

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION: MULTIPLY YOUR IMPACT!

Dear friends,

I stepped into the whirlwind that is the Micah Project kitchen the other night to see how things were going. We had visitors for dinner and our Micah Cooks apprentices were racing to get sixty plates of food served. Our executive chef Arle Mejia was out purchasing some supplies, which left our second chef Josue Erazo in charge. Josue looked like an orchestra conductor as he gave orders to the seven apprentices, taste-tested sauces, and checked the temperature of the chicken on the grill.

I shook my head in wonder and recalled all that Josue had overcome to reach this point. When he joined the Micah Project in 2016 at the age of fourteen, we had no idea of the brutal violence that he had faced throughout his childhood. We quickly discovered Josue's natural intelligence, creativity, and charm. We also discovered, though, his incapacitating case of post-traumatic-stress-disorder (PTSD).

Josue began having frequent dissociative episodes. His survivor brain would hijack his rational brain and he would go into fight or flight mode. He would be up and moving, but he wouldn't know who he was or who we were. Sometimes, he jumped over the wall of the Micah Project and ran for hours into the mountains, fleeing whatever monster his traumatized brain thought was chasing him. When he came to, he would look at his bare feet, cut up from running, and not have any idea where he was. Trauma seemed to be winning over in his life. Eventually, the PTSD caused Josue to leave his studies and leave Micah.



Months later, after Arle had started our culinary program, he invited Josue to join. Josue began to flourish! He threw all his creativity and passion into the culinary arts, and he became one of our top students. Earlier this year, Arle appointed him to be his second-in-command.

The Micah Project currently has 17 boys living in our Micah House and eight in the Timothy House, which is where our grads go when they want to keep studying. But, in 2022, we also have 25 young men and women in our different Micah Works programs, including the Micah Cooks culinary school. It is so exciting to see God transform these lives through the Micah Project's ministry!

This year, generous Micah supporters have once again set up a "Double Your Donation" campaign, which will run between August 15 and September 30. **Every donation you give during that time will be doubled by this matching grant up to \$200,000!** We invest these funds directly into our programs and into lives like Josue.

This year, we have prepared a short booklet to introduce you to our exciting new Micah Works programs. As you meet some of the young men and women in Micah Works, I hope that you will understand that, while your donation is being doubled, the IMPACT of your donation is being multiplied over and over again in so many lives.

After dinner one night, Josue said to me, "I don't know where I would be right now if Arle hadn't started the Micah Cooks culinary school."

Thank you for empowering Josue and so many other to leave the trauma of their past lives behind and to look towards the future with hope and gratitude for all that God has done in their lives through the Micah Project.

Su hermano en Cristo,



Michael Miller

