



# Jubilee

SPRING 2024

JOURNAL

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## Dear Friends,

We hope this Spring Newsletter finds you well. We are incredibly grateful and humbled as we reflect on Jubilee's 15th anniversary.

Eighteen years ago, David and I chose the verse, "The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy" (Ps 126:3) for our wedding invitations as a description of our awe and wonder for all the Lord had already done in our lives, and a declaration of hope for what He would do in and through our marriage and our future together. As we were praying over what might be the theme verse for the 2024 **15th Anniversary School Year**, it became clear that the Lord was once again pointing us to Psalm 126 – the whole psalm, but in particular verse 3 as the condensed theme.

"Our mouths are filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy" (vs 2). We stand amazed as we witness our teenage chapel times filled with heartfelt worship, longing, and love for Christ Jesus. We watch our younger students, with total abandon, sing to Christ from the depths of their hearts and pray with faith that can move mountains.


We remember when Jubilee was just beginning and our students had dreams for their futures, dreams to become drug dealers, bus driver assistants, and to work at McDonalds. But as Jubilee has educated, disciplined, and molded students and their families, we witness students who dream of becoming doctors, nurses, teachers, pastors, and missionaries.



The students want to use their professions and training to go out and serve the Lord and the people of Honduras. So, this 2024 school year, we stand in awe at the goodness, the love, and the great abundance of our Lord! Thank you for being an important part of these "great things" that the Lord has done and is doing at Jubilee! Please pray that He continues to manifest Himself with great power, truth, and boldness in the Jubilee community.

**Together we join with the angelic chorus singing: "To God be the glory, for the great things He has done."**

In Love & Thanksgiving,



David & Emily Romero



## Jump for Jubilee and Language Exchange **PARTNERSHIP JUBILEE-GRCES**

Three years ago we began a partnership with Grand Rapids Christian Elementary School focused on learning together, strengthening Spanish and English language skills, and engaging in cross-cultural experiences. Our interactions include Zoom calls, shared videos, emails, and praying for one another. Lindsay Wieland Capel, mother of students in the GRCES Spanish immersion program and a long-time friend of Co-Director Emily Romero shares:

“It occurred to me that it could be a mutually beneficial partnership to connect students from both schools. Emily and I met with our principal and director of Spanish immersion several years ago to dream about what might come of it. I know there have been several connections across grades and with different students.”

Jubilee's teacher, Mrs. Karol Soto, has done activities with her students and GRCES classes over the past several years. She testifies that *“This program has been a blessing to my students helping us learn about the US culture through the different interactions that we have had. I hope that my students will also be able to continue to grow in strengthening their written and spoken Spanish and English as they connect through writing emails and doing video calls.”*

During the past two years, GRCES decided to do a Spring Service Learning project called “Jump for Jubilee” to raise money for Jubilee’s new Athletics program. Vanessa Abreu, GRCES Spanish Immersion Coordinator explains, “During ‘Jump for Jubilee,’ we encourage students to jump, or do other forms of heart-health activities for 15-minute increments. We are asking students to gather sponsors to pledge money. All of the donations go towards purchasing athletic supplies for Jubilee.” **We praise God for the new opportunities this partnership provides Jubilee’s students and students at GRCES!**

*Jubilee offers children and youth who live in poverty-stricken neighborhoods the opportunity to meet Christ and receive a transformative education while also discipling the student’s entire family.*

## Reflections from

# MISSION TRIP FEBRUARY 2024

“

It's touching to see people who have so little yet, are so giving with what they have. I think, we in the United States especially, can learn a lot from the people here.

”

– Sandy Roelofs



“

As we talked to Jubilee's students about Jesus and how deeply He loves them, we got to look at their faces and see how closely they were listening. There are no words to describe this experience.

”

– Kathy Steenwyk

“

Jubilee is bigger and better than we expected, I don't just mean the building, which is true, but in terms of the classroom situation and the love shown between the teachers, students, and staff. It is totally Christ-centered. We just feel God's spirit at work and it's a pleasure to serve at Jubilee.

”

– Doug & Gail Elenbaas



“

When David and Emily met they had a dream to start Jubilee. I heard about this dream from the beginning, watching it become a reality. Jubilee is a school on a Hill, a light on that hill and it shines so brightly that those of us who have been here always remember that light, and that is Jesus through Jubilee.

”

– Marla Hoekwater



To read the entire article, visit: [jubileecentershcn.org/blog](https://jubileecentershcn.org/blog)



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## Special Workshop

# EXPLORING DREAMS WITH 11TH GRADERS

We are thrilled and thankful to be able to offer 11th grade for the very first time this 2024 school year! In the vibrant hallways of Jubilee, where hopes soar and dreams flourish, a special workshop recently brought smiles and newfound clarity to our 11th-grade students.

For the first time in Jubilee's history, our 11th-grade students embarked on a vocational exploration journey, a step that will prepare them to transition from our school to the vast expanse of university life.

At first, some felt unsure and not quite sure what to expect. But with each activity, they began to discover more about themselves. Among them was Carlos, who once felt lost, but later found a love for arts and design, something he'd never realized before, even though he spent a few years in the theater program. Likewise David, once set on engineering, uncovered a newfound love for teaching mathematics and physics, surprising even himself.

However, this workshop wasn't just about careers, it was also about the dreams that fuel them. Eleventh grader Gady who started at Jubilee in 7th grade, shared his vision of becoming a missionary and pastor, a calling deeply rooted in his heart.

As the workshop progressed, students were encouraged to reflect on verses that resonated with their experiences at Jubilee. Claudeth, guided by her faith, shared with her classmates, Psalm 138:8 – "The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me" – finding comfort in the assurance of God's guidance.

Through laughter and reflection, the workshop showed us how much our students have grown and how bright their futures can be. Thanks to God and faithful supporters like you, we are sure that Jubilee leaves an indelible mark on their lives. In their dreams, we see the reflection of our collective mission – to empower, inspire, and guide the next generation to be transformed, Christ-centered leaders for their families, communities, and country.



Gady, with conviction, shared his vision of becoming a **Missionary and Pastor**, a calling rooted in his heart.



Ashley wasn't sure about her vocation, but after the workshop, she discovered she had skills in **Architecture**.



Carlos, who felt very unsure about his future, discovered that he not only had a passion for **The Arts** but also had the aptitude.



## Alumni Student Feature: **BESSY FLORES**

Bessy is a 19 year old Jubilee alumna and a 2nd year Psychology student at the Honduran National Autonomous University in Tegucigalpa. This past February, Bessy started working part-time at Jubilee as an Administrative Assistant. Bessy fondly remembers her time as a student, being part of our first graduating class of 6th graders in 2016, before we had Middle School.

When Bessy had to leave Jubilee, it was a difficult time for her. However, the opportunity to return filled her with immense joy. She describes Jubilee as her second family, explaining the deep sense of belonging and happiness she experiences by serving here.

Bessy and her family are faithful, active members of Jubilee's church. Her commitment to serving God has been evident since her childhood, when she actively participated in the church.

Over time, she has grown deeply involved in the dance ministry, which operates under the guidance of Jubilee teacher Ms. Lisbeth Flores, bringing joy and inspiration to the community. "Belonging to Jubilee has been a great blessing for me, from the very beginning. I believe that when I arrived, it was not by chance but for a God's purposes in my life and my

family; Jubilee has helped me grow in faith and as a person in different ways, and I am very grateful."

Psalm 37:4 holds a special place in Bessy's heart. This verse reads, "Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart," has not only inspired her but has also become a guiding light in her life. For her, working at Jubilee is not just a job but a calling—a way to combine her purpose and draw closer to God through service and ministry.

Each day spent at Jubilee is an opportunity to align her actions with her faith and to extend kindness, compassion, and love to those she serves. Through her dedication to the ministry, she finds herself drawing closer to God, discovering new depths of spirituality.

Read the entire story at: [jubileecentershq.org/blog](http://jubileecentershq.org/blog)

## Featured Student:

# MOISES A TRANSFORMATION STORY

In the heart of Jubilee's students, a story of redemption and transformation is being written. 6th grader, Moises, is a remarkable example of this transformation. Coming from a home marked by difficulties, Moises faces unique challenges because of the advanced age of his parents, who struggle to care for him amidst his overwhelming hyperactivity.

Forced by the violence of local gangs, Moises' oldest sister (in her 30s) migrated to the United States and her absence has understandably caused deep pain and confusion for Moises. His emotions overflow, manifesting in explosive behavior and language laden with anger.

Each day was a battle, and Moises was trapped in a spiral of rage. But amidst the darkness, hope emerged thanks to the loving support of his teacher, Ms. Keyla. Despite the challenges, she never lost faith in Moises. With tireless love and dedication, she tried to guide him on the right path, even in the most difficult moments. However, her efforts seemed to bear no fruit, and hope began to fade.

Children's Day 2023 arrived (September 10), a day that would change Moises' life forever. In an act of humility and sincere repentance, **Moises went to his teacher and asked for forgiveness from the heart. At that moment, the message of salvation resonated in his soul, and Moises found comfort and forgiveness in the arms of Jesus.**

The miracle of transformation began to unfold before our eyes. Moises found peace in the presence of God, regularly attending church and practicing breathing exercises to control his anger. With each step taken in faith, his heart healed.

Today, Moises tells us with emotion how *he has learned to deal with anger constructively. He no longer hurts others or says bad words but finds strength in prayer.* And although he still faces challenges, **he is determined to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and become the person that God designed him to be.**

Moises also enjoys being part of the Music Program and has been learning the trumpet. If you wish to be part of this wonderful process of transformation, we encourage you to consider sponsoring Moises and being part of his story of redemption and hope.

Read the entire story at: [jubileecentershcn.org/blog](https://jubileecentershcn.org/blog)





Join us this May for our

# STUDENT Sponsorship CAMPAIGN!

Together let's sponsor  
30 students in 30 days!



## MISSION TRIP TO Jubilee

JOIN US JULY 20 - 27, 2024

“ Jubilee's ministry is really unlike anything else I've ever **experienced** and I'm just so incredibly **thankful** to know the Romeros and to be a small **part of it**. ”

MARLA HOERWATER

For more information or apply visit [jubileecentershcn.org/mission-trips/](http://jubileecentershcn.org/mission-trips/) or contact Laura Sullivan at [Lsullivan@jubileehn.org](mailto:Lsullivan@jubileehn.org)



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