

MESSAGES OF

HOPE

FOOD FOR THE POOR

SPRING 2023

ANGELS OF HOPE SUCCESS STORIES

Inside: Professional chef David (pictured) in El Salvador and painter Astre in Honduras reflect on the critical role of Food For The Poor's Angels Of Hope program in nurturing their childhood dreams



FOOD FOR THE POOR'S
CHILD SPONSORSHIP
PROGRAM

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“ God has been putting me where I need to be, and He has also been a personal guide for my decisions. ”

- DAVID

BY THE GRACE OF GOD



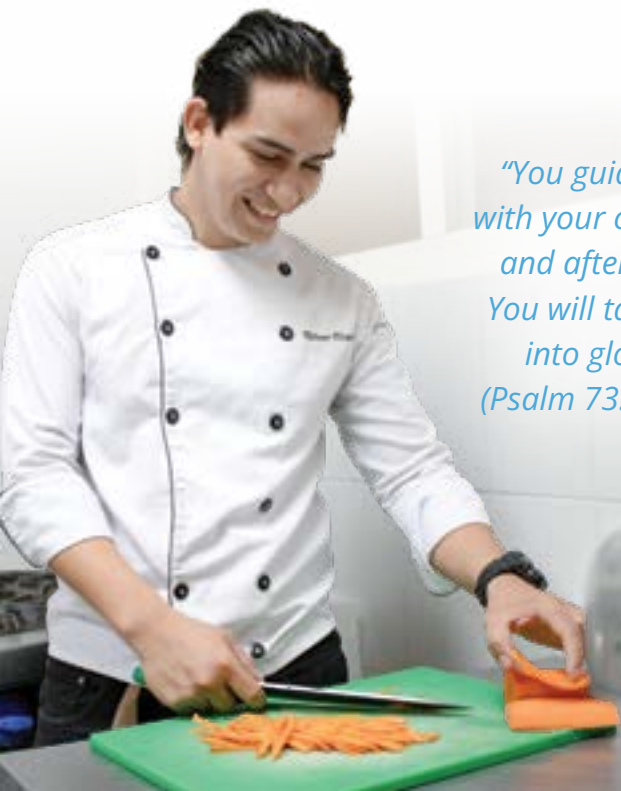
David, 22, loves to cook. His joy is obvious by the big smile on his face as he chops and sautés vegetables at Nutri-Food, a food-preparation company in El Salvador, where he supervises the general kitchen area.

David has been cooking since he was 12 years old. That was the year that he arrived at an Angels Of Hope-supported children's home in El Salvador. The home "really shaped me into who I am now," he said. "The home honestly gave me my personality."

David is remembered fondly as an educated and respectful young man who had a ready smile and easygoing attitude, making it easy for some of the caregivers to take him under their wing.

He would spend time in the kitchen with Claudia, one of the "Aunties" at the home, washing dishes and later peeling potatoes for her. Known for his creativity in preparing different dishes, he was soon cooking full meals and "it got to the point where on weekends I helped her cook and since I wasn't much of a TV watcher, well, it helped her."

*"You guide me
with your counsel,
and afterward
You will take me
into glory."
(Psalm 73:24, NIV)*



The prospect of cooking for a living became a real possibility when a representative from an organization that provides a hospitality and tourism training program for young people visited the home and offered some residents a chance to participate.


David jumped at the opportunity to further cultivate his culinary skills and selected the general cooking program, a choice that has served him well to this day.

He credits the Angels Of Hope program for his success. "I think if I hadn't been in a home, I wouldn't be a cook," he said.

Some of his fondest memories are receiving letters and gifts from Angels Of Hope sponsors. They "talked to you like you were their son," he said. He appreciated that "they talked to you like they really knew you." And he took it as a personal challenge to respond in kind.

Thanks to the opportunities and support provided through the Angels Of Hope program, David has been successfully providing for himself for the past four years.

David doesn't know what the future holds, but he knows God will guide him. "God has been putting me where I need to be, and He has also been a personal guide for my decisions," he said.

As a generous supporter of Food For The Poor's Angels Of Hope program, you have given David and others like him a fighting chance to turn challenging beginnings into fulfilling, successful and productive lives. Thank you for being an Angel. 

AN ARTIST'S JOURNEY

Astre, 27, loved to draw as a little girl. Now, Astre is married and the mother of two beautiful children. She still paints and continues to refine the craft she fell in love with as a child, a journey that began with an Angels Of Hope art contest.



Astre will be working with CEPUDO, Food For The Poor's longtime partner in Honduras, where her colorful art will be featured on coffee bags filled with the robust flavors of Honduran coffee.



ven as a little girl, Astre loved to draw. "In kindergarten, I was always interested in drawing, mainly in tracing," she said, remembering her favorite childhood activities. "I liked crayons a lot and paint."

Now 27, Astre is married and the mother of two beautiful children. She still paints and continues to refine the craft she fell in love with as a child, a journey that began with an Angels Of Hope art contest.

"The drawing contest was very motivating for me," she said. "I was able to discover my talent and what I was capable of doing and I started to grow in drawing and later in painting."

Thanks to Food For The Poor's Angels Of Hope program in Honduras, Astre grew up in a home where her God-given talent was nurtured from a very young age. When she was 12, Astre won an Angels Of Hope art contest that came with a \$500 prize, money that eventually helped her realize her dream of studying at Bellas Artes in Tegucigalpa.

"It was difficult for the home to send me to Tegucigalpa to study," she recalled, "and they gave it a lot of thought, but when I won the contest, they got very excited and did everything in their power to get me there."

From her very first tracings with crayons and pencils in kindergarten to the bright, colorful paintings we see today, Astre's journey and transformation as a talented artist is revealed in her work. "When I started to seek what was inside me, that is when colors started to flow," she said.

Today, Astre's future is as bright as the vivid colors in her art. "Right now, my future in painting is set on this," she said, holding up a brightly colored coffee bag, "because there are women that can't find work for various reasons, some like me that have kids and is hard to find care for them and for others it is simply hard to find work."

Astre will be working with CEPUDO, Food For The Poor's longtime partner in Honduras, where her colorful art will be featured on coffee bags filled with the robust flavors of Honduran coffee.

"With these bags I can do the painting by myself, but someone else can do the sewing, the cutting of the cloth, the cutting of the string," she explained. "My goal is that I am not the only one producing the bags but rather find help in those women that need to work with their kids by their side."

As the impact of the love, generosity and support from people she has never met finally settles in, Astre is overcome with emotion.

"For me it was happiness," she said of her time in the home. "It was something so beautiful that even when we leave the home, we miss it," she said, pausing. "It really helped me a lot," she said, "and I saw that they [Food For the Poor] were very supportive to the home."

Astre will never forget the love she received and the support she experienced growing up in the Angels Of Hope program. Because of your kind and genuine compassion for the children, Astre and others like her receive the chance to pursue their passions and live their dreams.

"I am very thankful to CEPUDO, Food for the Poor, and the Angels Of Hope program," Astre said, "because thanks to the drawing contest I was able to discover my talent and it is something that benefits me today as homemaker and mom because I can do it from home." 🎨



*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
(Jeremiah 29:11, NIV)*



A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

Many of us have experienced difficult circumstances in our lives, but because of our perseverance and reliance on God, our faith grew and we learned many life lessons. We believe the Lord is with us always and has a good plan for our lives. This is no different for the children in the Angels Of Hope program. While their start in life might have been challenging and seemed hopeless, many children who benefited from your faithful support have made good choices in life and are now adults leading productive lives.

The amazing success stories in this newsletter demonstrate that if we provide the opportunity for vulnerable children to heal, thrive and grow in a safe and loving environment, a rough start can turn into a bright and promising future.


We cannot thank you enough for standing in the gap – for praying for your sponsored child’s protection, provision and well-being. Let us remain steadfast, continuing to give these precious children the opportunity to reach their God-given potential. May the Lord bless you and your families. To God be the glory!

In His service,

Leann Chong
Director
Angels Of Hope Child Sponsorship

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