

HOPE'S STORIES

THE 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



BUCKNER®

Hope shines here.™



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OPEN
HERE



A CULTURE OF CREATIVITY abounds in the villa home of Charlie and Louise Boren at GreenRidge at Buckner Villas in Austin. It's a culture that permeates the seven Buckner Senior Living communities across Texas. Boren, who has produced Western-themed carved sculptures for 40 years, still turns wood into art at a small cabin on the Villas campus dedicated to resident craftsmen. He and other Villas residents recently entered artwork into the LeadingAge "Art is Ageless" competition. From photography to woodcarving to wreath-making, it's only a small slice of life at Buckner Senior Living communities.

OUR **STORY** IS OUR **LEGACY**

Nearly seven years of service to Buckner International has not only helped me refine my perspective of our operations and scope, it's given me a deepened appreciation for our incredible legacy of transforming lives. What comes to mind when you hear the word "legacy?" By definition, a legacy is a gift that is received from a predecessor or from the past.

While looking back at previous operational plans and programs offers me a sense of the help we've provided to children, families and



senior adults over more than 13 decades, it's not the total picture of our legacy. Our true legacy is found in the thousands of stories of people who have found hope through Buckner – stories that, when heard collectively, form the larger Buckner story of redemption and transformation.

"Our true legacy is found in the thousands of stories of people who have found hope through Buckner – stories that, when heard collectively, form the larger Buckner story of redemption and transformation."

Our legacy – our collective story – of hope that we've been given is a special gift, passed down through several generations. Buckner is a gift that we did not

earn, but it is a gift for which we are responsible. Every day that we go to work, we are mindful that the story of Buckner defines us; it defines what we do; it defines why we do it; and it defines who we serve.

And while we know that our story defines us, it does not determine us. We must continuously determine what kind of Buckner we will pass on to the next generation. I personally look forward to a future where Buckner has changed thousands more lives.

When our founder, R.C. "Father" Buckner died on April 9, 1919, it was said that his greatest legacy was not the organization he founded or the buildings he built. It was said that R.C. Buckner's greatest legacy was the story of thousands of lives changed forever because he was obedient to God. May that also be said of us one day.

Albert L. Reyes
President and CEO
Buckner International



MISSION VIS

OUR MISSION

Buckner International transforms the lives of vulnerable children, enriches the lives of senior adults, and builds strong families through Christ-centered values.

OUR VISION

Buckner International will become a global ministry maximizing resources and leadership to serve vulnerable children, seniors and families.

OUR VALUES

Buckner follows Christ-centered values ministered with professional excellence.

ION VALUES



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2013: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



1 By the spring of 2013, Buckner had established 26 Family Hope Centers in 10 countries. By the end of the year, the Hope Centers had served 1,087 families – about 3,000 individuals – through case management and related services. The Hope Centers also served more than 250,000 people through humanitarian aid, community activities and medical brigade services.

2 Buckner celebrated the 15th year of the Buckner Family Place model in 2013. The program started in 1998 with the opening of Buckner Family Place in Lufkin, Texas. Since then, it has expanded to seven Texas locations: Amarillo, Conroe, Dallas, Houston, Lubbock, Lufkin and Midland. The Family Place model is a part of a larger set of family transition programs, which served 165 families – 444 individuals – in 2013. A total of 23 single parents graduated from transition programs.

As an alternative delivery location through Buckner Hospice Houston, Buckner Retirement Services expanded

hospice services past Houston and Austin to those with a life-limiting illness in the Beaumont area. Buckner Hospice is accredited through CHAP (Community Health Accreditation Program), a national accreditation agency based in Washington, D.C. Buckner Hospice served 332 people in 2013.

Buckner expanded programs in Conroe, Texas with the opening of a new foster care and adoption office on property donated by Alan and Jeanie Boehm of Conroe. The new location, which includes two homes and acreage, was dedicated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony March 24. In addition to foster care and adoption services, Buckner also provides a Buckner Family Place program in the Conroe area.

Gospel on the Green, a celebration of music and families at Buckner Villas in Austin, drew more than 600 residents, families and neighbors to the mall area of the Buckner senior living community. Participants were treated to gospel music, carriage

rides, a petting zoo and a picnic in what Villas Executive Director Doyle Antle called “a picture of community.”

A class of 39 Buckner Project Go volunteers served in five countries during the summer, providing services to children in families in need. Project Go is a short-term mission trip opportunity through Buckner International for college students and young adults. During their service term, they help transform lives through hands-on ministry by serving the most vulnerable orphans, children and families.

In August, Buckner was awarded a nearly \$1 million grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development to develop programs in Guatemala. The grant provided funding for a two-year initiative, Fostering Hope Guatemala, that calls for deinstitutionalizing 103 young children, creating a permanency team of case managers, and training and equipping the Guatemalan government to develop foster and kinship care models.



3 Buckner provided a distinctive senior lifestyle to more than 3,000 seniors and others in 2013 through a wide variety of services including independent living, assisted living, skilled care, hospice care, memory care, home health care and personal assistance services. With five full-continuum-of-care communities and two independent living communities in Texas, Buckner Retirement Services is the second-largest non-profit senior living provider in Texas, and 44th in the nation.

In October, newly retired Buckner foster mother Barbara Houston was honored as an “Angel in Adoption™” by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) in Washington, D.C. Houston served 21 years as a Buckner foster mother in Dallas, often taking care of children considered the most behaviorally and emotionally demanding. Buckner President Albert L. Reyes lauded Houston as an example of “what Buckner looks for in a foster parent. She gave her life for these kids and there’s no doubt in

my mind that every single one of them left her home a changed person.” Throughout 2013, more than 1,800 children were placed in loving homes through Buckner foster care or kinship care. Additionally, 223 children now have a forever family through domestic and inter-country adoption.

4 Shoes for Orphan Souls® continued to provide new shoes and socks to impoverished and vulnerable children around the globe. In 2013, Buckner collected nearly 150,000 pairs of shoes, delivering them to children 32 countries. Almost 5,300 volunteers helped process the collected shoes at the Buckner Center for Humanitarian Aid in Dallas, and 205 people traveled personally on a shoe trip to place collected shoes on children’s feet.

In two weeks in November, members of Woman’s Missionary Union of Texas built a home for Miguel and Julia Lozada in Penitas, Texas, in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The group was one of many that built 17 complete homes through Buckner mission trips

in the Valley. The largest, KidsHeart, a collaboration with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, saw 540 people from 13 churches build seven homes in a week. Overall, Buckner led 2,253 short-term mission trip participants to help children and families in a variety of ways in nine countries. Additionally, more than 15,000 people engaged with Buckner as community volunteers.

In a unanimous landmark vote Dec. 5, the Peruvian Congress passed a law that integrates foster care into the official legal code of Peru. The new law protects groundwork laid for foster care over the past six years through a collaboration between Buckner Peru, Buckner International and INABIF (Peru’s National Integral Program for the Well-Being of Families). Buckner placed the first children in its Peruvian foster care program in 2008. Since then, more than 40 children have been placed in Buckner foster homes.

A WORLD OF HOPE'S STORIES



Spurred on by the encouraging message that "married families are strong families" delivered by Ricardo Brambila in his family strengthening class, Angelica Cruz and Diego Maldonado tied the knot at a seven-family wedding officiated by Brambila. As director of the Buckner Family Hope Center in **PENITAS**, Brambila is an advocate for strong families, health and spiritual growth.



Single mom Wendi Hay and her four daughters endured homelessness after fleeing an abusive relationship and drugs. After entering the Buckner Family Place program in **HOUSTON**, though, things turned for the better. She says the opportunity to live at Family Place is "what drives me to be my best."



Alisha Maglio of **BEAUMONT** grew up in a Buckner foster home and credits Buckner for helping her overcome abuse and find purpose in life. She is now a parent advocate for Child Protective Services and encourages children and parents to not live like victims, but as survivors.



In the **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**, Servin Garcia Diaz, 19, is the firstborn of six siblings and has been going to the Buckner Dominicana Family Hope Center where he had taken courses in customer service, technology and computation. He joined the Dominican Navy and is specializing in administration, thanks to the diplomas and certificates obtained at the Hope Center. The Navy granted him a scholarship at the Universidad del Caribe, where he enrolled to study accounting. He dreams of becoming a professional to help his family, especially his siblings.



After his family began to attend lifeskills classes at the Buckner Family Hope Center in Xoxocotlan, **MEXICO**, bike shop owner Laurencio Luis volunteered to teach English to help others expand their business horizons.



Peter, 16, is an orphan in **RUSSIA** who found encouragement and love from his Project Go team this summer. As team member Sarah Welle said, "Peter is a remarkable, respectful young man that my whole team really grew to love."



There's never a dull moment when you hang around Arlen White (at left), a resident of Baptist Retirement Community in **SAN ANGELO**. Often called a Renaissance man, he's a husband, father, chef, counselor, comedian, disaster responder and even a basketball coach for the junior high boys of Cornerstone School.



In **PERU**, Richard (at right), who lives in an orphanage, received a new pair of shoes donated through Buckner Shoes for Orphan Souls® - and a heartfelt note tucked into one of the sneakers. The simple note, written by a young child's hand, read, "God loves you. Enjoy the shoes. - Jakob."

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES, DEEP FOCUS. WHAT WE DO.

*Foster Care

Community Foster Care
Foster Group Care
Kinship Care

*Family Place/Pathways

*Family Hope Centers:

Domestic Family Hope Centers

Case Management
Spiritual Development
Client Assistance
Financial Empowerment
Job Skills Training
Technology Training

International Family Hope Centers

Case Management
Spiritual Development
Client Assistance
Financial Empowerment
Job Skills Training
Vocational Training
Income-Generating Activities
Health Services

Other services may include:

Family, Parent, Life Skills Training
Afterschool/Summer Programs
ESL Classes
Formal Education
GED
Healthy Families
Literacy
Mentoring

Adoption

Inter-Country
Domestic Infant
Foster-to-Adopt
Texas Waiting Children

Community Adoption Services

Birth Searches
Birth Parent Case Management
Home Studies
Post Adoption Services
Pre-Foster/Adoption Training
Adoption Heritage Tours/Camps
Child Advocacy Centers
Transitional Case Management
Youth Transitional Homes

Emergency/Assessment Centers
General Residential Operations
Child Development Centers
STAR (TDFPS Contract)
Camp Buckner

Senior Living

*Continuing Care Retirement Communities
Independent Living
Assisted Living
Skilled Nursing
Memory Care
Hospice
Home Health
Outpatient Therapy
Personal Care Services
Chaplaincy Services



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*Denotes Buckner's four focus areas of ministry.

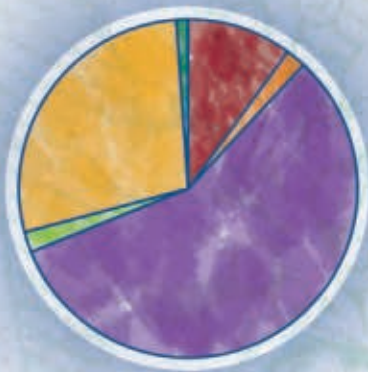


FINANCIAL IN

Buckner International Statement of Financial Position

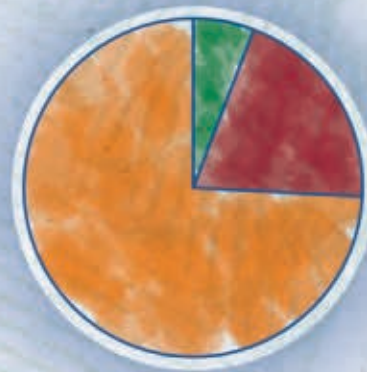
December 31, 2013

Unaudited



ASSETS

- Cash and Investments 10% - \$53,886,000
- Receivables, Prepaids, Inventories 2% - \$7,881,000
- Interest in Net Assets of Related Foundation 57% - \$299,307,000
- Revenue Bond Proceeds Held by Trustee 2% - \$8,740,000
- Facilities Property and Equipment - Net 28% - \$149,349,000
- Real Estate and Other 1% - \$5,435,000
- Total \$524,598,000**



LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

- Other Liabilities 6% - \$29,189,000
- Notes and Revenue Bonds Payable 20% - \$105,809,000
- Net Assets 74% - \$389,600,000
- Total \$524,598,000**

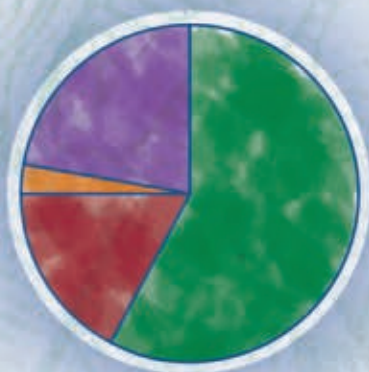
Audit Reports. Weaver LLP audits the financial statements for Buckner International and Subsidiaries. Audit reports are available upon request.

INFORMATION

Buckner International and Subsidiaries Statement of Activities

December 31, 2013

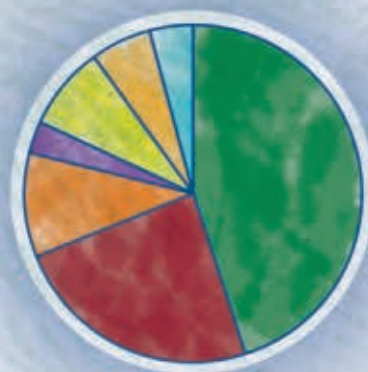
Unaudited



REVENUE

- Client Support and Related Income 58% - \$76,359,000
- Distributions from Related Foundation 17% - \$22,211,000*
- Investment Income, Other 3% - \$3,570,000
- All Contributions and Bequests 22% - \$29,736,000

Total \$131,876,000



EXPENSES

- Salaries and Benefits 45% - \$56,348,000
- Supplies and Direct Expenses 24% - \$29,936,000
- Facility Related Expenses 10% - \$12,602,000
- Travel and Transportation 3% - \$4,098,000
- Administration 8% - \$10,124,000
- Depreciation 6% - \$7,184,000
- Interest 4% - \$4,934,000

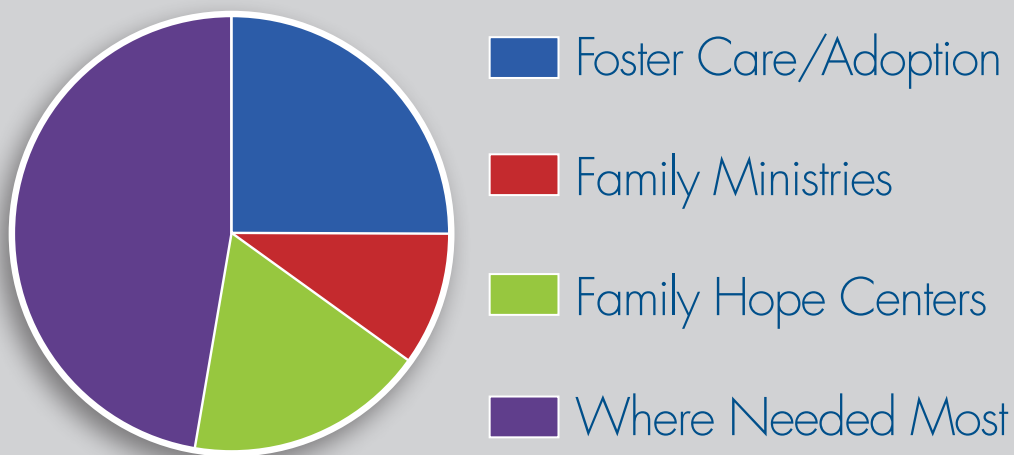
Total \$125,226,000

*Includes additional distributions for reimbursement of prior years' deficits.

TRANSFORMATIONAL **GIVING**

Buckner works with people compelled by faith to bring Christ-centered, redemptive ministry to the most vulnerable, from the beginning to the ending of life. If you are searching for your vision for a meaningful way to give, we offer a world of opportunity to you. Through Buckner Foundation, we intentionally cultivate and manage relationships with current and prospective donors to secure and manage gifts that will support the restorative, healing, life-enhancing ministries of Buckner International; we also work creatively and aggressively to tell the story of Buckner in order to achieve greater awareness of our mission. If you want to be a part of the transformative work of Buckner by supporting our global initiatives, consider giving today.

WHERE DONORS GAVE*



*The above chart reflects cash donations by ministry.

GIVING STORIES

For Leone Family of Antioch, Tenn., Sharing Shoes is Sharing Christ



In 2006, medical doctor Bill Leone of Antioch, Tenn., heard a radio appeal for Buckner Shoes for Orphan Souls,[®] and immediately felt God's call to respond. "How horrible it is for a kid to have to go through the day without shoes. I just thought it was such a practical thing that's often overlooked." Leone led his family of four and his clinic to raise \$50,000 for the Buckner collection. Since then, they've started the first endowment to support the shoe collection ministry. Bill's wife, Anne, said she hopes their gifts "can open the door to sharing the message of eternal life through Christ."

Simmons Gift Leads Way for Family Pathways Expansion



In January, Buckner Foundation announced the completion of the second phase of fundraising for the \$2 million capital project to expand the Annette C. Simmons Buckner Family Pathways Campus and program. Dallas philanthropist Annette C. Simmons provided the lead gift for both phases of the project, which provided for an additional four duplexes, bringing the total to 24 apartments. Buckner International President Albert L. Reyes noted the future impact the program will have for single mothers and their children: "There are those who have never known the sweet aroma of home; those for whom the idea of 'home' is not a pleasant memory. There are single parents living on the edge of life who need only the opportunity. That's what Family Pathways is all about; it's about opportunity and hope for a brighter tomorrow."

For One Company, Giving and Volunteering Go Hand-in-Hand



Weaver LLP, an accounting firm with seven locations throughout Texas, knows how money can be used for maximum effectiveness. So when the firm selected Buckner International as its charity of choice, employees knew the Weaver Foundation's \$50,000 gift could help most by coupling it with volunteer efforts. About 100 Weaver employees have volunteered with Buckner ministries in San Antonio, Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, Midland and Houston, helping in a variety of ways such as revamping a playground, sorting donations, serving in a mobile food pantry and doing yard work at a retirement community. "The mission of what Buckner is doing resonated with our employees," Weaver Partner Brian Thomas said. "The employees chose this. That's part of what makes this fun."

A Legacy of Hope



A Historical Timeline



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A Legacy of Hope FOUNDING A DREAM

R.C. Buckner



1876
Editor Robert Cooke "Father" Buckner writes in the *Texas Baptist* about the need for an orphans home.

1877

Dr. Buckner collects the first \$27 toward starting an orphans home under an oak tree during a deacon's convention in Paris, Texas.



1879 - 1881

The first charter is filed with Secretary of State in Austin and first orphans enter the home. The site of 44 acres, east of Dallas, is purchased for \$500, and dedicated to the care of homeless children.



1890 - 1895

The first brick building is built, at a cost of more than \$30,000 as the population of the home swells to 350. In 1879, there is a dormitory fire where 20 lives and much property is lost.

1914

The control of Buckner Orphans Home transfers to the Baptist General Convention of Texas. The Deacons Convention had practically ceased to function as such, and the convention accepted responsibility for operation of the home by agreements approved in 1914 and 1915.

1919

Father Buckner dies April 9 at age 86.



A Legacy of Hope MINISTRY EXPANDS



1954
Mary E. Trew Home in Dallas opens September 19.

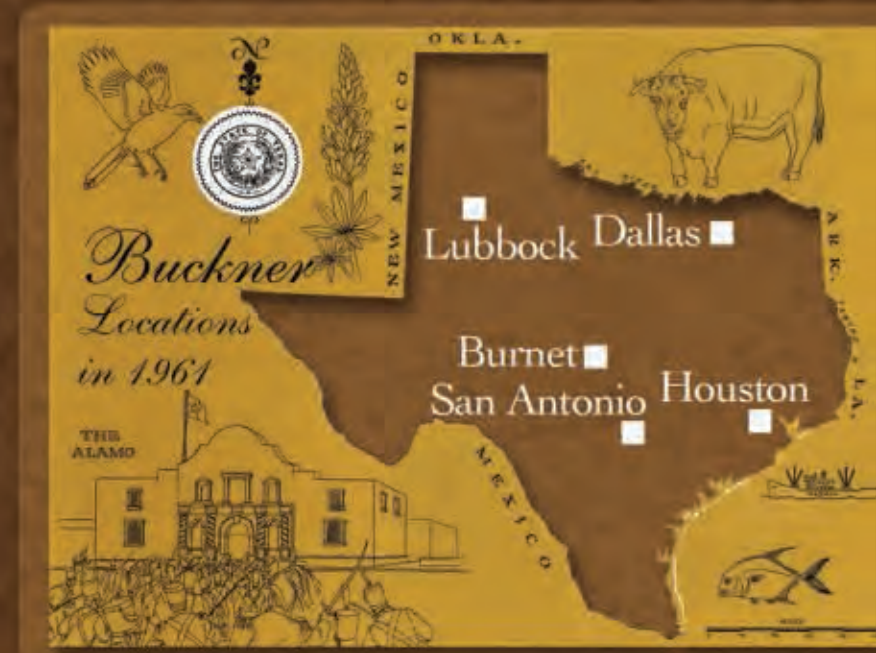


1955

Baptist Haven for the Aging opens in Houston, August 15, with James C. Wilson as supervisor. Property and operation of a girl's ranch in Breckenridge is turned over to Buckner – a gift of Claude Harris.

1957

Buckner Girls Ranch, Breckenridge, closes. Milam Girls Home, Lubbock, opens March 8. Department of Social Services is established in Dallas, June 1. Mother's Aid, a new program giving financial help and practical assistance to one-parent families, begins in Dallas. The first duplex cottages are built at Buckner Haven. A new dormitory to care for 24 more boys at Buckner Boys Ranch in Burnet is completed, increasing capacity to 72. New dormitory completed in San Antonio to care for 24 more girls, increasing capacity to 35. Buckner Home Independent School District reactivates in the fall.



1961

Buckner Orphans Home, by charter change, becomes Buckner Baptist Benevolences, and the units sponsored are now known by the following names:

- Buckner Baptist Children's Home – Dallas
- Buckner Baptist Trew Home for the Aging – Dallas
- Buckner Baptist Haven for the Aging – Houston
- Buckner Baptist Maternity Home – San Antonio
- Buckner Baptist Boys Ranch – Burnet
- Buckner Baptist Girl's Home – Lubbock

1975-1979

Ninety-six children and staff of Cam Ranh City Christian Orphanage, Vietnam, are received as residents of Buckner Children's Home, Dallas, in June. In Brownsville, an emergency shelter for boys and girls, ages 10 to 16, is begun. Sixteen units of townhouses are opened on the grounds of the Trew-Ryburn Retirement Complex in Dallas. In 1979, Buckner celebrates its 100th year with celebrations in Dallas, Lubbock, Boys Ranch, Beaumont and Houston. A historical marker is placed outside Buckner Baptist Children's Home in Dallas recognizing it as an official Texas state landmark.

1987

Buckner Adoption Services places it's 3,000th child.

A Legacy of Hope A GLOBAL SCOPE

1995-1996

Buckner begins international work in Russia and Romania. Buckner Eldercare launches; Buckner Westminster Place in Longview opens; Buckner assumes Hearthstone in Midland; Buckner begins providing humanitarian aid to orphanages in Russia and International adoptions begin.



1999

Construction of new Buckner Children's Home begins in Dallas; Buckner Children and Family Services in Amarillo opens the Buckner Community Center in Northeast Amarillo; Buckner assumes the "Shoes for Russian Souls" project and expands it to "Shoes for Orphan Souls®".



2006

Buckner changes its name from Buckner Baptist Benevolences to Buckner International to reflect its global scope of ministries. Buckner opens a girls Transitional Home in Guatemala; Buckner Westminster Place celebrates 10th anniversary and also breaks ground on the first GREEN HOUSE® home in East Texas; Buckner celebrates 10 years of ministry in Russia; Albert Reyes named president of Buckner Children and Family Services.



2009-2012

Shoes for Orphan Souls reaches its goal of collecting 2 million shoes during its 10th anniversary year; Boards of Buckner Retirement Services and Baptist Memorials approve affiliation; Dr. Kenneth L. Hall retires as president and CEO of Buckner; Dr. Albert L. Reyes transitions to president and CEO; Aldine YOUTH Community Center joins Buckner; Guatemala celebrates 10 year anniversary; Buckner undertakes its first major rebranding and adopts the "Hope Shines Here®" tagline.



HOPE'S STORIES

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M

ARGARITA ACOSTA IS

A LIVING, BREATHING

MIRACLE OF REDEMPTION.

AND THE FACT SHE IS LIVING

AND BREATHING IS PART OF

THE MIRACLE ...



FAMILY
TRANSITION
PROGRAMS

MARGARITA
ACOSTA:
REDEMP
TION'S
HEAL
ING
PROCESS

The youngest of three siblings, Margarita grew up with an alcoholic mother and an abusive stepfather. The abuse was so prevalent she filed for emancipation at age 15. Her mom didn't show up to the court date to fight it.

A few weeks later, she found out she was pregnant – with her stepfather's child. During her pregnancy, she started dating a 38-year-old man, Marcus*, who was fresh out of jail. After she had her son, she found out she was pregnant again at her six-week checkup. Marcus smoked crack and soon, Margarita did, too, repeating the lifestyle she was accustomed to at home.

But there was also a violent side to their relationship. One that was almost deadly. Margarita remembers every detail of the night Marcus cut her throat and stabbed her 37 times. She made dinner for her family and went to lie down on their bed to watch television. He came in and crawled on her. She pushed him off, thinking he was playing. He came back a few minutes later, lifted up her head and dragged the knife across the lower portion of her neck.

She wasn't sure what was happening at first. She felt her neck and then examined her sticky fingertips in the glow of the TV.

"You stabbed me," she said in disbelief, as blood

poured down her chest.

He said nothing and stabbed her over and over again.

Margarita called for her sister, who was in the other room, but she didn't hear her. She grabbed a blue blanket off the couch and ran for the door, trying to unlock the chain to get out. But she couldn't wiggle it off in time. He stabbed her again and she fainted.

She remembers stumbling around the house to get a phone. The next thing she knew, she was in the back of an ambulance. Margarita was airlifted to University of California-Davis Medical Center, where she flatlined twice.

When she woke, she could not understand why she was alive. She knows now God must have had a plan for her.

But as the scars began to heal, she did not. Margarita continued to smoke crack, drink and date abusive men to numb the pain. She had several more children and bounced around from state to state.

The breaking point came in 1999. Margarita was arrested for stealing her cousin's identity. She says she was a "dope fiend on a rampage." She got a new birth certificate and social security card and wrote checks for \$25,000.

She spent five years and eight months in jail and she tells people that "prison saved me."

TODAY **MARGARITA** WILL TELL YOU THAT **REDEMPTION** TO HER IS **OVERCOMING**; IT'S **CONTINUING**; IT'S **NOT GIVING UP** THE FIGHT.



*Not his real name.

She had a baby while in jail, a child who was placed for adoption. Once released, she entered another abusive relationship and had three more children. The relationship took her to the breaking point. To Margarita, life was not worth living anymore.

She packed her bags, grabbed her three babies and boarded a plane to Dallas, checking in to a domestic violence shelter there. The shelter happened to be across the street from Buckner Family Pathways, a self-sufficiency program designed to help single parents complete their educational goals while they live in a safe environment with their children.

While she was at the shelter, she started classes in youth counseling at a local community college. The staff at the shelter recommended she apply for the Family Pathways program and, after meeting with director Cynthia Rentie, she did just that.

The day Margarita walked through the door at Buckner, she was depressed. Cynthia said her spirit was dark and she looked burdened.

Margarita had tried to take her own life shortly before moving to Buckner. She didn't know God and she didn't understand her purpose in life. When she looked in the mirror, all she could see were the physical scars on her neck and arms that represented the emotional scars on her heart. The healing process had barely begun.

During tough times, Margarita walked up and down Samuell Boulevard, next to the Family Pathways apartments. There was a church she always passed and one day, it caught her attention. It was a Saturday morning and some church members were setting up for an event the following day. She watched for a while and continued on her way.

She saw women at Buckner – staff and residents – give their lives to God. She learned what it meant to be redeemed.

The next morning, she went back to the church. They welcomed her in with open arms, and as her burdens started to lift, she knew that aside from Buckner, she was home.

Margarita's life has been transformed completely. She accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior, and was baptized in the spring of 2012.

She sees life differently. Her passion is helping other women – and men – who have been in her situation, specifically teens. Margarita isn't as weighed down as she used to be. She smiles constantly. She sees the good in people and how she can give to them, not get from them.

Every day is a challenge for Margarita as she fights the demons of her past. But she says she's learned that struggle is not always bad.

A few years ago, she had no hope. She felt worthless. But today, she will tell you that redemption to her is overcoming; it's continuing; it's not giving up the fight. ❄

FAMILY TRANSITION PROGRAMS

Buckner Family Transition Programs provide transitional services designed to strengthen families by encouraging education as a way for single parents to become self-sufficient. The program provides a variety of services including housing; education support; case management; counseling; life skills classes; collaborative partners; child care; health care; and spiritual support. A Buckner caseworker guides each parent to develop a self-sufficiency plan and seeks to address the barriers that keep women from completing their education and becoming self-sufficient. One of the great efficiencies of this type of ministry is that it is designed to impact two generations by helping to both transform the life of the parent and redirecting the children away from the path toward poverty and dependency most are currently on. In 2013, Buckner served 165 families representing 444 individuals through its transition programs. Family Pathways is one of seven transition programs in Texas that include:

- Buckner Family Pathways Dallas
- Buckner Family Place Amarillo
- Buckner Family Place Conroe
- Buckner Family Place Houston
- Buckner Family Place Lufkin
- Buckner Family Place Midland
- My Father's House Lubbock





**HOPE'S
STORIES**

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FOSTER CARE

THE
YODERS:
A FOSTER
FAMILY'S
BEAUTIFUL
PASSION

AMY YODER DEFINES **FOSTER PARENTING** WITH A **FAMILY CIRCUS** COMIC STRIP.

"Someone asks the mom, 'How do you divide your love by four?'" Amy explained. "And she responds, 'What do you mean? I multiply it by four.' That's how I feel. Immediately, the capacity to love is there. There's no limit."

Her husband, Chris, a high school soccer coach, might use a teamwork analogy or something related to the "beautiful game" of soccer, but more often, he points the glory back to God.

"You worry about (a limit)," he said. "You think, 'OK, if I take one more in, will I have that much more to give?' But, it's not up to us. It's totally God that says, 'Yes, you do, and I'm going to give it to you.'"

Of the multiple foster children they've parented in their home, they adopted 3-year-old Draper, affectionately known as DJ, and Anna, also 3.

The Yoders also have two budding soccer stars, birth children Luke, 15, and JoJo, 13. Now that they've been foster-to-adoptive parents, they can't imagine their lives – their new team – any other way.

The desire to be a foster parent started when Amy was in high school. She can't remember the exact spark, but fostering children has been on her heart ever since. About

three years ago, she decided to go to a meeting with Buckner foster parents to gather information. Chris went with her and they were hooked.

"It was no question about what we were going to do with our lives," Chris said.

Chris and Amy said they saw themselves as "transitional parents" for the children who have stayed in their home. They saw it as their job to provide love and safety.

"They called me mom," Amy said. "They just needed a transition mom. You need a mom no matter where you are in life and however old you are. So to me, it was being a mom to kids who didn't have a physical mom at that time."

"I think all the kids want to feel safe and they want to feel loved," Chris added. "I guess that's boasting, but we love them. You shower them with love and everything else seems to come natural. You have the safety, you have the family, you have all the things that come with it."

Chris and Amy knew the two girls would eventually reunite with family members and thought the same would happen for DJ. They said they had no idea they were going to adopt him.

The plan for DJ was family reunification. But they got a



call that the plan had fallen through and the Yoders were offered the opportunity to adopt him. They were stunned.

"From the second I got to see him in the delivery room ... There was just something about him," Amy said. "He's got this old soul or something, and everyone who meets him just latches on to him. He's got a special purpose."

Chris said it felt natural for DJ to become a Yoder.

"I think God just said at that point, 'He belongs with you and this is where he's going to grow up.'"

"You worry about (a limit). You think, 'OK, if I take one more in, will I have that much more to give?' But, it's not up to us. It's totally God that says, 'Yes, you do, and I'm going to give it to you.'"

—Chris Yoder

"Just like so many of our foster families, Chris and Amy have a heart for ministry," said Debbie Sceroler, Buckner foster care and adoption program director in Longview. "The thing that drives our families tends to be the heart for ministry, finding out what God wants them to do in helping these children. And I can tell you with these two, they have a selfless love for children.

"I have watched them walk through some very difficult times during placements, times where some would just want to give up, but Chris and Amy didn't; they just keep going. They're more than committed. They are invested. And they sit as a family ministry. It's just not Chris and Amy; It's JoJo and Luke, and they are fully 100 percent invested in what they're doing."

The toughest part about loving and raising their clan of future soccer stars?

"We had to get a new vehicle," Amy said with a laugh. ❄

FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION: FAMILIES FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Foster care services are residential services designed to care for children in the home of an unrelated family. Buckner Foster Care trains and supports families who want to provide a safe, nurturing home environment for children victimized by abuse, neglect or abandonment through foster care and state-placed adoptions. Foster care also supports foster-to-adopt initiatives and adoption through Texas Waiting Children. In 2013, More than 1,800 children were placed in loving homes through foster or kinship care and 223 children now have a forever family through domestic and intercountry adoption.





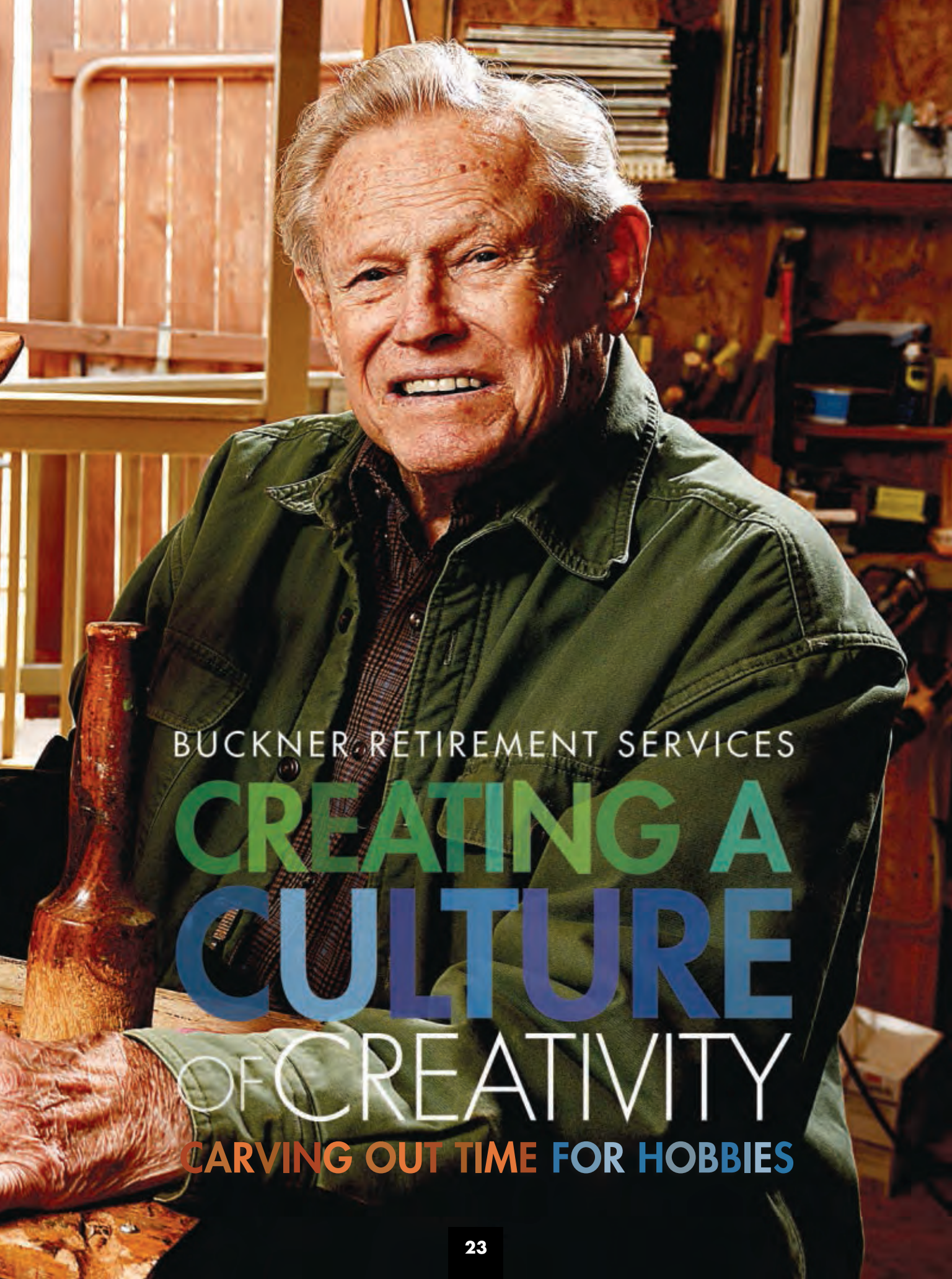
HOPE'S STORIES

THE 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



BUCKNER

Hope shines here.



BUCKNER RETIREMENT SERVICES

CREATING A

CULTURE

OF CREATIVITY

CARVING OUT TIME FOR HOBBIES

Several times a week, Buckner Villas resident Charlie Boren (pictured at right) makes a short walk across the Austin senior living campus to a small modest woodshed. Reminiscent of an Appalachian cabin, he meets with two of his friends to drink coffee, chat and continue their craft of woodcarving.

Boren started carving 40 years ago after seeing some demonstrations at an art show in Austin. His carvings and pursuit of knowledge have taken him all over the world, studying with some of the greatest craftsmen. He's known for his Western pieces, specifically the realistic-looking cowboy boots that sell for thousands of dollars.

Boren and other Villas residents entered artwork into the



LeadingAge "Art is Ageless" competition. From photography to woodcarving to wreath-making, it's only a small slice of life at Buckner Senior Living communities. Their age hasn't



stopped them one bit – in fact, they attribute Villas staff with helping them create a culture of creativity.

As the nation approaches one of its most dramatic demographic shifts, there will soon be an explosion of Baby Boomers looking for a new place to call home. Gone are the days of nursing homes and wheelchairs. Today's communities are vibrant, active places to live and continue pursuing passions of yesteryear.

Since the early days of R.C. Buckner's ministry, he used a familiar verse from James to summarize the calling: "Pure and undefiled religion is this – to care for orphans and widows in their distress." ❀



BUCKNER SENIOR LIVING

Buckner Retirement Services is one of the largest not-for-profit senior living organizations in Texas dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for senior adults and their families by promoting an active, healthy Christian lifestyle while maintaining their independence and dignity. Buckner Retirement Services is part of Buckner International, a global faith-based ministry serving people in the United States and worldwide. Buckner provides senior living in seven Texas locations:

Continuing Care Retirement Communities

- Austin – Buckner Villas
- Beaumont – Calder Woods
- Houston – Parkway Place
- Longview – Buckner Westminster Place
- San Angelo – Baptist Retirement Center

Independent Living Communities

- Burnet – The Woodlands
- Dallas – Buckner Retirement Village



BUCKNER INTERNATIONAL ANNOUNCES 'VENTANA BY BUCKNER' SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY IN NORTH DALLAS

DALLAS – Buckner International today announced plans for Ventana by Buckner, a 314-apartment North Dallas senior living community scheduled to open in 2018. Ventana by Buckner will further the missions of both Buckner International and Buckner Retirement Services.

“For more than 135 years, Buckner International has been dedicated to transforming lives and building strong families,” said Albert Reyes, president and CEO of Buckner International. “Through Buckner Retirement Services, we’re able to enrich the lives of senior adults and their families while they maintain independence and dignity. Ventana by Buckner will build upon our core values by serving senior adults and offering residents opportunities to thrive.”

The twin 12-story high-rise buildings, designed by D2 Architecture of Dallas, will measure approximately 450,000 square feet and sit on nearly three acres of land in Dallas’ North Park neighborhood, just west of North Central Expressway and across from NorthPark Center. Ventana by Buckner will be a continuing care retirement community (CCRC) with 182 independent living residences, 36 assisted living apartments, 24 memory care apartments, 48 skilled nursing apartments and 24 short-term rehabilitation apartments.

In addition to the 314 apartments, the community will include three dining areas – formal, casual and bistro; a wellness center featuring a fitness room with weights, cardio machines and a host of other amenities, including a pool, aerobics room, chapel, movie theater, roof terraces with gardens, business center, library, day spa, 24-hour security and indoor parking.

Even before its groundbreaking, Ventana by Buckner is hosting informational meetings and accepting deposits for its Priority Club. Priority Club members will have the opportunity to reserve their apartment, have priority choice when selecting their residence, and have input on its design and amenities.



As a Buckner Senior Living community, Ventana by Buckner will focus on enriching the lives of senior adults through strong Christian values. The mission of Buckner International and all of its ministries is to transform the lives of children and enrich the lives of the senior adults they serve. Buckner began serving the senior population shortly after the Buckner Orphans Home was established in 1879. In 1954, Buckner opened its first CCRC in Dallas, providing a more formalized approach to serving seniors.

Throughout Buckner's history, its purpose as an organization

has been to meet the needs of vulnerable people "from the beginning to the ending of life." Today, Buckner International is a global faith-based ministry that remains true to its founder R.C. Buckner's vision of serving people of all backgrounds and walks of life.

VENTANA™

BY  BUCKNER®

For more information about Ventana by Buckner, please visit www.ventanabybuckner.com or call 214-888-2084.

For more information about Buckner International, please visit www.buckner.org. ❖



BUCKNER FAMILY HOPE CENTERS

HOPE'S STORIES

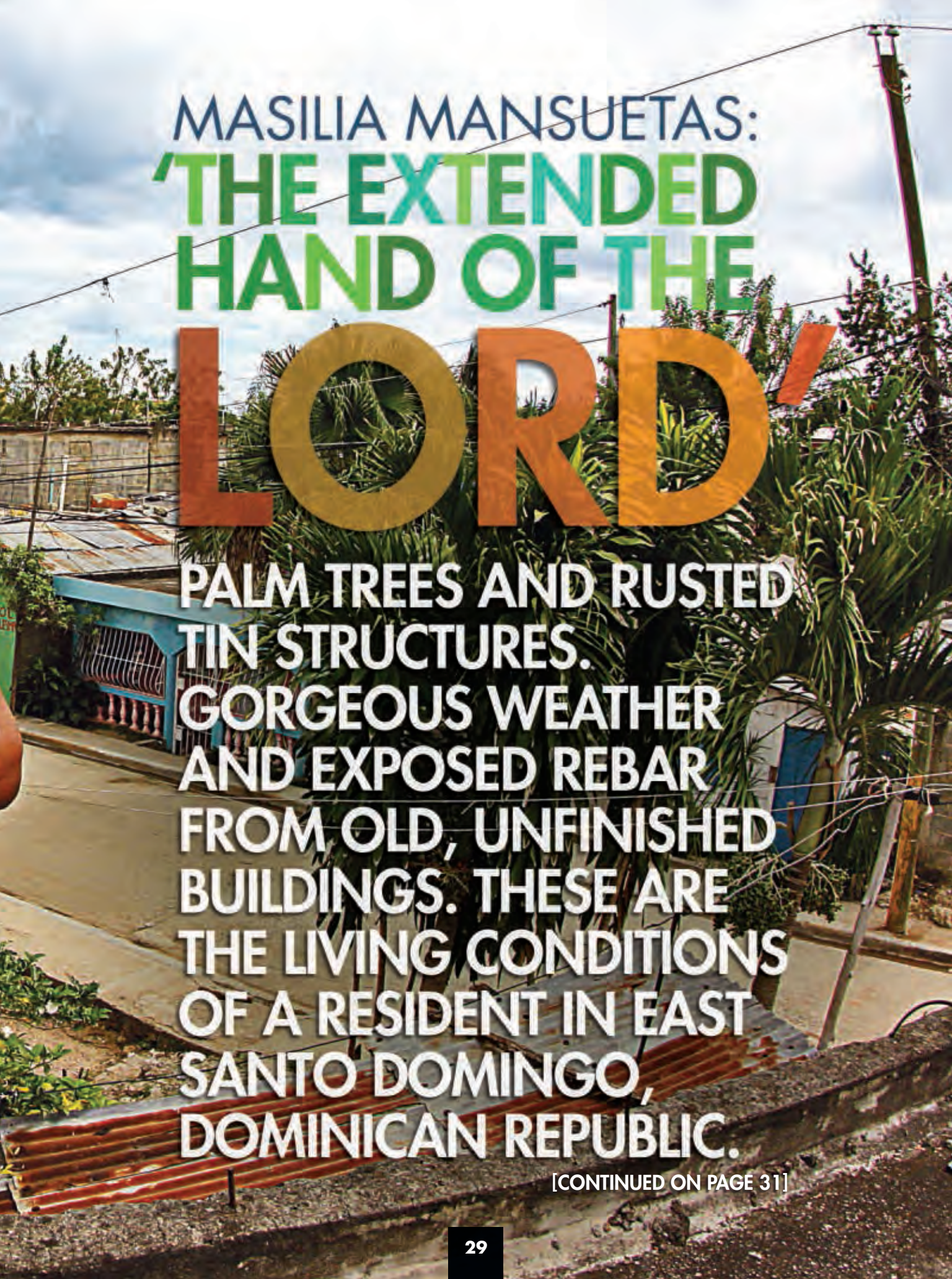
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MASILIA MANSUETAS:
**'THE EXTENDED
HAND OF THE
LORD!'**

**PALM TREES AND RUSTED
TIN STRUCTURES.
GORGEOUS WEATHER
AND EXPOSED REBAR
FROM OLD, UNFINISHED
BUILDINGS. THESE ARE
THE LIVING CONDITIONS
OF A RESIDENT IN EAST
SANTO DOMINGO,
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.**

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 31]



There, in the very landscape of the capital city, exists a tension between what naturally inhabited the island and the people's futile attempts to create a better lives for themselves. The missing ingredient in the improvement projects? Hope. Specifically, hope in the right thing.

Since 2009, Buckner International has had a presence in the Dominican Republic with its non-governmental organization (NGO) Buckner Dominicana. At its inception, an already existing Family Hope Center—formerly Community Transformation Center—aligned itself with the Buckner brand and became the Eduardo Brito Family Hope Center.

These centers, currently operating out of two locations, provide integral services and support to children and adults in five major areas: spiritual, social-emotional, educational, professional and health.

"Buckner gave me groceries and studies for the kids," said Masilia Mansuetas, an elderly Dominican native whose life is affected by the work Buckner is doing.

"I want them to be good, to go to school, to get a good profession from here," Mansuetas

said, referring to her grandchildren involved in the program. A major problem for people living in her area is the low literacy rate. But now, because of the Family Hope Center's literacy program, she can be confident in the future success of her grandchildren.

Although successful careers may be the motivation of some Buckner clients, Executive Director Maria Alida Brugal offers a different perspective: "Buckner is the extended hand of the Lord for the Dominican Republic... Redemption is the first thing we think we have in our hearts for them to know; it's the first point of our work here. Everything else will be added, the kingdom first, and everything else added."

Buckner Dominicana offers hope not just for self and community improvement, but hope in things that last, things that are eternal. This NGO is in the business of seeing lives not just changed, but redeemed. And where there is redemption, there is true hope.

True to the Buckner tagline, Hope shines here®, or as they would say in the DR, "Aqui brilla la esperanza." ❄

BUCKNER FAMILY HOPE CENTERS

Family Hope Centers are locations where social services and programs are provided to attract and support families and individuals so selected families can be identified, restored and empowered through intensive, individualized case management. Based in fragile communities, Hope Centers are a catalyst for redemptive transformation for those families in the long-term intensive case management program. Buckner currently operates Family Hope Centers in:

- Dominican Republic
- Ethiopia
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Kenya
- Mexico
- Peru
- Russia
- United States







WHERE HOPE SHINES

The Buckner Family Hope Center is an innovative model of ministry unique to Buckner and designed to answer the questions asked by families in need: immediate ones such as food, clothing and health care, or longer-term needs such as vocational training, life skills, income generation through micro business development, and spiritual development.

Hope Centers provide these answers. But above all, they **shine hope** where hopelessness lives.



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Buckner International is a global, faith-based ministry dedicated to transforming the lives of orphans, vulnerable children, families and elders in the United States and around the world. Founded in 1879 in Dallas, Texas, today Buckner serves people through a variety of programs designed to protect children and build strong families. These programs include foster care and adoption, family transition programs, community-based family preservation programs and retirement services for the elderly. Buckner also provides humanitarian aid and crisis relief to poverty-stricken families in the United States and worldwide. **Learn more and get involved at buckner.org.**



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