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Dear Friends,

Before coming to Arms of Hope, Aleacea and Lavenia were homeless. The closest thing they had to a home was a homeless shelter where they had lived with their mom and step dad for several years.

Lavenia and Aleacea didn’t have any family close by, so at Christmas they would open one present and have dinner with the people around them at the shelter. “A local church would bring us a stuffed animal and I really liked that,” Lavenia remembers.

Lavenia said her mom has never liked receiving presents, but she likes giving them. Probably because her mom would rather go without a present than her kids not have one present to open at Christmas. Lavenia is excited that this Christmas she will be able to give her mom a present with money she has saved from her allowance, which she has earned by maintaining good grades, completing her campus chores, participating in community service and covering various tasks around campus. Even if her mom says she doesn’t want one, Lavenia said, “I’m going to make sure my mom has a present this year, as well as my sister!”

Lavenia’s sister Aleacea lives in a different cottage because the two girls have a better relationship while living apart, but they will spend this Christmas together at the respite cottage on the Medina Campus.



“My favorite thing about Christmas at Arms of Hope last year was spending time with all the girls on campus and getting to know them better,” recalls Aleacea. Last year, she had a great time during Christmas with all the parties on campus and spending time getting to know everyone. “We didn’t really have a Christmas at the homeless shelter,” Aleacea remembers.

When asked “What does Christmas mean to you?” Aleacea replied, “Jesus’ birth and celebrating it, duh!” Her favorite present last year was an art kit that she got to use throughout the year. This year she wants a flat iron for her hair, shoes, shoes and more shoes. Lavenia is hoping for shirts and clothing that are new to her.

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When talking about Christmas, one word continued to come up, thankful. Lavenia and Aleacea are thankful for being able to provide their mom with a gift for the first time, while also being thankful for the gifts they have received and the opportunity they have to live in a real home at Arms of Hope.

Today, as we celebrate the Christmas season, I'm happy to tell you that Lavenia and Aleacea are no longer homeless. Thanks to caring friends like you, they are in a place that is safe and in a loving environment where they can grow in faith and learn to break the destructive cycle of homelessness.

You helped give these two kids a second chance. They are deeply grateful to you and so am I.

But you and I have much more to do to prepare them for their future, and many more children and families who need our help.

So, I ask you today as you count your many blessings, to please make a tax-deductible Christmas donation to Arms of Hope.

I hope your Christmas is a joyful one and as you prepare to celebrate, you will agree that it is the experience of giving and receiving that truly expresses the real meaning of this blessed season.

You have given so much, and I thank you sincerely, but we have so many more children and families to serve, and we can only do that with the caring financial support you give. Please make a Christmas donation to Arms of Hope today. Thank you — and God bless you.

Merry Christmas,



Troy Robertson  
Chief Executive Officer



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