

Back in the Day

This current chaos reminds me of the importance of praying for others, and I would love for you to **email me specific prayer requests** to bring to God on your behalf. For so many the present is scary, difficult, chaotic, and sad, but I'm grateful for this New Vision, SCORE, and La Represa community. Thank you for your continued support in the midst of a global pandemic. I appreciate you, and I am honored to pray for you and your family during hard times.



Is anyone else especially emotional to see God's goodness in the not-so-good situations? Instead of an update, I want to share my overabundance of thankfulness and amazement (and maybe a few happy tears). Today I'm reflecting on the last decade and why I am grateful for the ministry we are able to do together in La Represa.



In July 2009, I came to La Represa for the first time with my dad on an intergenerational mission team. That week, we built the first stage of the private school (pictured left), led daily kids clubs, and visited homes. The highlight of the week for my dad and I was meeting Pamela's family (pictured above). My parents sponsored the La Represa school since New Vision got involved, and Pamela was the girl that we wrote letters to and prayed for. I left that week with a heart full of love for the people and a journal full of prayers asking God what was next.

For three years, I came on similar trips and saw Pamela and other community kids growing up. I loved the people of La Represa, and I finally realized that my desire to be here was God's way of calling me to missions. From July 2013 to January 2017, I served as a missionary alongside a family of four and two different roommates/friends. We helped with various ministries, but my main responsibility was serving at the private school. During that time, I was a teacher's assistant, kindergarten teacher, and office staff. I also had some miscellaneous roles, including helping with the organization and maintenance of the previous child sponsorship program.





While I worked with the sponsorship program, I made a list of ideas for the future in case the program was ever open to some simple changes. (I still have the list, and I look back on it often to remind myself of God's divine plan!) I dreamed of ways we could better connect American and Dominican families, because I was forever impacted by the way we connected with Pamela's family. When Alejandro and I were preparing for marriage and New Vision and SCORE asked me to help with the transitioning sponsorship program, I realized God had been preparing me for this since before my first trip to La Represa.

Thank you for reflecting on the good with me today. It is rewarding to see how the Lord has grown the ministries in this community in the last decade. Looking at my old pictures has me in tears as I remember God's goodness and His great plan in my life and in La Represa. I am thankful that my love for Pamela grew into a love for all of the kids, which then developed into the work I get to do daily. God has given me a desire to connect families across the globe, and I am so appreciative that you have decided to join us on this journey!



This ministry is a constant work in progress as we grow and transition to most effectively share the gospel with children in La Represa. We are always trying to improve processes so your relationship with your sponsor child is as valuable as possible. Thank you for sticking with us, even in the uncertainty of today. Thank you for sacrificially giving of your time and money to invest in children's lives. Thank you for teaching your family to be on mission by loving on the families of La Represa. Thank you for making it possible to teach this community about God's great love.

WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR YOU!