

Endangered family now “at home”

Three years ago, a series of tragedies brought the Lopez* family into our lives. This heartbreaking situation was one of the most challenging we have faced, but we were confident that there is nothing too hard for God.

One of the daughters escaped a dangerous situation where she was held against her will and sexually and physically abused. In retaliation for escaping, her abusers tracked her down and murdered several members of her family in front of her. Eventually, she was rescued and came to Oasis. There she began to heal, was baptized, and testified against the gang. The gang leader responsible was arrested, tried, and convicted. *The gang then vowed vengeance on the four survivors of this family.*

When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers. Prov. 21:15 (NIV)

Although the mother, her brother, and her sister were being kept safe at another ministry, it was clear they could never live free of fear and violence in Guatemala. After running into dead ends with the United Nations Refugee program, Kids Alive in Guatemala began working with other Kids Alive countries to find a safe home for this family.

A safe location and a good cultural fit for the Lopez family was our priority, and we found a place that we believed would be safe, give them the support they needed, and was a cultural match. Generous KAI partners helped make it possible to get them to safety as they began a new life in a new country.

A frustratingly slow immigration process in Peru, along with pandemic-related delays, made the resettlement process long and hard at times. While we waited for official channels to be navigated, we made sure the Lopezes had access to counseling services, job training, and help adjusting to Peruvian culture. And we were all thrilled when we were finally able to move the family into their brand-new house.

Now that the Lopez family is safe, healing from their past experiences and building a new life, they can look to the future with hope. What a joy for us to see this precious family rescued and restored!

**Name changed to protect the family*



Kids Alive welcomes four new staff members,

Kids Alive has continued its robust efforts in the past year – even through the extra challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic – building capacity to bring healing and protection to children shattered by betrayal and abuse. A major part of these efforts includes the addition of staff who bring expertise in trauma intervention and treatment, family strengthening, child safeguarding, and the pursuit of justice on behalf of abused and exploited children.

Vinicio Zuquino, Regional Director, Latin America



A native of Guatemala, Vinicio Javier Zuquino-Barrientos has assumed the role of Regional Director for Kids Alive in Latin America.

Vinicio earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of San Carlos, and is

completing his Master's in Strategic Analysis, Security and Geopolitics from the University of San Carlos. He earned a Certification in Human Rights with Focus on Political Participation from the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights and Rafael Landívar University, and he has studied social sciences and law at Marian Galvez University in Guatemala.

Vinicio's accomplishments in the areas of child protection and justice include leading projects to rescue victims of child sexual violence, training more than 2,000 prosecutors, judges, and police through their own schools or academies, and educating churches and parachurch organizations to support the cause of justice for victims of abuse.

"I'm very grateful for the opportunity to join this team of warriors," says Vinicio. "My hope and prayer is that God will allow us to protect more children at risk with our programs in Latin America."

Vinicio's strengths and experience mesh in many ways with the mission of Kids Alive in Latin America, and we look forward to working with him to bring light and hope to children in Guatemala, Peru, Dominican Republic, and Haiti.



Vinicio welcomes representatives from the Secretary of Social Well-being to Oasis in Guatemala

Marina Kuzmina, Global Coordinator for Trauma Care



Dr. Marina Kuzmina was born in Siberia, Russia, and in 2007 she pursued God's call on her life, which included entering the mental health field. She moved to Virginia where she received a Master of Arts in Community Counseling from Regent University and a Ph.D.

in Counselor Education and Supervision

from Old Dominion University.

After establishing a career in the mental health field in the US and gaining experience as a Licensed Professional Counselor and Clinical Supervisor, Marina once again heard God calling her to the nations, equipping them with the knowledge she has received.

Marina has been with Kids Alive for over two years as a missionary to Guatemala. In her new role as Global Coordinator for Trauma Care, she will focus on developing and helping to implement key aspects of our trauma care program across the organization.

"My hope for the coming year is that I can become a part of growth of Kids Alive as a unified organization with a common vision, to see children in our care experience trauma healing and restoration in their relationships with God, themselves, and others. I pray that I can help equip and support our staff and caregivers to provide quality trauma care across all Kids Alive sites around the world."



Dr. Kuzmina conducts a training session for our staff in Zambia

***“Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed.
Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.”***

Isaiah 1:17 (NIV)

building capacity in trauma care and justice

Your support is making it possible for us to expand our capacity to welcome children and young people that other ministries are not reaching, either due to age, disability, a history of trauma, or complicated legal circumstances. In the past few months, Kids Alive has welcomed four new international staff members with a wide variety of expertise in ministry to kids from hard places.

Dimita Paul Phiri, Senior Manager – Trauma Care, Zambia



Our first staff psychologist in Africa, Paul Phiri brings valuable and unmatched experience to the ministry, reflecting our vision of offering trauma-informed care in our residential facilities, school and care center, and to area families.

Paul holds a Bachelor of Psychology and Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology from the University of Zambia and has over six years of experience in the counseling field. His practice has addressed child trauma, abuse, depression, substance abuse, marriage-related stress, and anxiety. His post-graduate research area was “Understanding the contributing factors to relapse in alcohol abuse among young adults of Lusaka district.” He has published a follow-up study and is now working on his third publication.

“My work involves understanding, recognizing and responding to the effects of all types of trauma among the children under Kids Alive Zambia,” says Paul. He will be responsible for trauma care and child safeguarding for our ministries in Zambia, and will also direct the Misisi Care Center. He will lead a team of two social workers and ten case workers in Lusaka and Mongu.



Paul Phiri leads a staff briefing

Lea Darido, Staff Psychologist, Kids Alive Lebanon



Lea Darido is the staff psychologist at Kids Alive Lebanon, serving our children, parents, educators, and caregivers. Lea grew up in Zahle, Lebanon and received her education at the Lebanese University in Beirut. She comes to Kids Alive after several years of working with SKILD, a nonprofit in Lebanon devoted to

providing individualized support and care for children with learning difficulties.

Kids Alive Lebanon serves a large refugee population, many of whom have fled Syria and other war-torn areas and have experienced trauma, discrimination, and severe poverty. Lea works to raise awareness in how to deal with hurting children and families, and she provides the support they need to help them feel safe, heard, and happy. This involves individual counseling as well as group activities for kids and mothers that foster openness, forgiveness, and a sense of belonging. By the end of 2021, Lea will have finished an intensive four-year training program that qualifies her to become a full-fledged therapist.

“It is never easy to work around hurt children,” shares Lea. “But with it comes strength and compassion no words can describe.”



**Lea interviews a student at our
reconciliation camp**



Make plans in 2021 for a legacy gift to Kids Alive

The first quarter of a new year is a great time to take stock of the progress you're making toward important life goals. And whether you're 30 or 90, it's always a good time to give careful thought to the legacy – both earthly and eternal – that you're leaving to the causes you care about.

A legacy gift to Kids Alive enables you to:

- Make a larger gift than you might be able to make today
- Give in honor of a loved one or someone who's making a difference
- Encourage others to give through your example

Gifts in a will: Your will (or trust) is your final act of stewardship, a means to purposefully distribute your resources to support causes you hold dear. By including Kids Alive in your will, your gifts continue ministering Christ's love to hurting children.

Non-cash assets: Most charitable gifts are in the form of cash, but this may not be the most cost-effective way for you to give. You might be able to increase your impact – and experience significant tax benefits – by giving non-cash assets, such as:

- Stock or marketable securities
- Real estate
- Business interests
- Life insurance
- Tangible personal property

Ready to make plans? We'd love to help you discover smart and powerful ways to increase the future impact of your giving. Call us at (800) KIDS.330 and we'll get started!

"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness." 2 Cor. 9:10 (NIV)