



# OLIVER AND THE KAMEHAMEHA

The Micah Project Summer 2020 News

NEW MICAH BOY OLIVER PLAYS WITH LONG-TIME MICAH FRIEND AND VISITOR FROM ST. LOUIS CATHERINE ON THE STREETS IN 2019

## DURING OLIVER'S FIRST THREE WEEKS AT THE MICAH HOUSE, WE COULDN'T GET HIM TO SLEEP IN A BED.

Like most street kids, his days and nights were reversed. Oliver's second wind came just as everyone else went to sleep. After David, our night caregiver, set Oliver up with sheets and a blanket on the couch, the two of them would watch episodes of Oliver's favorite cartoon, a Japanese series called Dragon Ball, until Oliver fell asleep. At some point, however, he woke up long enough to move to the floor, and the next morning that's where we would find him, wrapped head-to-toe in his blanket like a mummy—exactly the way street kids sleep.

God used the national quarantine to bring Oliver to the Micah Project, which was a bright spot in an otherwise difficult time. In downtown Tegucigalpa all foot traffic disappeared and all stores closed. Begging was impossible in the empty city plazas, and street kids went hungry. The first week of the quarantine, our social worker, Wendy, drove to Tegucigalpa's central plaza to distribute food to those who lived there. As she stood by our van door and talked with people lined up for food, Oliver hopped into the van and announced, "I'm coming out

to the Micah House with you today!" By the time Wendy drove back to Micah, Oliver was in such a deep sleep that we had to carry him inside: his first night as a Micah boy!

Oliver is a tornado of energy, a contradictory combination of streetwise hardness and childlike exuberance. Lucy Wynn, an active member of our street team, noticed this when she first met him. It broke her heart that Oliver, as a young child living with an older group of street youth, had undergone some of the most degrading experiences of any boy that she had ever met on the streets. And yet he always ran up to her and demanded that she sit next to him and read stories from the picture-book Bible that he knew she



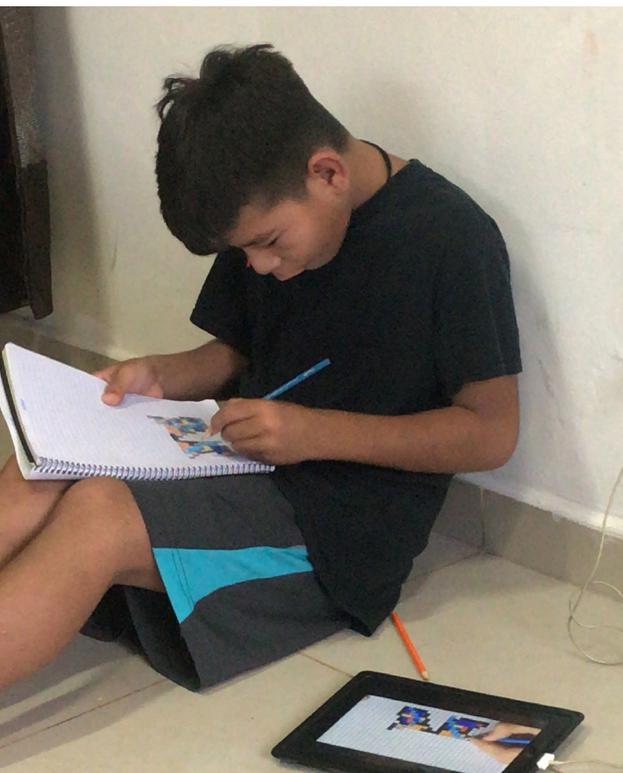
LUCY AND OLIVER, DOWNTOWN TEGUCIGALPA



**OLIVER AT OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR STREET-CONNECTED FRIENDS IN DECEMBER**

teacher, Oliver, yelling at full volume like one of his cartoon superheroes, bounds into the living room. Usually, he approaches the older boys from behind to give them a bear hug without realizing that they are live on video! Even though rambunctious little brothers can be annoying, the guys hug him back and let him sit with them as they concentrate on their lessons. The little street kid who desperately needed love now receives it on a daily basis.

Last week, Oliver found a YouTube video about how to draw his favorite Dragon Ball cartoon character, a warrior-hero named Goku. Though Oliver has never attended school, he spent three hours starting and stopping the



**OLIVER FOCUSES AS HE DRAWS HIS FAVORITE CARTOON SUPERHERO**

carried in her backpack. Afterwards, he asked probing questions about God. Gradually, a little boy began to emerge from his hardened shell of street life.

Over several months, God continued to put Oliver in Lucy's path. Even as she did errands on her days off, she ran into him in surprising places. During those unexpected encounters, he hopped into her car, and she would take him to the grocery store or to McDonald's for a Happy Meal. One kid in a city of more than a million inhabitants—yet, the Holy Spirit kept bringing them together all the while revealing to Lucy how much this child needed love.

When any new kid comes into the Micah House, he always shakes up the family dynamics. Sometimes, when our high school guys are deeply involved in an online class with their physics or algebra



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video while painstakingly following the instructions. When he was finished, he had a perfect rendering of Goku executing his signature superhero move: the kamehameha (pronounced kah-may-hah-may-hah).

I'm not surprised that Oliver loves Goku and his kamehameha super powers. Whenever Goku's enemies threaten to destroy him, he speaks this magical word and a burst of energy shoots from his hands to defeat evil in a blinding flash. Imagine if Oliver would have had kamehameha power while being the youngest and most vulnerable kid on the streets. With just one word, he could have defeated any evil person who attempted to corrupt his innocence.

Oliver doesn't need magical powers to stay safe at the Micah Project. Lucy began God's "protection process" when she read Bible stories to him on the streets; our greatest joy now is to surround Oliver with a power that will keep him safe from the evil that threatened to crush him, a power so great that "neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate . . . [him] from the love of God"



**OLIVER PRACTICES HIS KAMEHAMEHA**

(Romans 8:38). As Oliver begins the slow, uneven process of healing from the deep wounds of street life, he will come to know that God's love is a greater power than anything that will ever threaten him again. Another positive outcome of the quarantine is that we have additional face-to-face time to surround our boys with God's perfect love. Around the world, fear has been an overwhelming response to COVID-19 and its horrifying consequences. Most of our boys know what it's like to have everything taken from them; the pandemic has brought back memories of desperate times in their lives. Our goal is to create a safe place for them at the Micah House where they know that "perfect love drives out fear" (1 John 4:18).

Thank you for helping us provide a loving home for kids like Oliver. One reason that God's love is so powerful is the speed at which it multiplies; God uses your love to empower us to love these boys, and they in turn go out and share that love with others. You are an integral part of the unbroken chain that leads straight to the heart of God!

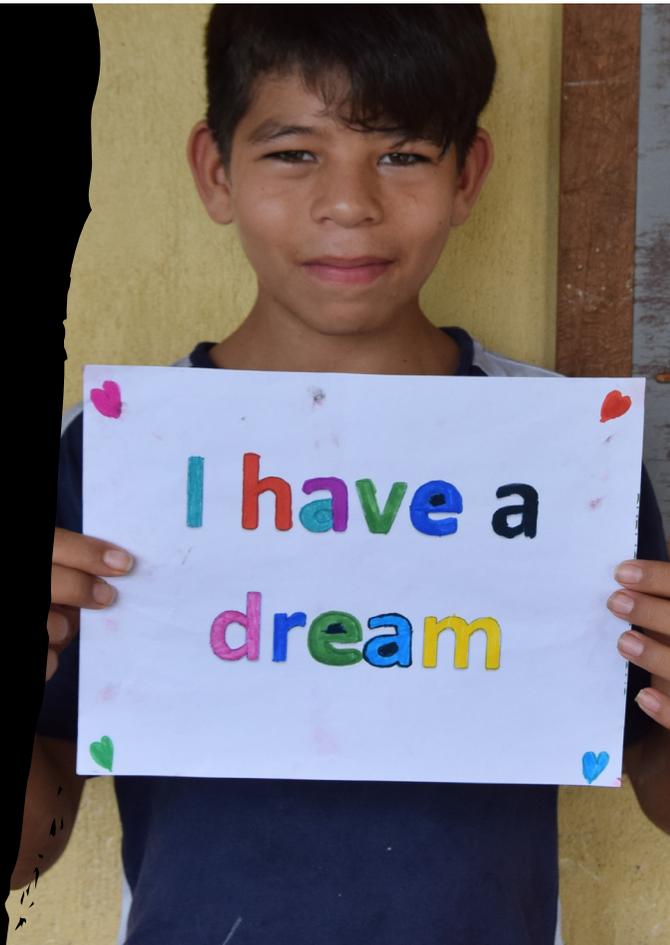
We pray that this story about the way God used Lucy, the Micah Project, and you to bring Oliver into his loving embrace will encourage you to remember that "perfect love drives out fear" and that "Christ Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

**MAY THIS TRUTH BE YOUR TREASURE TODAY AND YOUR ANCHOR OF HOPE FOR TOMORROW. MICHAEL MILLER**

**AT THE MICAH PROJECT, WE ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN.**

*And it's important that we, especially as followers of Christ, honor, uphold and protect them.*

*At the Micah Project, we focus on helping kids through the processes of healing from trauma and finding freedom, family and futures in Jesus Christ. Over the next few months, we'll be sharing some educational material and thoughts about the rights of children on our website and social media. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is a statement from countries who have agreed to protect children's rights. It includes a list of rights that these countries have recognized as inalienable as well as a description of each right. Currently, no country is upholding these rights perfectly, and although thoroughly defined, each "right" brings with it nuanced attributes. We at Micah are passionate about working through those nuances in order to protect vulnerable children from abuse and violence as well as give the Micah boys the best care possible. We hope you'll follow us online as we work through these issues while ever "acting justly, loving mercy and walking humbly with God."*





## DOUBLE YOUR DONATION

We are so excited to inform you about this year's "Double Your Donation" challenge! From August 15 to September 30, for every dollar you donate to the Micah Project, another dollar will be given—up to \$130,000—by supporters who have generously set up a matching grant. This is an exciting opportunity to help us continue to serve the street-connected youth of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, as well as other vulnerable groups who have been suffering due to the coronavirus lockdown. You may donate online at [micahprojecthonduras.org/donate](http://micahprojecthonduras.org/donate) or mail donations to The Micah Project, Dept. 357 PO Box 4346, Houston TX 77210-4346.

## LABOR OF LOVE 2020 VIRTUAL 5K RACE/1 MILE FUN RUN

We're also excited to invite you to run with us again this Labor Day weekend for the Micah Project—from wherever you are!! This year's "Labor of Love" 5K race/1 mile fun run will be a virtual event. That means you can participate from anywhere in the world and maintain distance from those who aren't in your close circles as we continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. To join the event, register via the link we've shared below, download the "It's Your Race" smartphone app (search for IYR Virtual in your app store), and then use the app to record your run at any time during the weekend of September 5-7. You can use this link ([themicahprojectvirtualrace.itsyourrace.com](http://themicahprojectvirtualrace.itsyourrace.com)) or visit our website to learn more and register. Registration costs \$20 for adults and \$15 for kids. For another \$10, or a \$20 donation if you choose not to register for the race, you can get our new-and-improved t-shirt, which features our ministry's theme verse, Micah 6:8. We'd also love you to spread the word and encourage others to join us by posting to your social media with #MicahLaborOfLove!



THIS YEAR'S T-SHIRT



## FINANCIAL INTEGRITY

We are proud to announce that in April 2020, we became accredited by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), which holds Christian non-profit organizations to "high standards of accountability with respect to governance, financial management and stewardship/fundraising practices."

## MICAH TURNS 20!

It truly has been amazing to see God's faithfulness to this ministry for over 20 years!! While every day we are grateful for 20 years of the Micah Project, we are sad to announce that, due to the coronavirus pandemic, we've made the difficult decision to postpone this year's celebratory events until 2021.

## KEEP UP WITH US ONLINE . . .

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You may donate on our website or by sending gifts here.



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