

# UNCHAINED

The Micah Project | December 2024

Adán was in a rage. Again! What triggered it didn't warrant his reaction: one of the other boys accidentally jostled the table where Adán was putting a puzzle together, and a few pieces fell onto the floor.

With a primal scream, Adán reached for whatever weapon he could find. That happened to be a ball from our pool table. Racing to the table, he grabbed it before the other boy knew what was happening.

As the closest adult caregiver, I reached for Adán and snatched the ball before he could hurl it at his perceived offender. When he went for another ball, I wrapped him in a backwards hug and secured his arms with my own. He squirmed to free himself, surprisingly strong in his altered state for a small 11-year-old. Maneuvering him to the couch, I sat down and enveloped him in a life-or-death embrace.

"Adán, you're safe here," I said as soothingly as I could over his shouting. "No one is going to hurt you. Everything is going to be okay." His little heart beat so rapidly it felt like it could burst. Over and over, I repeated those words until the rage began to seep out of his body. The only signs of the episode were silent tears rolling down his face.

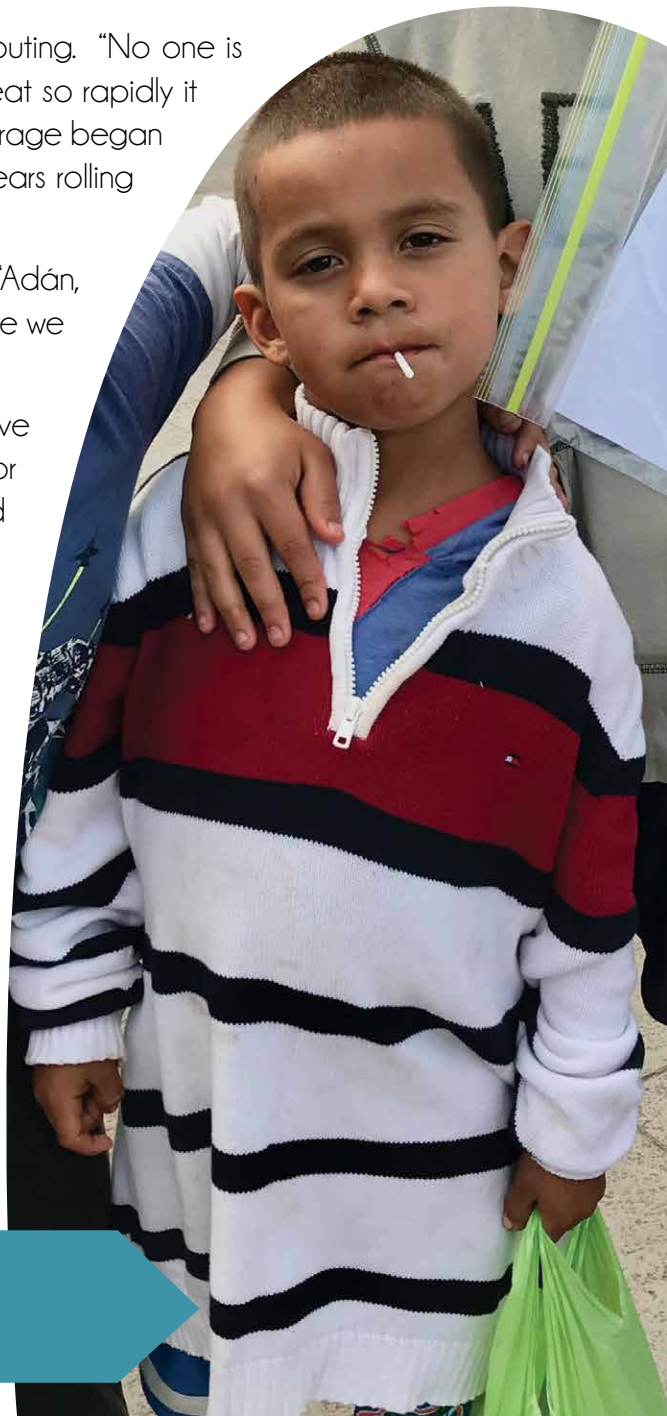
Eventually, my arms relaxed into a normal hug. I released him and said, "Adán, why don't we walk to the store and buy some apple juice?" By the time we got back, Adán returned to his puzzle as if nothing had happened.

Adán is too young to understand what PTSD is or why he has dissociative episodes. He doesn't know why his brain switches into survival mode or why he loses all perception of reality when he's threatened. He's a kid in chains who doesn't know why.

Those "why" questions have an uncomplicated, tragic answer. Adán spent the first decade of his life on Tegucigalpa's streets. His home was a rickety wooden shack hanging off a mountain in a squatter community, an hour's bus ride from downtown Tegucigalpa. While fighting chronic illness without any means of income, his mom was forced to take her kids down the mountain to beg.

In the messed-up economy of the streets, cuteness is a commodity. Adán's mom would sit on a curb while he approached strangers and begged for food. It's hard to say no to a seven-year-old boy telling you he's hungry! Even with the cuteness factor, though, there are people who see the street-connected kids as trash. When people talk about needing to "clean up" downtown, too often they are talking about kids, not litter. Imagine what that does to a child's soul.

This picture that I took of Adán in 2018 reveals a hardness in his seven-year-old eyes. He is a kid who has seen too much, been through too much.



In November of 2022, Adán's mom checked into the public hospital with what everyone thought was a normal infection. Two weeks later at age 49, she passed away. Adán was left in the care of his two sisters, both older teenagers with babies of their own, who also spent their days begging on the streets.

Several weeks after his mom died, Adán joined the Micah House. His insides were tied in knots, and as he struggled to get free from the turmoil, those knots only got tighter.

The Micah Project's mission is to help street-connected youth find freedom, family, and a future in Christ. Pursuing freedom can be a long, hard road. For Adán, the road has been long and hard, but also hopeful.

Despite the chains that our boys bring with them, the Micah House is a hope-filled place. We have a God who is more powerful than any bondage.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,  
and he saved them from their distress.  
He brought them out of darkness, the utter darkness,  
and broke away their chains. Psalm 107: 13-14

As we approach our 25th anniversary, we are awestruck by God's chain-breaking love. If you want to hear stories of broken chains, talk to Hector or Edward or Jafeth or Daniel or Mario or Junior. Our boys are living proof that God's love is greater than the evil that enslaves them on the streets. In the months to come, they will be telling their stories as we celebrate God's goodness in these 25 years.

Witnessing God's mighty love for the brokenhearted for so many years is the reason that we're not terrified when Adán has a nuclear meltdown. God has put the Micah Project in his life for such a time as this. How long will it take for Adán's chains to be broken? We don't know. Perhaps months. Perhaps years.

However long it takes, we are here for him. A few weeks ago, Adán turned 13; he is winding down his second year at Micah. He has not had a dissociative episode for several months. This year, he is also completing fourth grade to catch up for years lost on the streets. Adán has academic talent, especially in one surprising way. He can assemble a model car or airplane with the precision of an engineer. You know those sets that come in hundreds of tiny, annoying pieces that never fit the way the instructions describe? He will spend hours on one of those until completed, long after the other boys or staff have given up. I think we might have a future engineer on our hands!



Adán (striped shirt) at home with his mother and siblings



These days, Adán's hugs are normal; he no longer needs protective embraces during violent outbursts. That sense of normalcy in his life, though, is extraordinary. In His perfect plan, God did not create kids to live and die on the streets. Nor did His original plan include absent fathers or moms who die while their kids are still young. God never intended for families to be chained to generations of poverty, addiction, and violence.

The prophet Isaiah writes about a day in which God's created order will be restored in the new heaven and the new earth. In that beautiful passage in Isaiah 65, the prophet describes a time when

They will not labor in vain,  
nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune;  
for they will be a people blessed by the Lord,  
they and their descendants with them. Isaiah 65:23

At the Micah Project, we fight for that freedom in the here and now, even as we teach our boys about the eternal freedom that Christ offers. Although it can be a joy-filled journey, it also requires gritty, never-give-up hope.

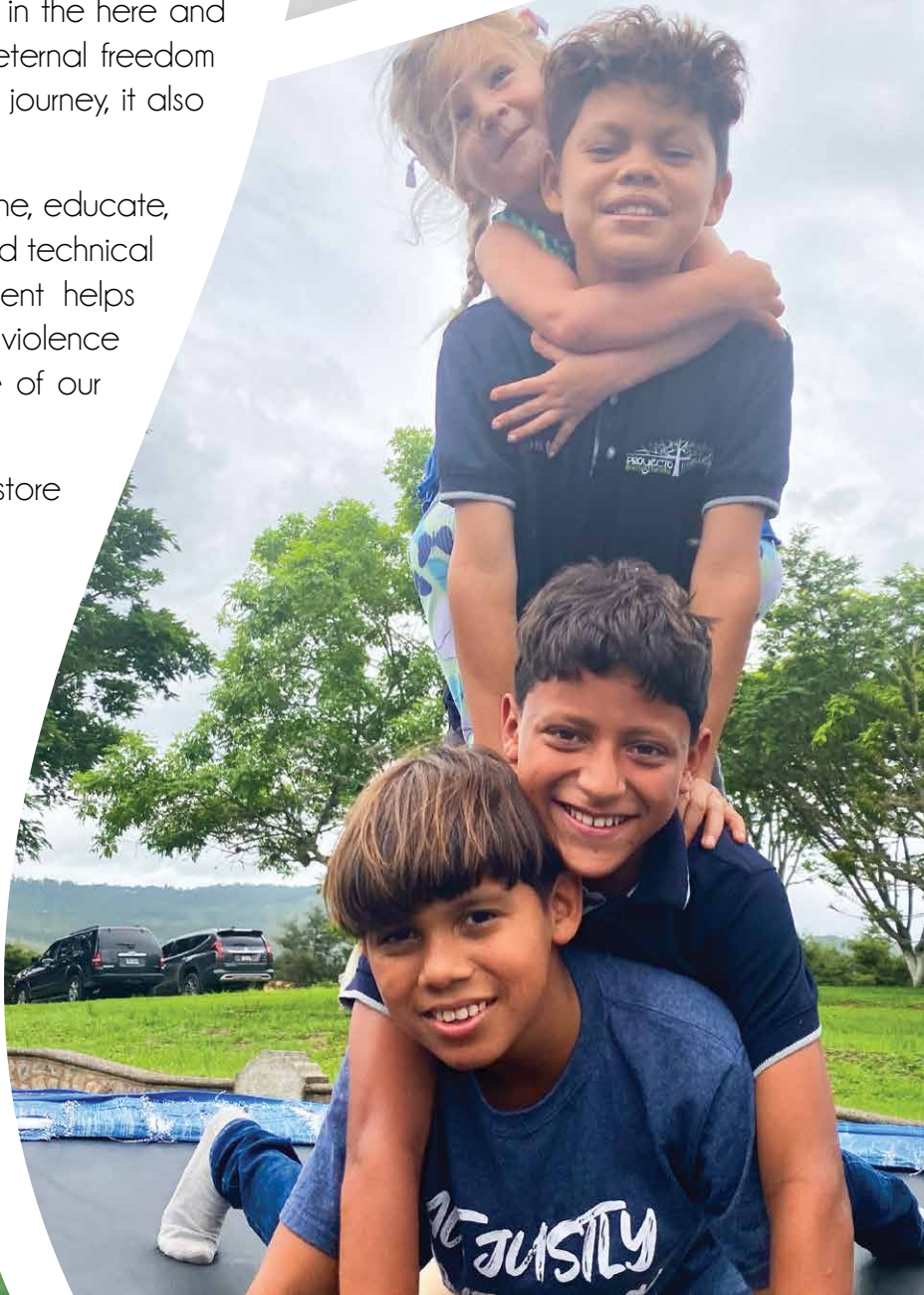
Your donations to the Micah Project feed, clothe, educate, and equip our boys with multiple vocational and technical skills. From an eternal viewpoint, your investment helps to halt the cycle of poverty, addiction, and violence and introduces them to the unbreakable love of our Heavenly Father.

Thank you for being a part of His plan to restore hope and to break chains.

Gratefully,



Michael Miller



# HELP US TO **BREAK CHAINS** IN OUR BOYS' LIVES

## GIVE

Your tax-deductible donation to the Micah Project is more important than ever as we expand our ability to provide opportunities to our boys, such as our culinary and vocational programs, to help them break the chains of poverty in their lives. To give your year-end donation, visit [bit.ly/givetomicah](http://bit.ly/givetomicah) or scan the QR code!



## PRAY

You can sign up to pray for Adán or one of our other boys. Our gracious Heavenly Father will answer your prayers as they pursue the freedom that is only found in Christ. Follow this link or scan the code to sign up to pray for one or more of the boys: [bit.ly/team-micah](http://bit.ly/team-micah)

## GO





The best way to connect with our mission is to go to Honduras to experience it yourself! We can help you to plan a vision trip with friends or church members, or you can join one of our trips and help us celebrate our 25th anniversary! More details on those trips soon! To plan your trip, write to us at [info@micahprojecthonduras.org](mailto:info@micahprojecthonduras.org)



## WATCH & SHARE

Watch our inspiring new video, filmed and produced by Andrew Lawlin, which powerfully reveals how the Micah Project helps break chains on the streets of Honduras! Here is the link: [bit.ly/micah-video](http://bit.ly/micah-video)

## VISIT US ONLINE

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