



THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!

We are excited to have you join us by providing holistic orphan care to children!



Since 1997, Back2Back has been providing care for today and hope for tomorrow to abandoned, orphaned and impoverished children in Mexico, Nigeria, India and Haiti. The care for today is accomplished in part through you, our ministry teams and partners, who visit year round and help provide basic necessities. Our staff stands back to back with the directors and national staff that serve daily in the children's homes. We come alongside with physical, financial and human resources, encouragement, prayer, and training.

We affirm God's scriptural promises of faithfulness, care and provision for orphans. We strive to live out God's mandate to care for orphans not only through our actions, but also through our heart and attitude toward them. We seek to be an advocate for orphans, recognizing that

without a strong advocate they will likely suffer from oppression, abuse and injustice. This call is the driving force behind everything that we do as an organization. Our staff is fueled by the hope and promise of a God who never tires in His relentless pursuit of the orphan child. Seeing hearts healed and futures restored is our passion as a ministry. We believe this is God's desire for the fatherless and we are privileged to be a part of the process.

The need is great all over the world, but we can all commit to following the footsteps of the Father. He, who has written dozens of promises to orphans, to come to them and not leave, to lift them up and build them a home, to maintain their cause and execute true justice, to be their Father, is imploring His people to fulfill those promises. Back2Back's work is founded in this Biblical call to care for orphans. In numerous scriptural passages, the message is clear and consistent. Christians are called to defend and care for the orphan: Isaiah 1:17 Learn to do good; Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless, Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow.

And so we count it a privilege to join the Father in this work. We serve a redemptive God, and He is teaching us there is no story too dark for Him to enter into. There is no child so lost, He can't see them. There is no obstacle in our way that He can't remove. It's a message of undeniable hope and it's not just our responsibility, it's our privilege to share it. Thank you for joining us!

Todd & Beth Guckenberger
Back2Back Ministries Executive Directors

www.back2back.org 513.754.0300 P.O. Box 70, Mason, OH 45040

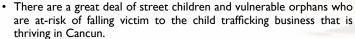


CANCUN, MEXICO

- Cancun is situated on the Yucatan Peninsula on the Caribbean Sea, and located in the state of Quintana Roo.
- The average temperature in Cancun is 80F.
- Cancun is mostly known as a tourist destination, but in stark contrast, it also has a high rate of poverty and is the leading city for alcohol and

drug abuse as well as suicide in all of Mexico.

MEXICO



 It is difficult to break the cycle of poverty since public education ends after the 9th grade. As a result, unemployment rates are high, and the national minimum wage is less than \$5 a day, with many earning even less than this.

HOW WE SERVE

Back2Back serves children's homes and impoverished communities, by partnering with individuals, schools, churches, civic groups, and businesses to create a bridge between people in need and people with resources. This is accomplished through partnerships and short-term mission trips, in which individuals and groups work alongside staff members who serve at each of the ministry locations. Back2Back invests in the future of each child by meeting their spiritual, physical, emotional, educational and social needs through a unique 5-point Child Development Plan (see page 12) so that they can become self-sustaining individuals who give back to their community. Our goal is that each orphan we serve would experience restoration. This is accomplished in part through you, our ministry teams and partners, who visit year-round and help provide basic necessities.

We currently serve local children's homes and an impoverished community, as well as working towards preventing more children from becoming orphans or trafficking victims by supporting several widows and their children. We are excited to deepen our partnership with local pastors and churches to develop additional long-term volunteers, nationals from within the community. We also provide educational opportunities and scholarships to orphaned children through the Hope Education Program and our Child Sponsorship Program.

CANCUN CAMPUS

Mission trip guests stay at modern facilities on the Back2Back campus, located in a secure, gated neighborhood with 24-hour security guards. All water on campus and during work projects is purified and safe to drink. Electricity is the same as the U.S.



Our mission trips provide a life-changing experience that leaves a lasting impact.

Each year, Back2Back facilitates mission trips for over a thousand students, families, businesses, churches and individuals, providing an opportunity to serve orphans and impoverished families in a developing country. Back2Back coordinates mission trips to Mexico, Nigeria, India and Haiti, handling all logistics and preparation, transportation and meals. Our trips are well-organized and hassle-free. During the day, teams serve at area children's homes and communities. During the evening, live worship (summer term) and small group time for debriefing is designed to foster personal growth.

A Typical Day on a Mission Trip

BREAKFAST

Enjoy a breakfast of cereal, toast, fruit, milk, juice and coffee with your group.

PERSONAL DEVOTIONS OR REFLECTION TIME

BIBLE STUDY IN A SMALL GROUP

Explore God's heart by engaging in a ministry-wide devotional.

PREPARATION FOR THE DAY

WORK PROJECTS AT MINISTRY SITE

Work projects are determined by the needs of the children's homes and communities we serve, so it is challenging to predict projects in the future. We work closely with our Mexican partners in determining the projects that are most important to the needs of the children that we jointly serve. Projects will vary in terms of demand and required skill level. All teams will be placed at projects that align with their skill level and will be assisted by Back2Back staff. Examples of common projects include construction, remodeling, cleaning and painting. All projects will directly benefit the development of the children you will meet on your trip in one or several areas of the Back2Back 5-Point Child Development Plan.

LUNCH AT MINISTRY SITE

Lunch consists of turkey/ham, or PB&| sandwiches with fruit, chips and cookies

QUALITY TIME WITH THE KIDS & CONTINUE WORK PROJECT

We include opportunities for teams to connect with the children. Time with the children will either be at their children's home, the Back2Back campus, or on a field trip.

RETURN BEFORE DARK TO CAMPUS FOR DINNER

Meals vary each night; sometimes we serve American meals, while other times we provide authentic local cuisine.

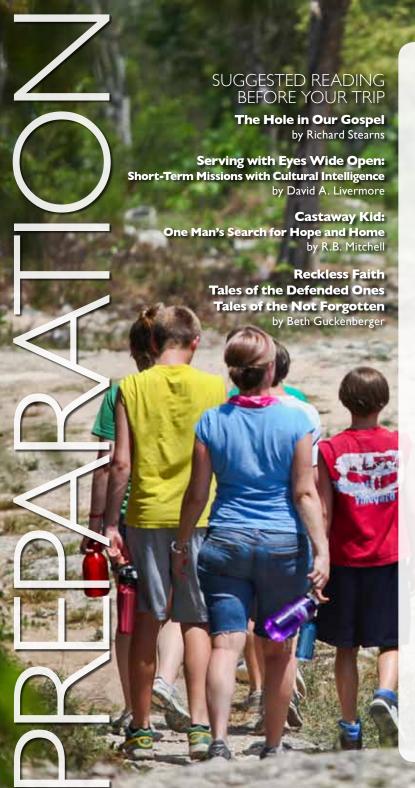
TIME OF WORSHIP (SEASONAL)

All the mission teams come together on the Back2Back campus for a time of singing and worship.

GROUP DEBRIEF

FREETIME

LIGHTS OUT BY 11:00 PM



PREPARING FOR YOUR TRIP

HEALTH & MEDICAL SAFETY

EMERGENCY MEDICAL INSURANCE

Back2Back purchases emergency medical insurance for each trip participant and it is included in your Back2Back fee. This insurance is different from the travel insurance purchased through a travel agent. This insurance is not a general health insurance policy, but an interim, limited benefit period, travel medical plan intended for use while away from your home country. It covers such things as unexpected recurrence of a pre-existing condition, emergency medical evacuation/repatriation, return of minor child(ren), and emergency medical reunion. Please request a copy of the insurance policy if you would like more details.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Back2Back does not require anyone to receive immunizations, although many trip participants choose to receive them as an extra precaution. Please consult your family doctor or visit www.cdc.gov for information regarding immunization recommendations and guidelines. Please note that many family doctors do not administer travel immunizations.

An alternative is to contact your county health department or a travel health agency, such as Global Health Services and Passport Health. Payment in the form of cash or check is due at the time services are rendered. We recommend that you contact your insurance company before receiving any vaccinations, as many of them do not cover all of the costs. We also recommend making sure your tetanus is up to date.

SUGGESTED MEDICATION

- Ciprofloxacin "Cipro" prescription
- Personal prescriptions and over-the-counter medicine you might need, such as allergy medicine, Ibuprofen/Acetaminophen, Imodium AD/Pepto-Bismol, and motion sickness medicine.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

PASSPORT

You must have a passport with at least 6 months validity from the end of the trip. For example, if your mission trip is April 6-12, then your passport needs to be valid through October 12. If you need a passport, you should contact your local government office to obtain an application or go online to http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html

MONEY

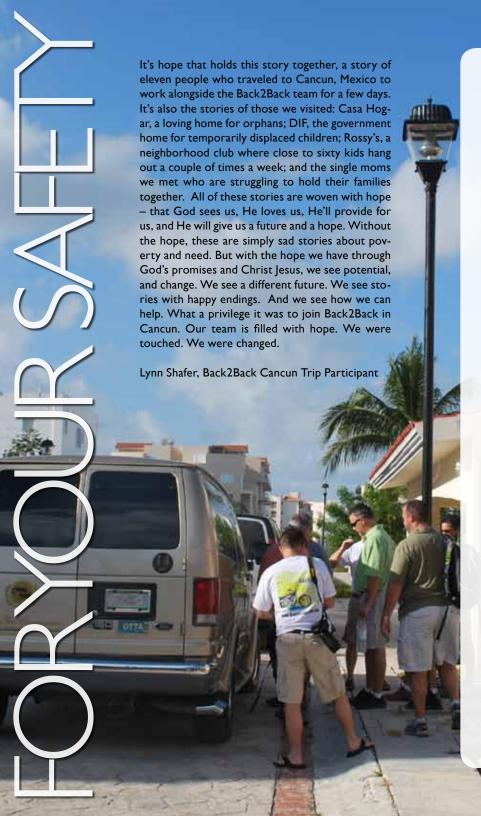
We suggest a minimum of \$75 cash. You may choose to spend money on souvenirs, snacks or gifts for the children. You may want to consider bringing a credit card for use in the U.S. airport.

AIRLINE INFORMATION

Each team is responsible for booking their own flights. Back2Back recommends that travel insurance be purchased at the time airline tickets are booked should your trip be cancelled in the event of a natural disaster or unforseen circumstance. As with all international travel, the airlines suggest you arrive at the airport two hours before departure to ensure that your team is ready to depart.

LUGGAGE

Most international flights allow for one checked bag, a carry-on, and a small personal bag (i.e. purse, backpack, tote bag). It is important, though, to check with the airlines regarding their current policy/bag fees. It is recommended that you bring two days worth of clothes and your medication in your carry-on in case your luggage is lost. We invite you to partner with us by using your second checked bag to bring donations. To avoid incurring a second bag fee on your return trip, we recommend bringing a bag you can donate or a duffle bag that you could take back in your suitcase.



FOR YOUR SAFETY

COMMUNICATION WHILE TRAVELING

Please call Back2Back if you experience delays while traveling.

BACK2BACK CANCUN STAFF

Dialing from Mexico: 998.275.4005

Dialing from United States: 011 + 52 + the numbers above

BACK2BACK U.S. OFFICE

Dialing from Mexico: 011.513.754.0300 or +1513.754.0300

United States: 513.754.0300

INSURANCE

We carry international comprehensive general liability insurance for all international travelers.

We provide each traveler with emergency medical insurance for health coverage. Contact your trip coordinator for additional details.

HEALTH CONCERNS

We request all travelers talk with their personal physician about travel health and recommended shots prior to their trip.

There are two hospitals within five minutes of the Back2Back site should any health needs arise.

ON CAMPUS

Cancun is the most visited city by Americans outside of the United States. The Mexican people and local authorities see safety of the people and the tourists as paramount. The Back2Back facilities are in a very safe neighborhood that is gated off from the public with 24-hour security guards.

WATER & FOOD

Purified drinking water is supplied at all times. We provide safe and delicious food for all mission trip guests. If you have any specific dietary restrictions or severe food allergy, please let your trip leader know prior to your trip. Back2Back does everything possible to accommodate dietary restrictions but travelers with strict food requirements are advised to bring suitable food options.

DURING THE DAY

There is a staff member who understands the local culture and language with the group at all times when traveling outside of the Back2Back campus.

All construction is overseen by our staff. We have professionally trained project managers. We provide hard hats, safety glasses, and gloves when appropriate or needed. Specific projects are matched to skill level and ability.

Transportation is via charter bus/van. Group members will never travel by taxi/public transportation.

The student to adult ratio per youth group is 5:1

PREPARING YOUR FORMS

Back2Back has an online Mission Trip Management (MTM) application that allows everyone to view their trip information online, fill out their profile and print their forms. Your ID and password will be assigned by your trip coordinator. You can access the MTM at http://missiontrips.back2backministries.org,

SIMPLY FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS ONLINE

Below is an overview of all the documents that will be printed from your profile. Please note the instructions for each form. If you are missing anything, please contact Chelsie Puterbaugh at cputerbaugh@back2back.org or 513-754-0300 x1701. Please make a copy of all forms.

Adult Forms All originals need to be returned to Back2Back

- 1) **Emergency Information Form**, 4 pages (This form must be notarized) Your Trip Coordinator will keep a copy with them on the trip.
- 2) Liability Release (This form must be notarized)
- 3) Agreement Policy

Minor Forms (under 18) All originals must be returned to Back2Back

- 1) **Emergency Information Form,** 4 pages This form must be notarized. Your Trip Coordinator will keep a copy with them on the trip.
- 3) Liability Release for Minors (This form must be notarized)
- 4) **Permission for Minors to Travel to/from Mexico** This form must be notarized and signed by both parents. The online/printable Permission for Minors Form is only valid for minors traveling to Nigeria or India. All minors traveling to Mexico will receive a separate Permission for Minors Form via email from Back2Back. Your Trip Coordinator will keep the original form with them on the trip.
- 5) Agreement Policy

All Participants must carry the following while traveling:

- 1) Valid passport Your passport must have more than six months validation remaining after your trip.
- 2) **Photocopy of passport** Please keep a copy in your carry-on.

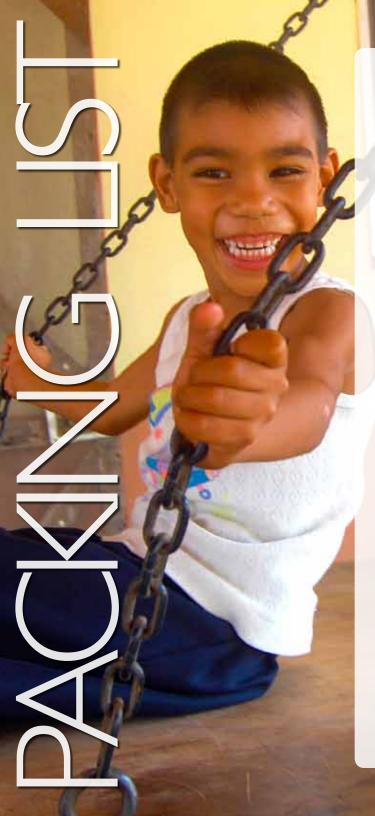


Mexican Visa Information (also called Departure Registration)

You will receive this form while on your flight to Cancun. Please fill out this from before you land. After landing, you will present this completed form to the Mexican custom agent in the airport and the agent will stamp this form and your passport. They will then tear off the right part of the form and return it to you. You must keep this form. Please keep it safe in your passport. Each group

member must have this form before leaving the airport for Back2Back's campus (when they first arrive in Mexico). If you do not have this form, they will not let you board your flight to return back to the United States at the end of your trip. If you lose the form, you will have to undergo a long process of completing forms, paying \$200-\$300 in fines, etc. A copy of this will be sent to you a week before your trip.





PACKING LIST FOR YOUR TRIP

ESSENTIALS

Valid passport

(Must have 6 months validation remaining after your trip)

Photocopy of passport

(Please keep in your carry-on)

Water Bottle

Twin bed sheets & pillowcase

(pillows & blankets provided in the dorms)

Alarm clock

Bath towel and washcloth

Backpack/small bag

Bandanas, hat, or scarves

Extra trash bag

Bible, notebook & pen

Bug spray with deet

Hand sanitizer/wet wipes

Earplugs for light sleepers

Small flashlight

Sandals (for showers)

Sunglasses

Sunscreen

Toiletries

Closed-toe working/walking shoes Camera & charger/batteries

Beach towel

MFDICATION

Personal Prescriptions

Allergy Medicine

Ibuprofen/Tylenol

Imodium AD/Pepto-Bismol/Tums

Motion sickness medicine

FOOD & SUPPLIES

Please store all food in sealed Ziplock bags with your name on it.

Granola/breakfast/protein bars

Snacks (non-perishable)

Powdered Drinks: Gatorade/Crystal light

MEN'S CLOTHING

Work jeans

Shorts*

Sweatshirt for night time

T-shirts (At least two per day)

Work clothes*

Underwear (At least two per day)

Swimming trunks

WOMEN'S CLOTHING

Work jeans

Shorts/capris* (knee length)

Sweatshirt for night time

T-shirts (At least two per day)

Work clothes *

Underwear (At least two per day)

Bathing suit (one piece or tankini)

SEASONAL CLOTHING

April-September:

Raincoat

December-lanuary:

Warmer clothes

60's-80's during day

Cooler at night

Dress in layers

MONEY

\$75 cash is recommended

Meals in airport

Campus store

\$1 (small bills for sodas/ice cream)

\$15 for Back2Back T-shirt

Market shopping

\$10/\$20 bills for souvenirs

COMMUNICATION TO THE U.S. IS LIMITED

The base campus phone and computer is for Back2Back staff only. Mission participants may bring their own cell phone to be used only at the home base facility during individual free time. Keep in mind that not all cell phone plans are covered internationally. Please check with your provider to verify your calling plan. This is subject to the team leader's guidelines. Back2Back will provide a cell phone for use in-country upon request from the group leader.

Family members should expect to have no communication from you during the week. No news is good news! Back2Back staff will post photos from your trip on the Back2Back Facebook page occasionally during your trip. Please share our Facebook page with your friends and family so they can check out your trip photo album: http://www.facebook.com/ back2backministries

PICTURES & VIDEOS

We recommend bringing a still and/ or video camera to capture your experience in the children's homes and communities, as well as the beautiful scenery.

- * All shorts must be knee length. No tank tops, midriffs, spaghetti strap shirts or leggings.
- * Please bring old clothes and shoes, as they may be ruined from work projects. Clothing and bedding may be donated at the end of the week if you so desire.

Please also refrain from packing hair dryers, straighteners, designer clothes and expensive jewelry.





COMMUNICATING ON YOUR TRIP

Only 7% of communication is verbal, so you will be able to say a lot without even opening your mouth. However, for those trip participants who would like to learn a few Spanish phrases to help them in connecting with the children, please use this page as an additional resource in your trip preparation.

ENGLISH

Good morning

Good afternoon

Good evening

Hello, my name is _

What is your name?

How are you?

I am fine

Are you okay?

Nice to meet you

Goodbye

See you later

Please

Thank you

I'm sorry

You are welcome

How do you say _ in Spanish?

Yes

No

I do not understand

Where is the restroom?

SPANISH

Buenos días

Buenas tardes Buenas noches

Hola, me llamo

¿Cómo te llamas?

¿Cómo estás?

Estoy bien

¿Estás bien? Mucho gusto

Adiós

Hasta luego

Por favor

Gracías

Lo siento

De nada

¿Cómo se dice

en Español?

Si

No

Yo no entiendo

¿Dónde está el baño?

PRONUNCIATION

booEHN-os DEE-as

booEHN-as TAR-dehs

booEHN-as NO-chehs

OH-la meh YA-mo_

KOH-moh teh YA-mahs

KOH-moh ehs-TAS

ehs-TOY bee-EHN

ehs-TAS bee-EHN

MOO-choh GOOS-toh

ah-dee-OHS

AHS-ta looEH-go

pohr fah-VOR

gra-SEE-ahs

low see-EHN-to

deh NA-da

KOH-mo seh DEE-seh ehn ehs-pahn-YOL

Si

No

yoh no ehn -TYEHN-doh

DOHN-deh ehs-TA el BAH-

neeo

LEARN MORE SPANISH PHRASES AT:

http://www.learnspanishtoday.com/learning_module/grammar.htm

MISSION TRIP FAQS

Do we get to play with children at the children's homes?

We intentionally include opportunities for teams to connect with the children. Time with the kids will either be at their children's home, the Back2Back campus, or on a field trip.

Is it a problem that we don't speak the local language?

Although those who do speak the language are at an advantage, it's been said that only 7% of communication is verbal, so you will be able to "say" a lot without even opening your mouth! We also have local staff who are fluent in the local language and can translate for teams. Additionally, English is becoming more prevalent in all the countries in which we serve.

Do we evangelize?

Back2Back is a ministry that is centered on relationship by serving the "least of these". We strongly desire and pray that each child and family we serve come to know Jesus as their personal Savior. As we focus on serving and building lasting relationships, we use that as a platform to share God's love and His desire for us to know and be known by Him. We share the Gospel to others by sharing our lives. As Paul writes, "We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us." I Thessalonians 2:8

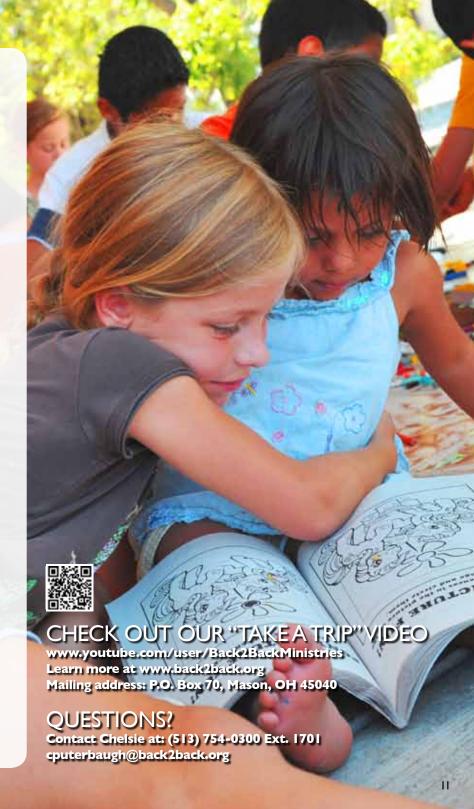
We do not withhold help or services from any child or home based on religion. We serve all children alike regardless of their faith or creed and do not require any child to adhere to Christian faith in order to receive our services.

What kind of projects do we work on?

Work projects are determined by the needs of the children's homes and communities we serve, so it is challenging to predict projects in the future. We work closely with our national partners in determining the projects that are most important to the needs of the children that we jointly serve. Projects will vary in terms of demand and required skill level. All teams will be placed at projects that align with their skill level and will be assisted by Back2Back staff. Examples of common projects include construction, remodeling, cleaning and painting. All projects will directly benefit the development of the children you will meet on your trip in one or several areas of the Back2Back 5-Point Child Development Plan.

Can we bring candy or toys for the children?

Many groups have specific questions about bringing gifts for the children. We want to empower you to bless the children we serve in a way that ultimately benefits each child long-term. With this in mind, we are requesting that groups consider bringing healthy treats like granola bars, trail mix, nuts, raisins, etc. or a donation toward a healthy snack, as an alternative to handing out candy or toys. Each ministry area has a Back2Back captain, someone on our staff who spends a considerable amount of time developing relationships and deeply understands the home's unique context. Our captains act as facilitators for all gifts for the children. Please check with the captain before distributing a treat, even a healthy snack! Other options are to bring items that allow for all of the children to engage in play, such as crafts or sports balls or Spanish children's books. We encourage group members to engage the children in a game like Frisbee or soccer or lead the children in a kid-friendly craft activity. Our heart is that you would be empowered to enjoy your time serving with us in the way that is most beneficial to the children we serve!



Since 1997, Back2Back has realized the importance of investing on a deeper level in the lives of children. Simply providing for a child's physical needs isn't enough. By providing holistic care, rather than merely meeting immediate external needs, we can truly help children to experience complete restoration. With that in mind, the Back2Back 5-Point Child Development Plan was created, an approach to orphan care ministry that addresses five crucial areas of child development.

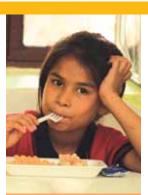






SPIRITUAL

Alondra is just one of 163 million orphaned children in our world. But unlike many other orphans, Alondra will wake up tomorrow knowing that she is cared for by her Heavenly Father. Through opportunities for spiritual growth, such as discipleship and Bible study, we empower children like Alondra to not only discover their tremendous significance as an individual, but to also realize their unique purpose in the grand story that God is writing.



PHYSICAL

The dining hall is noisy with voices as Alondra files in with her dormmates. Back2Back understands the importance of nutrition for children and ensures that the children at Casa **Hogar Douglas** receive healthy meals. Back2Back partners with children's homes to improve the quality of care for children like Alondra, meeting needs such as medical and dental care, nutritious meals, warm clothing, clean water and safe shelter. ensuring each child has an opportunity to thrive.



EDUCATIONAL

Through an emphasis on education, Back2Back invests in the future of children like Alondra, so that they might break free from the cycle of poverty. When children have access to education, they are significantly more likely to become selfsustaining individuals who give back to their community. To see this goal realized, we provide each child with the tools they need to succeed, tutoring children who are struggling and even offering college scholarships to teens who participate in Back2Back's Hope Education Program.



EMOTIONAL

Alondra has two sisters who live in her children's home, but no concept of a nuclear family. Many orphans who grow up in children's homes suffer from psychological issues as a result of past abuse and neglect. By living alongside the children, we gain their trust and begin a dialogue of recovery. By offering opportunities for them to seek healing through counseling, we seek to empower the children to work through issues, such as anxiety, depression and attachment disorders. Our goal is that each child would be restored to emotional wholeness.



SOCIAL

The schoolyard is alive with voices as Alondra plays with her best friends, Deynari and Estefi, who are also her roommates. They clap their hands together while chanting a rhyme. Back2Back addresses the need for positive social interaction. We encourage each child to pursue personal growth by offering training in vital life skills, such as conflict resolution. stewardship, work ethic, independent living skills and interpersonal communication. By mentoring children in these areas, we empower them to flourish relationally.