



Christmas 2013

Dear Friends,

For the LORD is good and his steadfast love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. (Psalm 100:5)

It is with deep joy that we take these few moments to reflect on the many blessings of our Lord during this year. Despite the many challenges we have faced together, we learned that in the good times and in the bad times, we will praise His name. We marvel at His presence with us, and his power to transform so many human lives from despair to hope, from confusion to clarity, from darkness to light.



We especially praise Him for your support. Without it—in concert with the foundations, churches and families who stand together to lift up these humble works—it would not be. On behalf of the staff and the board and all our people, thank you.

We have so much to celebrate this year. In looking at how our impact has grown, it is almost overwhelming. It has been a year of real perseverance.

- Our partnership with the community leaders, with the Esperanza Health Center and the churches in the city (and outside the city as well) has grown significantly—which we are so thankful to see.
- Board leadership has grown by one. Ms. Natasha Downing, Esq. has joined with us, and another strong candidate will be considered early next year.
- Bianca Previdi, M.D., our one-time psychiatric resident is now taking steps to join us as a part-time psychiatrist early next year.
- We now have four graduate counseling interns serving at Refuge. Each is developing their talents into a real craft as they take these first steps in their professional careers.
- The counseling and the training we offer have grown, strengthening in so many ways.
- Sharon Mangum, our one-time intern and counselor is celebrating new life in her family with the birth of her son.
- Even I was just able to submit my own final project at Westminster Theological Seminary to nearly complete my doctorate work on Monday, with two minutes to spare before the deadline—every word of it about exactly this incredible work!!

May God bless you and your family this holiday season!! Pray that we would continue to strengthen our outreach to the many hurting people in our community. Thank you.

Merry Christmas!!

Elizabeth Hernandez, M.A.
Executive Director & Co-Founder

