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Eight Resources for March 8th

Dear Friends,

Did you know that **March 8th is International Women's Day**? In fact, March is actually International Women's Month! **In El Salvador, it's a month where we take the opportunity to affirm the dignity and worth of the women that we serve.** Many women are vulnerable in El Salvador and taking time to not only educate them about their legal rights, but to help them understand what God thinks about them is an important focus of our work this month.

Gender-based violence continues to be an issue and women and girls are heavily affected by poverty, lack of education and other social problems. The current government crackdown on gangs, including mass incarcerations, **has left many women as heads of single family homes** putting further economic strain on them. Women continue to be vulnerable to intimate partner violence and the schemes of sex traffickers and pimps. **Women living on the street are extremely vulnerable to violence, exploitation and substance abuse.**

Despite the risks, **women in El Salvador are strong and resilient.** We are working to offer opportunities for healing, security, and dignified work so that **women can be reconciled to God, their families, and their communities.** As we celebrate International Women's Day on March 8, we are highlighting **Eight Resources** that we are using to serve women here in El Salvador:

- 1. Spiritual Nurture:** Being reconciled to God through a relationship with Christ is the first step toward healing and reconciliation with others. We offer space for Bible study, prayer, and spiritual encouragement.
- 2. Case Management:** Every women's story is different and requires different attention. Through individual case management we can help women to access resources within our programs, or through outside referrals.
- 3. Healing in Community:** Studies show trauma is healed through social support and we work to help women take the journey together through support groups and activities that happen in a group setting.
- 4. Economic Empowerment:** A dignified wage and the opportunity to start her own business is incredibly healing for women who have survived trafficking, exploitation, and life on the streets. Financial independence is key for reintegration and sustainability and we offer this through the start-up of small businesses and job training.
- 5. Therapy:** Group and individual therapy in addition to interventions for substance abuse and addictive behaviors are resources that we provide for women in our programs.
- 6. Workshops:** Through art, exercise, computer classes, sewing, and other workshops women can gain deeper healing, life skills and social support all at the same time!
- 7. Care:** Life on the streets is lonely and violent and by providing practical care through meals, showers, sanitary products, clean clothes, and simply listening we can holistically care for the basic needs of vulnerable women in El Salvador.
- 8 You!:** Finally, we are able to connect women with donors who care enough to invest in these resources. All of these resources are free to the women who need them and we can't pay the staff salaries, or provide the materials or space without committed donors.

We ask that this month you consider making a donation to help us keep these resources running for women in El Salvador! Women and girls face high risks and are vulnerable to many issues, but with your support we can walk with them by providing holistic resources that help them to find reconciliation, empowerment and healing in their lives.

A practical way to make sure that these resources are always available to women who need them is to sign up to be a monthly donor in any amount. **Would you be one of 8 new monthly donors committed to sponsoring resources for women?** You can easily do that by visiting our donation page [here](#). Your recurring donation helps us continue to connect women who need support with the resources that will help them keep moving forward toward greater freedom!

For Freedom,
The Mission To El Salvador Team

BLOG



The women in our program participating in a weekly dance exercise class. It's a great way for them to share time together and feel comfortable in their own skin while also working to stay healthy.



In February, we had a great time on the New Dawn Camping trip! Our current residents along with some of the graduates gathered together with staff for a few days in the woods...it was a wonderful time!



A few other highlights from this month included a visit from MePower, a Pittsburgh based non-profit dedicated to helping women make and sell washable sanitary products (left), and the graduation of another resident from the New Dawn Residential Program. He gave a moving speech about his time in the program to everyone in attendance (right).

You can read our 2023 Annual Report [here](#) to learn more about the impact YOU had in 2023!

Pray With Us:

- For women in El Salvador as they face risks due to violence, poverty and unstable relationships.
- For our most recent New Dawn graduate as he is transitioning into life outside of the program and back into the routine of family and school.
- For two new residents preparing to enter the program, and for several others starting the intake process. Please also pray for the residents who will remain in the program during the Holy Week vacations.
- For more monthly donors to support our work on a consistent basis. Our ministry depends on our staff being able to minister day in and day out, and for us to be able to provide consistent resources and care so please pray for donors to join with us on a consistent basis. Please join us in praying specifically for 8 new monthly donors to help us meet the needs of the women that we are serving each week.

DONATE



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Our mailing address is:
171 Berry Field Court, Wexford, PA 15090

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