



Love Your Neighbor

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength...and love your neighbor as yourself." - Mark 12:31

Dear Friends,

This month a lot of our focus will be around love, friendship, healthy relationships, and similar topics. Relationships are tricky, but Jesus summed it up for us in just a few phrases...love God and love your neighbor. For us, loving our neighbors looks like walking with them each day through recovery and healing. It looks like cooking lunch or preparing a therapy session. Or it looks like having a relationship and building a friendship.

Normally January starts out slowly for us, but this year we have been full in all of our resources from the start of the year. This is great because it means that we are making those connections with our neighbors. Our therapists have been creative in addressing the challenges faced by those in recovery, we have worked to keep bringing God's word into the equation, and we have invited volunteers to join us in being a part of the process.

We also understand that part of loving our neighbors well is understanding that some of them are very vulnerable. In January, during Human Trafficking Awareness Month, we took some time to learn about how migrants are especially vulnerable to exploitation. We have a responsibility to learn more about how to protect our neighbors from injustice and harm.

Thank you for helping us to be present in our community and to care for those around us...check out the photos below and follow us on social media this month for all of our "Love and Friendship" celebrations!

For Freedom,
The Mission To El Salvador Team

BLOG



Birthday Parties in the Lighthouse

In the past, we've combined different birthday months but this year we decided to do one birthday party per month to make sure that everyone has a chance to feel special, acknowledged, and celebrated! Our first party in January was a big hit as everyone gathered to play games, break open a piñata, share a treat, and give gifts to those celebrating January birthdays!

Every Step is Worth Celebrating

Each phase of the New Dawn Residential Program has its own challenges and so as each resident completes each 3 month phase, we make sure to celebrate the important steps being taken. We recently gathered to mark the completion of the first 3 month phase for one of the boys and they all rallied together with our emotional therapist after the celebration in a huge group hug!



Human Trafficking Awareness

To mark Human Trafficking Awareness Month, we had a conversational workshop with Susan Lewandowski. She is a Marriage and Family Therapist from El Salvador who now works in the U.S. with migrants. We were able to gain an understanding of some of the ways that migrants can be exploited and learn more about how we can educate vulnerable populations about the risks.

TAX CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

You should have received your tax contribution statements to reflect your 2022 giving. **Please note** that if you donated to us through Discovery Christian Church you should have received a contribution statement from them. If you donated directly to Mission To El Salvador, you should have received a contribution statement directly from Mission To El Salvador, and if you donated both ways you should have received two separate contribution statements. **Please also note** that as of January 1, 2023 we are no longer receiving donations via Discovery Christian Church, so all donations can be made directly to Mission To El Salvador. If you haven't yet switched over to Mission To El Salvador, please do so and please [contact us](#) with any questions that you may have. Thank you for your support!

PRAY WITH US:

- For our clients and residents to feel special and loved this month.
- For two residents who will be graduating from New Dawn as they prepare to transition out of the program.
- For guidance and wisdom on how to be the best possible neighbors in our community.
- For the situation with increased police and military presence in our community not to create any issues and for our clients to feel safe coming to our programs.

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