



RESTORING DREAMS



15 YEARS OF IMPACT IN QUITO, ECUADOR



LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

Dear friends,

I remember when I first saw the house that would become Casa Victoria back in 1998: a 100-year-old jewel that was in complete disrepair.



I immediately fell in love with the house because I saw it for what it could become. To my surprise and gratitude, friends like you believed in the vision! I somehow transmitted my enthusiasm to many friends from the United States and Ecuador, and together, bought the house in 2001. We didn't know exactly what it was for; just that it would stand for hope and transformation in the neighborhood.

Along the way, children from the neighborhood began to come by to spend time with the volunteers restoring the house. And that's when the vision crystallized for us: *Casa Victoria would be a safe, inspiring place for neighborhood children to thrive. Not only would we provide homework support, learning opportunities, and nourishment for their bodies, but we would also provide emotional and spiritual encouragement for kids whose lives are affected by poverty and violence.*



As I look back over the past 15+ years of serving the San Roque neighborhood, I am filled with gratitude. I think of so many children's lives touched by Casa Victoria through the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth; the loving care of each of our volunteers; and the place of safety and joy it means to them.

This is why Casa Victoria exists. We are here to build and restore the dreams of children. I'm excited to share our stories and impact with you in the following pages— and thank you for being a part of this big dream.

With gratitude,

Mamalicia

Alicia Durán-Ballén Gheorghita
Founder & Director, Fundación Casa Victoria



HOW WE SERVE



After School Program

Every weekday, 50-60 children ages 5-12 come to Casa Victoria after school for a rotation of developmental support activities: tutoring, computer skills, reading skills, values and emotional skills, sports and exercise, and a healthy meal.



The Victorious Team

After graduating from our after school program, children ages 13+ are invited to join Our Victorious Team as Casa Victoria volunteers. Through The Victorious Team, teens receive mentorship, birthday celebrations, special outings, educational opportunities, and more.



Job Training

Our Pizza Café offers older teens and young adults in our neighborhood a first employment opportunity. The Café is open everyday and serves a variety of dishes and beverages to the community.



Community Engagement

Casa Victoria hosts gatherings with local stakeholders such as the Community Police; celebrations with Neighborhood Board; and addiction prevention and awareness programs for local families.



OUR COMMUNITY

Casa Victoria serves San Roque, a low-income neighborhood in Quito, Ecuador. Many of the residents here are local indigenous, and a high number struggle with unstable employment or alcohol abuse.



26%
Living below poverty line

6th grade
Average education completed

41%
Indigenous

Spanish & Quechua
Languages spoken

OUR NUMBERS

You have made it possible for us to change the narrative in San Roque. Over the years, here is what your support has meant to our community.

15
Years as a community center

692
Children nurtured through our programs

59,080
Meals served free of charge

61
Scholarships for children

568
Medical services accessed





Stories: Meet Jesús

When 9-year-old Jesús joined Casa Victoria's program, he had already lived through a nightmare.

Jesús came home one day to find his father murdered as an act of revenge, and his home had been destroyed by attempted arson. Terrified and deeply grieved, Jesús struggled tremendously after the incident. He became extremely disruptive at school and had trouble focusing on anything.

However, after a year of coming to Casa Victoria where he received consistent care and affection from volunteers and fellow kids, Jesús began to change. He learned to have fun again through playing soccer and began to do better in school. Today, Jesús is a natural leader in our program. He shows up with excitement and enthusiasm, and wants to join the Our Victorious program when he turns 13. We are incredibly proud of Jesús and are grateful for his transformation.



Génesis had a father who did not believe in her, and neither did she.

Génesis joined Casa Victoria when she was just 7 years old. Even back then, she knew in her heart that her father did not care for her. From a poor family whose livelihood was selling produce at the market, Génesis was not expected to amount to much. And yet, we have seen that her dreams are far bigger than this.

After graduating from our after school program, Génesis joined Our Victorious and continues to volunteer with the children at Casa Victoria. Because of the mentorship and care she received here, she has blossomed into a confident, kind teenager with big dreams for the future. "I want to travel," she says frequently, "and learn new languages. I want to see the world." We cannot wait to see where Génesis goes next.

YOU'VE MADE THEIR DREAMS COME TRUE

By supporting Casa Victoria, you have made these stories and moments possible. See what our children and families have to say:

"I appreciate you so much because you help my two daughters with their homework. I don't know how to read or write and can't help them."

— Sra. Maria Chafra



"I love that I can hug you because my mom doesn't let me hug her so much."

— Britani, age 8

"My favorite time in Casa Victoria is playing soccer against Victor, our soccer coach. He tries really hard to not be beaten

by us kids!"

— Daniel, age 11





DREAM WITH US

Casa Victoria was built on dreams. For our next 5 years, here's what we're building toward.

Dream #1: To increase the employment opportunities we offer by expanding the service of our Pizza Café to 7 days a week, open 12 hours each day. This will allow us to structure a training program for former Casa Victoria kids looking for their first work experience.

Dream #2: We have partnered with a US-based mental health design organization to begin offering addiction counseling training and care for community members. In the next several years, we plan to expand this side of our programming to better serve the families of Casa Victoria kids.

Dream #3: To continue to be a "light on a hill," bringing peace, love, faith, and joy to this community where we have been serving for 15+ years. We have always been blessed by volunteers from near and far, as well as gifts that keep our doors open.



Casa Victoria Team

Alicia Durán-Ballén, Executive Director
Dan Gheorghita, Director of Counseling
Romel Pérez, Director of Children's Programs
Victor Gaspar, Sports Coordinator
Lissette, Coordinator of Homework Station
Evelin Anillo, Coordinator of Biblical Values
Yarmina Benítez, Meal Coordinator
José Martinez, Volunteer
Amina Alvear, Volunteer

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But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

Luke 18:16