



# MICAH WORKS

## TOOLS FOR LIFE



# FREEDOM, FAMILY AND A FUTURE IN CHRIST

The Micah Project exists to help street-connected youth find freedom, family, and a future in Christ. This has been our core mission since we opened the doors of the Micah House in 2000 in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

The **FREEDOM** part of our mission starts right on the streets. Violence, addiction, and abject poverty cause these kids to hit rock bottom. We meet them at that very place—on the margins of society—with unconditional love. We know their names and their stories, and they love us for that. Their road to freedom begins as they trust us enough to take steps away from all that would bind them to streets and begin to pursue God’s plan for their lives.

You will sense the **FAMILY** part of our mission as soon as you walk through the Micah House door. You will encounter an environment that invites healing through strong, safe, loving bonds between our boys and our competent caregiving staff. If one of our boys leaves the home and falls back into past bondage, we meet him wherever he is at with understanding and grace. We are always ready to open the doors to a new beginning. Our home is a place that allows for honest tears and raucous laughter in equal measures.

The **FUTURE** part of our mission has been a harder fight these last few years. For years, Hondurans have faced a failing economy and massive unemployment due to institutional corruption, unchecked international drug cartels, and increasingly violent street gangs that control most city neighborhoods.

Originally, our main counter to poverty was formal education, but we came to see that most young college graduates in Honduras never find work in their field. In this climate of social instability, Micah Works was born. Its mission is to create an accelerated program of classroom instruction and hands-on training to help street-connected youth acquire the skills necessary to step away from the streets and successfully enter the work force. Micah Works is God-centered job training, job creation, job placement, and job retention.

We never imagined how quickly Micah Works would flourish! Beginning with three Micah Works apprentices in 2021, we now have 25 apprentices spread out in four different Micah Works initiatives, overseen by Micah missionary Pat Corley. What a miracle!

And that’s where the **IN CHRIST** part of our mission comes in. In Christ, many lives are finding new hope through a dignified job.

In this booklet, we will introduce you to an apprentices in each of our four Micah Works programs. Beyond the 17 young men in the Micah House and the 12 young men in the Timothy House, the Lord is using your generosity to transform these 25 lives as well!

In Christ,



Michael Miller

# MICAH WORKS FOUNDATIONS

“Micah Works Foundations” is the new name for our original Micah Works program, led by Micah grad Jarvin Matute. Three young men who lived on the streets for years joined this program in October 2021. The Foundations apprentices work at the Micah Project five days a week learning a variety of skills: landscaping, construction, maintenance, carpentry, welding, and water purification. After work each morning, the young men spend afternoons in the classroom learning everything from workplace etiquette to financial management to conflict resolution. After a year in our training program, the apprentices will undertake a three-month internship in a local business before being placed in a permanent job.

We rent a room for the Foundations apprentices near the Micah Project. Each apprentice has a navigator who mentors him daily to help him navigate his path away from the streets and towards a bright future.

## MEET ERICK!

We first met Erick on the streets when he was just twelve years old in 2011. His addictions kept him on the streets until well into his twenties. We would most often find him selling small bags of water on street corners to raise enough money to buy some food for his two children, Miguel, age 4, and Ashley, age 2. Erick told us that he is so grateful to God for Micah Works because it has helped him to climb out of a deep pit and prepare to have a job to help his family flourish.



# MICAH COOKS CULINARY PROGRAM

Micah grad Arle Mejia founded our culinary program in 2020. He had graduated from a culinary school in El Salvador and was working as a chef on a Mediterranean cruise ship. When COVID shut down the cruising industry, Arle moved back to Honduras and took over Micah's kitchen. He began to bring in apprentices—including several Micah grads who also had doors slam shut during COVID—to learn the culinary arts. Earlier this year, we remodeled our kitchen to include professional equipment and we renamed it the Cocina Julio Cesar, after our beloved grad who passed away in January. Currently, there are seven apprentices in our program and several Micah Cooks grads already working in the restaurant industry. Arle's program is hugely popular with the Micah boys, and they all take culinary classes with him as well.

## MEET MARIO!

Mario grew up in one of Tegucigalpa's most dangerous neighborhoods. When he was thirteen, the violent gang that ran his neighborhood forced him to start charging a "war tax" to local businesses—blood money that the gangs extort from people in their territory. Mario was arrested and charged with extortion. Thankfully, because his three older brothers had been a part of the Micah Project, the judge allowed him to fulfill his sentence at Micah rather than in juvenile prison. Now seventeen and a junior in high school, Mario spends his free time in our kitchen and is taking extra culinary classes on the weekends.

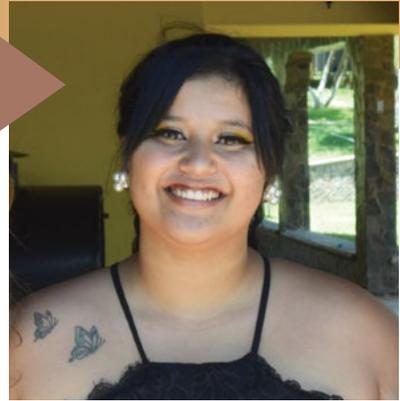


# MICAH SALON

In the last several years, we have seen a huge increase in street-connected girls and young women. In 2021, Micah missionary Michelle Corley, who owned a salon in the United States, decided to help five young women receive salon training. She found a salon owner here in Tegucigalpa willing to train them three days a week. At the end of their training, our Micah Salon trainees did a three-month internship in different salons in our area. Our first graduates received their diplomas on June 27 of this year! For our next group of trainees, we have rented a space in our neighboring Villa Linda Miller community and are developing our own training salon. The trainees live in rooms that we have rented near the Micah House. In June, we hired our first navigator, a young woman named Sherry Hernandez, to help mentor our new trainees.

## MEET ALLISON!

Allison is 20 years old. She lived in a seedy “rent by the hour” hotel for 8 years. There she raised her 2 children. Tragically, Allison often had to resort to prostitution during her teen years to feed her children. When she joined the Micah Salon program, we rented a room for her and her children so that they did not have to be on the streets. She has now graduated from the program and has found permanent work in a salon in our area! She dreams of owning her own salon so that someday she can help other teen prostitutes leave that life just like she did.



# MICAH CO-LAB

The newest Micah Works program is called Micah Co-Lab, which comes from the Spanish word “colaborar”—to collaborate. Micah Co-Lab is a program that trains young Honduran men and women in two programs used by architects and engineers: AutoCAD and Autodesk Revit. In April, we hired a talented Honduran architect named Poullette Ardon who will train our eight apprentices to become experts in these programs. After the training, apprentices who qualify will have the opportunity to do drafting work for Trileaf, a large engineering firm in the United States. Micah Co-Lab is a cutting-edge program that is providing training and jobs to an untapped resource here in Honduras: knowledge workers!

## MEET JOSE LUIS!

Jose Luis joined the Micah House in 2013 at the age of 13. He graduated from high school in 2018 and participated in a Discipleship Training School through Youth with a Mission in Brazil in 2019. Jose Luis started an engineering degree at a local university in 2020, made more challenging by the total lockdown that caused all Honduran schools to be virtual for two entire academic years. Upon learning how scarce engineering jobs are in Honduras, Jose Luis opted to join Co-Lab in June of this year. He is excited that he will soon be a professional drafter!



# WHAT'S NEXT?

## MICAH WORKS FOUNDATIONS:

Our team will provide job placement assistance for the current generation of Foundations apprentices and begin to recruit the next generation early next year.

## MICAH COOKS:

In Phase Two of Micah Cooks, we plan to open a café next year in Tegucigalpa to provide real-world experience to our apprentices. It will also have a catering and event component.

## MICAH SALON:

We will continue to develop our new training salon in our neighboring Villa Linda Miller community.

## MICAH CO-LAB:

Our current generation of trainees will apply to become full-time drafters for Trileaf and we will begin to recruit a new generation of trainees.



## KEEP UP WITH US ONLINE

