding employment in a country with a high unemployment rate, in turn, creating a pathway to a better future.



Year End 2022

With the continuation of our work with the government programs and youth prisons, this year we strengthened our work relationship with them. Throughout 2022, we had various employees from different government juvenile detention centers join and complete their trial periods. Of these employees, some were released and continued to work in the program. Many of our young adults from the boys and girls transition Home had successful training and employment.

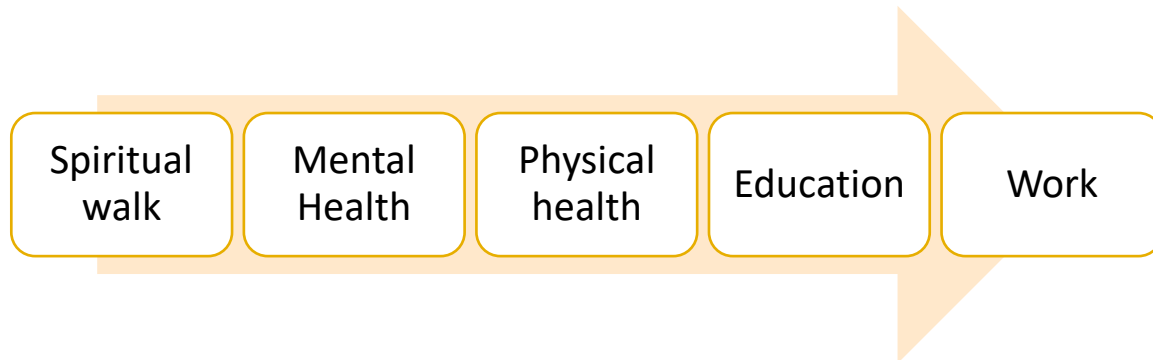
Our main focus of 2022 was to continue decreasing the financial dependency that this project has concerning the foundation as a whole. Comparatively to 2021, States Diner Culinary School Program was able to surpass gross income in 2022. While the program is still not generating income for the foundation, 2022 was a step closer in the right direction. In 2022 we pushed forward, growing our customer base compared to previous years. This was most noticeable in our park locations and the primary location, States Diner. As with every year there were difficulties, but this year was noteworthy due to the increase in customer flow throughout. This has led to a more defined and dependable customer base.

Number of Locations	Beneficiaries	Investment and income
5	175	\$1,022,535.49



2. Transition Homes

We have 5 strategic areas that we work with.



Our focus has been and will always be the complete healing of the young adults we work with. When a child turns **18**, He is out of the center where he grew up. No more time, not another day, just goodbye. When you have no family or you came from an abusive family, what do you do? Where do you go? The streets? The gangs? Prostitution? What if you are gay? There are thousands on the internet waiting to prey on you. We are here to fill that gap. So many of them have such tragic stories. We are committed to them, just like our own kids, because they have become just that... our children. They live in our Home that has grace. They know that they are now His Children. Education is one of our toughest challenges. To never have a base for learning, or studying, or they just know it will not be effective in a country filled with high unemployment and massive poverty. We are here to change that. We are here to raise the next generation and destroy this cycle. We want them to be independent. We have 3 children that are fully sponsored and 4 that are sponsored for education only.

Transition Houses	Boy Transition Home Cost	Girls Transition Home Cost
2	\$ 54,016.89	\$39,067.72

- **Boys Transition Home**

The Transition Home is named "Bosques de la Paz" after the neighborhood the first house was in 10 years ago. It is for young adult males 16-24 years of age who have been assigned to the foundation by the judges in El Salvador, have been released from the centers, or are leaving the youth prisons. Many of them have done some terrible things, but we show grace. The program lasts for two years, some choose to leave the program early when they are ready or because they do not want to live with rules. We have an open door; they can leave when they feel or believe they are ready. They have a separate living space inside our Home. They are loved.

Year End 2022

- We have 10 young men currently living in our Home.
- All the boys are studying, seeking degrees in cooking, English, psychology, business administration, social work, middle school, or High school.
- All the young men have stable jobs that guarantees them health benefits and social security.
- During the year, 7 boys left our Home to become independent, who we still see, support, some of them still work in the States Diner Culinary school program. We continue to pay for university, even after they leave our program. They also are welcome to come back Home for Bible studies and events.

- **Girls Transition Home**

The transition home for young ladies called "Manos del Alfaro" (hands of the potter) is in our Home where our boys live, and our teams stay. Girls have a separate set of challenges than boys do. They have their own separate space which has a living room, dining room, bedrooms, and space to get away, study, or just hang out. They learn to trust again, to become women, and to learn what respecting yourself means. They grow and mature to be the next generation of strong women in El Salvador.

Year End 2022

- Currently there are two girls living in the home, both are adapting to their new life and taking care of Eva the cat.
- Both are studying and working, some days it is a struggle when they are still trying to figure out what their passions are.
- During the year we also had to say goodbye to five girls. A few completed their 2 years, while others moved on to living independent lives, some are still working in our States Diner Culinary school, coming to Bible studies and many we are paying for university or training classes.
- At the end of the year our two coordinators, Mirna and Sarai left our foundation after several years of faithful service. While working for us they were able to study and receive degrees in what they are enthusiastic about and work in a field that they love. We love them and pray for Gods will to be done in their future.



- **The NEXT STEP**

The next step Home was created in 2022 for the young adults who have completed the Transition Home program. They are going to school, working, and becoming fully independent of the Foundation. We have found that in the city of San Salvador, there are more opportunities for work, better schools, and more amenities. It is also super expensive to live in the city. Our kids were paying up to \$200 a month for a room, usually in a dangerous area with a creepy landlord, small space and not feeling safe. We have a home that has all the basics and more. They pay rent, they live independently. We have a person in charge living there with them, but he is there to make sure they don't burn the place down. The other thing we offer is grace and love. Currently, we have 3 in our home, but in 2023 we will have many young people graduating from the Transition program.

3. House Building

Year End 2022:

We built **18** homes, which benefited over **60** people. This is all due to our teams, donors, and grants that we received from Gloria de Kriete and Dona tu Cora which are local nonprofits here in El Salvador. These families are finally safe. Out of the mud and dirt, they can now lock the doors and sleep knowing that they are safe from others breaking in. Can you imagine that this is the first time many of them have had a bed, clean sheets, and pillows? Our oldest beneficiary was 89-year-old and our youngest was 2 months.

We built **2** concrete forever homes and **16** wood homes for people who may not own the land, but they now own a house, allowing **60** people to have a new home who were living in plastic, mud, and metal houses.

It is also important that this year we delivered food baskets to families living in the communities where we are building with an average of **30** basic food baskets containing rice, beans, sugar, salt, oil, flour, spaghetti, and Bibles, this allowed us to feed over **2200** people.

Wood House / Concrete house building	Investment	Beneficiaries
18	\$85,583.94	60



4. Bible Study and Values

Since 2003 we have been visiting the centers and having Bible Study, with the kids. In 2014 the program became more formal, and we introduced the CBS bible study program to El Salvador which later became its own Non-profit program in El Salvador. The program is growing in the orphanages, and youth prisons where we work, both public and private. Our goal is to instruct children about the love of Christ, His grace, and the Bible. No religion. For them to know the infinite love that we personally receive day after day. We have had over **190** children and youth graduate this year with diplomas celebrating their dedication to learning His word.

The classes are a study of the Bible, promoting values that help spiritual growth, learning about God's love and mercy. The beneficiaries of this program are children and young adults from 7 different centers and homes with whom we worked every week in 2022.

Centers Name	Children in classes
1.Centro de Integración nacional para la niñez y la adolescencia (CISNA)	25
2.Hogar del niño “San Vicente de Paul”	75
3.Programa Cambia tu Vida (ISNA con sede en San Vicente de Paul)	18
4.Centro de Inserción Social “El Espino”	50
5.Ciudad de la Niñez y la adolescencia	40
6.Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos El Salvador (NPH)	30
7.Centro de Inserción Social en Ilopango “Femenino”	25

Year End 2022

2022 has been a great challenge due to upcoming changes in the children’s protection law (Lepina) for January 1, 2023. The new leadership for 2023 is called CONAPINA. The government has had many changes in 2022 in the directors of the centers and even the director of the whole ISNA and CONA program. Getting to work with someone new, who said that if we wanted to continue to work with the children we had to play by her rules, which meant weeks without Bible studies, missing outings to the beach, many fun days, and the Children of ISNA almost not being able to participate in our Angel tree activity where each child got a gift that they asked for. We also had several changes as a Foundation; however, the mission and vision of the foundation have not changed and we pushed through doing whatever we needed to do to show that these kids they are not a mistake, not forgotten but loved. Our team of staff and volunteers pulled together, and we did as many activities, as many Bible studies, and wasted many hours waiting at the doors of the

centers for permission to let us in. When we got in, we just "loved." The children in the youth prison look forward to us coming, so they can learn more about Him. They look forward to having a simple pack of cookies. They look forward to us coming without expectations. This is why we fight so hard to continue working in the Government centers. Most people and nonprofits have given up. We have not; we are still here, 20 years later. We are encouraged by the new leadership that Conapina is taking on. They have told us they are thankful for our help in the past and are looking forward to collaborating with us even more in the future. We could use your prayers as we increase our support for them in the coming year.

Total cost of Program	Total Number of Children reached
\$12,269.44	500+



- **You're Someone Special too.**

The cosmetology school program was founded in 2019. It is called "You're Someone Special Too" in honor of Valia Ackermann, Kurt Ackermann's mother, who has a hair salon in Hampton Virginia that was started over 35 years ago. This is located in a government facility, so it guarantees access to all the centers to use. During the pandemic, it was a great help with maintaining the hair of the different children who were not allowed to leave the centers or only were allowed to leave to go to other centers. This Salon has 3 hair cutting stations, 3 shampoo stations, a nail table, and a television to do additional training. We have graduation every year and the teacher is sponsored by Eduardo Franco, a famous hairdresser, from San Salvador, that has been trained around the world. The government has also approached us about replicating this program in other centers and youth prisons.



5. Feeding the homeless

This is one of the toughest parts of our ministry. We Feed His Peeps. No matter what the reason they are currently homeless is, we feed them. They are male, female, bisexual, prostitutes, children, families, elderly, or suffer from mental illnesses, drug addicts or alcoholics. We feed them. This is all done when we have the funding, donations, or teams that will help us pay for it. When we go out, we sometimes take time to talk, time to pray, and time to love and let them know they are not forgotten and loved by God. We also give out t-shirts, clothing, hygiene products, and other things. This year we also got a surprise visit from an Influencer called Murphslife and received a new giant freezer and lots of food so we can feed whenever we have the time, we just need the money and resources to keep it filled.

Our beneficiaries are people who live or sleep on the streets of San Salvador without resources.

Average meals per night	Cost per night	Total cost	Number of meals served
150	\$320.00	\$11,412.95	5430



6. Missionary Teams

Throughout the year we receive different missionary teams from the United States, they work with Foundation Sus Hijos and are an integral part of the activities that we do in El Salvador. The teams are part of our daily activities such as the EBCI Bible Study, Feeding the homeless, building homes, and funding many of our “parties” or beach trips that we have for the children of El Salvador. We also have several short-term missionaries serving from one week up to a year or more.

Without short-term missions, Kurt Ackermann would not be here serving in El Salvador. When you see the need, feel the need, and smell the need, you do not know what is out there and what you are missing in your life.

You can be part of our team as a long-term missionary, volunteer, or interpreter and be part of the missionary teams that visit El Salvador and work with us.

Pray, Go, Give. For more information, you can contact us at: info@sushijos.org

Number of teams in 2022	Number of people	Total dollars invested in Activities in El Salvador	Total numbers of lives changed
16	212	\$163,508.43	Countless



7. Events and Celebrations

Working with children and adolescents in El Salvador we are always looking for a reason to party! We celebrate important dates with the children that are housed government and private centers and, in the communities, where we work within the country. Our goal is to bring a safe, fun, and healthy form of entertainment from their everyday life. In many of our celebrations, we use the teams that come to visit to help fund and provide volunteers. We cannot do this alone.

Until the middle of 2022, we were still having to maintain COVID-19 protocol. This is not easy when you have large activities. Many of our activities included giving out masks to our beneficiaries to follow government standards. We did not let this stop us. We pushed on and pushed the limits to celebrate with many people last year. Thank you to all who gave funds, volunteered, or flew in from different countries for these special events.

Valentine's Day	
4th of July Celebration	
Quinceañera Party	
Children's Day Celebration	
Children's Day Celebration	
Thanksgiving Celebration	
Christmas Angels Tree	
Christmas celebrations	

Our 2022 we celebrated:

Valentine's Day

This month when we celebrate love and above all friendship, we have always celebrated with this community. For the last several years we have been having our celebration in Ahuachapán, which is close to the border of Guatemala, where we celebrate with about 800 children in the surrounding areas. We partner with a Church called Peniel with a pastor that we have known for 23 years Renee Clemente and his volunteers from Castillo de Rey. This is a day of Praise and celebration. We have food, snacks, jumpy things, and lots of donations for the children and adults that come to the celebration. We also share the love of Christ and His grace as well as give out Bibles. This is a fun day for all.



4th of July Celebration

On Sunday, July 3, 2022, we celebrated the 4th of July. This was our 7th Annual event, we missed one in 2020 because the government would not let us have a public gathering. This year we held in the Redondel Masferrer close to our HOME. This event was open to the public, where everyone enjoyed delicious free snacks, jumpy things, popcorn, face painting, batucada (drum band), Live DJ, and a classic car show. The American football league of El Salvador helped us out as they have in the many years that passed. We handed out bibles to everyone. Despite the rain, which was on and off, the fun did not stop. We finished off the evening with Fireworks celebrating the 4th of July that could be seen all over the city of San Salvador. Over one thousand people came to the event.



Quinceañera Party

This year we had two parties, one in Santa Ana with a community that we have been working with for several years and the other one with the Orphanages both public and private, and the special-need centers.

The party in Santa Ana was for young ladies from a community named Ariel. They are one of the communities that is part of our Angel Tree every year. We have built over 20 houses in their community. All the young ladies and women received a dress, jewelry, got their hair and makeup done and had a close to traditional Quinceañera party with a cake, gifts, a live DJ, and delicious food from the best Hotel in the city Tolteka Plaza. The High school that hosted the event was dancing machines. What a great night to celebrate life with over 200 people.

Our Quinceañera in San Salvador, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, on this day more than 115 girls who live in orphanages and public and private homes came to celebrate the traditional 15th year birthday, we had about 300 guests. For this party, it takes a large group of volunteers, missionaries, and staff to help the young ladies who were fitted with shoes, dresses, some

with alterations, jewelry, hair, and makeup, all hands-on deck. Each of them, presented by name, with an escort. We had a dance prepared by the boys from a government orphanage. Once the Batucada started, the dancing never stopped. This year's theme was a winter wonderland. We had a photo booth, nut bar, over-the-top cake, and a full sit-down dinner with a DJ and many government officials. Many of the kids from the special needs' centers were able to attend this year. Such a truly special night. it was a night that will last in the memories of these girls forever. We let them know that God loves them, and we love them, and they are not forgotten.

The centers that participated in the event were:

- Hogar de niños San Vicente de Paul
- Cambia tu Vida
- Education Especial
- Hogar Adalberto Guirola
- Hogar Fray Felipe de Jesús Moraga
- Albergue Regional
- Hogar Santa Luisa de Marillac
- Centro de Emergencia Ciudad de la Niñez "CNA"
- Fundación Éxodo
- Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos
- Mi Casa Kids
- Hogar Infantil Shalom



Celebration of Children's Day

Around the world and in El Salvador the month of October Children's Day is celebrated. We celebrated with the different centers by giving them a little bit of joy. To celebrate, we had popcorn, snacks, jumpy things, face painting, piñatas, balloons, Choco bananas, hot dogs, drinks, and stations where the children could play games so they could win prizes. We also had tables set up for making bracelets, fingernail polish, coloring, and more. We visited many different centers to have a personalized party with each center that we work with. We were even able to go to the girl's prison and serve snow cones and popcorn. We are blessed by our missionaries, volunteers, and staff to help us accomplish these parties and to celebrate this special day.



Fall Festival

This year we celebrated our fall festival at the States Diner restaurant where there was a scary maze in the parking lot, jumpy things, face painting, decorating cookies and there was also a costume contest where the children came wearing costumes of their favorite characters, princesses, and superheroes. We even had a live band this year. Such a wonderful way to spend time as a family, a place to be safe together and have fun with friends.

Thanksgiving

We celebrated Thanksgiving Day in El Salvador at the States Diner restaurant. This is an 8-year tradition at the States Diner. This activity started when Kurt was a child, and his family was in the military. They would invite everyone and anyone so that no one is alone on this special day. This is no different in El Salvador. We had almost 320 people. The States Diner prepared 13 turkeys, trays of Mac and cheese, Stuffing, garden salad, broccoli salad, mashed potatoes, and gravy. We asked everyone to bring something to share or a dessert. Such a wonderful time to spend with our customers, other gringos, our Salvadorian friends, and family. A truly special night because we unveil our Angel Tree, providing wrapped gifts that children ask for from the communities, the orphanages, and even the babies of the teenage prisoners. Our customers, friends, supporters, and other businesses gave over 1800 gifts this year. Special thanks to our last-minute sponsors, we had multiple, because the team canceled out at the last minute. Of course, a big shout out to Kameron Ackermann and the States Diner staff, because this would not have been possible without them.



Christmas Party

Without the Angel Tree in the States Diner, the visiting team, and you, our donors this party would not be possible. This year we had almost 850 people come to the party. Each person received lunch, popcorn, snow cones, drinks, face painting, balloon animals, numerous pinatas, entertainment, and a photo opportunity with Santa and Mrs. Clause. This party has been going on for over 30 years and has been passed down to Fundación Sus Hijos. They were each greeted with smiles, hugs, and handshakes. Every child that came to the event received a wrapped gift that they ask for. We danced and partied. We also gave out 30 food baskets to the elderly of the community that has been coming for many years. Seeing the joy and the smiles is a day we will not soon forget.



Closing letter from Kurt Ackermann

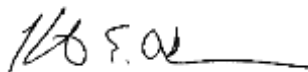
It still amazes me every year how God can use a sinner like me to help so many people. I many times sit back in awe, taking in all that is going on around me, not understanding why he chose me. The state of the economy, the government, and the changes that are happening every day. I currently live in a country where if I protest something, because of the suspension of the constitution, I can go to jail. Children and adults are in prison because of gang violence, over 60,452 people from April to December of 2022 in a country of 6 million. Many of them have not seen their family or had a court appearance in over 6 months. The president is going to change the constitution so that he can run again. El Salvador takes Bitcoin as its legal currency and has lost hundreds of millions of dollars. I have lived here for 20 years. I have buried many a child to keep them out of the mass public graves. I have paid for medication, clothing, food, shoes, cremation, and I could go on and on. Do I just give up?

When I was a child, my great-grandparents told me to get ready because Jesus is coming back. This last year my mother died, my biggest fan, my biggest supporter, the only one who never left me. Since living here in El Salvador, my grandparents, in-laws, my father, and now my mother have all passed away. I was not there for their final days, and even some I missed their funeral. Is this what God wanted of me? To forsake my family?

I have now lived here for 20 years. All I know is that I am where He wants me to be. I have not given up. When He tells me it's time to go, I will go.

Thank you for not giving up on me, His Children, and Sus Hijos, and for your support and prayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'K.A. Ackermann'.

Kurt Ackermann
"Worst Missionary Ever"

kea@sushijos.org

www.sushijos.org

