



## WHAT WE DO

**Prevent** sexual violence against children.

**Restore** the lives of survivors.

**Promote** a safe world for children.

Dear Friends,

We're celebrating 2021 as a year of wonderful achievements and reasons to hold fast to hope. It's important to celebrate the little things and uplift those soul stirring wonders that inspire us to carry on. By doing so, we give ourselves and others a strong footing to gaze upon the beauty, goodness, and truth that remain in the world despite so much hardship and suffering. Join us, friends, in making this celebration of healing and hope a palpable part of daily life.

Behind the encouraging general trends of our report, you'll find the infinitely unique healing journey of each child at our center. Their smiles and joyful play put wind in our sails. It's the reality of their healing—confirmed in their own lives and experiences—that brings us great joy and strengthens our commitment. As you read this report, see their smiles and hear their voices. Hold them in your heart and uplift their innocence.

Efforts to open paths of freedom for the oppressed illumine our world. It's our work to water the seeds of those efforts by sharing hope and celebrating what is good, beautiful, and true. Embody those efforts and be hope in the world.

Friends, everything we do at A Breeze of Hope is made possible by a beautiful tapestry of kindhearted people from all walks of life. Let's lift each other up. Let's make each other's days brighter. Let's be for each other the gentle people we want to see more of in the world. There's no need to wait. Today is a perfect day to water seeds.

May each of you savor lasting joy, sweet togetherness with loved ones, and the beauties of peace.

Brisa & Parker  
Co-founders



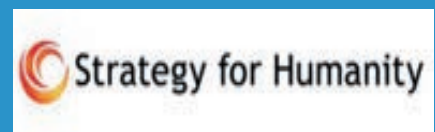
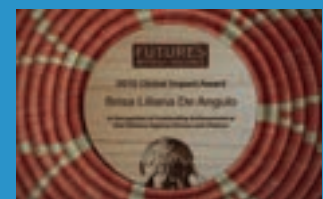
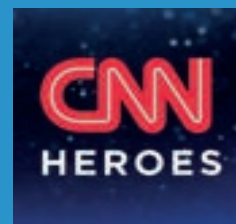
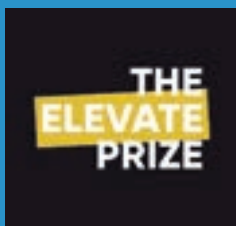
# MISSION

Our mission is to prevent sexual violence against children and restore the lives of survivors through healing and justice.

# VISION

We envision a safe world, where all children experience the magic of childhood and reach their potential to live full, happy lives.

# AWARDS





# FRESIA'S STORY



My name is Fresia. I'm 19 years old and I'm a survivor of childhood sexual violence. Today I'm surrounded by people who love and support me, and my life is filled with purpose and joy. But it hasn't always been this way. My two older cousins began raping me when I was just a little girl, and it's hard to remember when exactly because I was so young.

I grew up hating my cousins and the things they did to me. It never occurred to me that my cousins were committing horrible crimes against me. I thought it was an awful part of life that I somehow had to accept. I never told anyone because I felt embarrassed.

As the years went by, I developed deep insecurities. I didn't trust anyone. I isolated from my friends and family. I didn't know what was good or evil. My horrible thoughts exhausted me more each day, to the point where I wanted to end my ability to think, or at least forget everything for a few minutes. I was 14 when I started drinking alcohol. I discovered that it tricked my brain into

forgetting, and with that discovery, I dedicated myself to finding relief an hour at a time.

Yet the more I drank, the more I isolated and the more I felt insecure, worthless, and vulnerable. I felt completely helpless. My family and friends didn't understand my behavior. They were drowning in pain as they watched me self-destruct. My anguish and depression grew so intense that alcohol stopped numbing the pain. I began planning my suicide.

But my family refused to give up on me or abandon me. At the height of all my pain, they were there. I was 17 years old when I broke down and told them everything my cousins had done to me since I was a little girl. Together we decided to break the silence and file a complaint to the police. Breaking the silence was very hard. My cousins denied everything. They called me a liar and told horrific stories that made me the monster. When my family saw how hard this was on me, they went in search of help.

They found A Breeze of Hope and asked me to go with them. I followed along because I was devastated and desperate. When I walked through ABH's doors, I felt safe. I talked with a social worker and psychologist who made me feel valuable. I was introduced to other survivors who gave me gentle hugs that told me everything I needed to know without anyone saying a word. I knew I was safe.

Today, I'm 19 years old. My family and I love going to A Breeze of Hope. It's where we connect other survivors and families who have suffered this pain. It's where we encourage one another and learn healthy ways to express and manage our difficult emotions. We share our fears, our joys, our successes, and our failures. We learn from each other and grow stronger.

My trial just finished a few weeks ago and my two cousins are now in prison. My attorney at A Breeze of Hope helped me see that my voice matters, that I have rights, and that I deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. She fought for me and protected me from harm. I sleep better these days and find it much easier to enjoy life.

But because I've chosen to share my story publicly, I want everyone—especially other survivors—to understand that healing is a journey with good days and bad days. Sometimes I still struggle with stress and anxiety, and sometimes I have negative thoughts. But for survivors like me, this is normal. Our healing is a life-long journey, and it's not easy. No, it's hard and scary at times, but it's rewarding and worth every second. Breaking the silence is the best thing you can ever do. The pain I sometimes feel now is nothing compared to the pain I felt before I broke the silence. I broke the silence, and you can, too.

I am excited to continue my healing journey. Yes, the things I went through were horrible and difficult, but they are not impossible to overcome. My supportive family members and I have rediscovered joy, and that can happen for you, too. My hope is that A Breeze of Hope keeps doing what it does. My family and I have a new life, and I want every survivor to have this opportunity. My dream is to help other survivors find the help I have. Together as survivors, we can do great things!



# OUR APPROACH

## PREVENTION

A Breeze of Hope works to prevent sexual violence against children and restore the lives of those who have been impacted by it. Our approach is multisectoral, transdisciplinary, and holistic.



## SINCE 2004:

- Successfully advocated for the repeal of the discriminatory laws and the passage of laws that offer greater protection to child survivors of sexual violence.
- Trained government officials, professionals, students, and educators:
  - 124,388 educated and trained in sexual violence prevention and response
  - 4,051 in early childhood development.
- Published 41 books, manuals, and protocols on trauma healing, sexual violence prevention, and early childhood development.
- Advocated before the Inter-American Commission in several thematic hearings on sexual violence against children.
- Created Bolivia's National Day Against Childhood Sexual Violence.
- Litigated before the Inter-American Court the first case it has heard concerning systematic human rights violations against an adolescent girl victim of sexual violence.



# OUR APPROACH

## RESTORATION

All of our services are in-house, which creates therapeutic continuity, specialization, and strict confidentiality.



**SINCE 2004:**

**2,122** child survivors have received free wrap-around care at our center, including legal, social, psychological, and medical support.

**8,240** non-offending family members have also received these direct support services.

**95%** of the 680+ trials we've managed have resulted in convictions.



# PREVENTION DURING 2021



Comprehensive  
Early Childhood  
Development

**148** pregnant mothers and their partners received prenatal care and home visits, formed support groups, and engaged in parental skills enrichment programs. We supported the parents of **150** infants as they provided care in five critical domains (emotional nutrition, physical nutrition, cognitive nutrition, self-agency, and safe environments).



Social  
Activism

**9,602** people participated in our outreach and social activism activities, including virtual forums, town hall meetings, and our celebration of Bolivia's national day against sexual violence in solidarity with survivors.



International  
Advocacy

A Breeze of Hope participated in the Reykjavik Dialogues, organizing a regional delegation of 32 organizations to represent South America. The delegation addressed issues surrounding sexual violence against children and adolescents. The Reykjavik Dialogues bring together women and girls' rights defenders from around the world to shape public policy and advocate critical legal reforms. Maria Del Carmen, a young woman from our center, survivor and now staff, was selected as one of the speakers at the Reykjavik Dialogues. She brilliantly represented South America and skillfully expounded the many changes needed to elevate women and girls' rights.



Public Policy &  
Legal Reform

Thanks to our advocacy, the Municipality of Tiquipaya passed a law (Law 100/2021) that formed the "Committee on Holistic Early Childhood Development" and granted it authority over the entire municipal territory (which is very large and comprised of dozens of smaller towns and villages). This committee is comprised of 13 representatives from the municipality, social advocacy groups, and local NGOs that operate in Tiquipaya. This Committee is now a model for other municipalities in Cochabamba who are working to pass similar laws.



Research &  
Publications

In 2021 we published **six protocols** and **six books**. We used these materials to educate professionals and government officials throughout Bolivia and the surrounding region. The wide distribution of these materials as part of structured education courses is already improving service quality and access to justice for children.



Training  
Government  
Officials,  
Professionals &  
Students

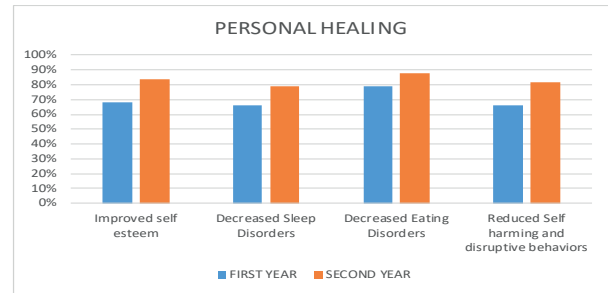
We trained **10,944** government officials, including judges, prosecutors, police officers, child protection agents, and forensic doctors, in sexual violence prevention, trauma-informed response to disclosure, and early childhood development. Training participants came from Bolivia, Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Peru, United States, and Argentina.



# RESTORATION DURING 2021



**639** child survivors of sexual violence participated in a wide range of healing activities, including yoga, art, family systems therapy, internal family systems therapy, group therapy, dance, music, play therapy, and more.



**334** child survivors pursued justice with the support of our expert legal team. Despite all the challenges this year, we achieved a **99%** conviction rate: **75** trials, **74** convictions. Sadly, 148 trials were postponed, and many of those children may have to wait two to three years for their day in Bolivia's overburdened courts.



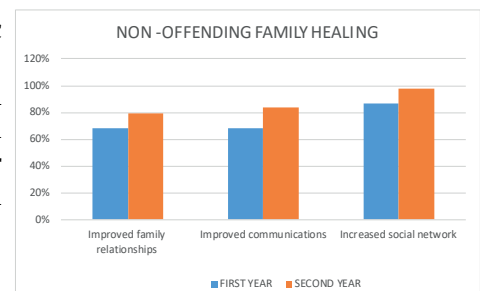
**700** supportive, non-offending family members participated in Family Systems Therapy and received regular home visits, welfare and health services navigation, and community-based therapy.



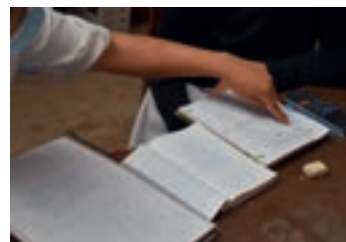
**16** adolescents graduated from high school, and **100%** of these graduates enrolled in higher education. WE are currently supporting **15** of these youth in college. Of the **639** school-aged children at our center, **99%** are currently enrolled in classes. Three high-school students from our center received awards for best grades. Additionally, five adolescent girls from our center won discipline specific awards: 1st place in the Biology Olympics, 1st place in computer programming, 2nd place in a school art contest, 1st place in robotic engineering, and 1st place in written arguments and public speaking.



**45** adolescents participated in our economic independence program and **27** graduated. **43** secured meaningful employment in local businesses, and the income from these jobs proved a vital (even lifesaving) supplement to their household economies during Bolivia's protracted struggled with Covid-19 and its economic impacts. **37** adolescents opened their own bank accounts.



**93** girls and adolescents at our center were involved in social activism and political participation. This included participating in ABH's advisory board, Youth-to-Youth training program, and the Youth National Network against Sexual Violence. **275** children and adolescents received training on human rights and survivor advocacy.





# 2021 PUBLICATIONS

## BOOKS



Navigating in the World of Trauma and Healing: Awakening and Reinventing Myself



Building Resilient Families and Healing Communities



Proposal for the Plurinational State of Bolivia



Holistic Early Childhood Development: Volume II



Coloring Book of Positive Affirmations For Kids!



Isa's Personal Space

## PROTOCOLS



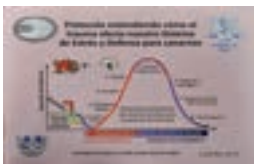
Regaining Control over Our Polivagal System



Protocol for the Initial Psychological Interview of a Child in Cases of Suspected Sexual Violence



Protocol for Case Intake and the First Therapeutic Session



Protocol for assessing the impact of trauma on our central nervous system so that we can heal



Stabilizing and dialoging with sub-parts to bring harmony and healing to our inner world



Trauma, its impact on the brain, and its implications for the investigation of child sex crimes

# NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Brisa De Angulo, A Breeze of Hope's founder and CEO, joined the Brave Movement, a survivor-led movement that's setting a global policy agenda for prevention, healing, and justice for child survivors of sexual violence. Part of the movement's initial success has been to establish a Global Day Against Sexual Violence.



brave movement | End Childhood Sexual Violence

A young member of the ABH team, María del Carmen Arandia, participated in The Reykjavik Dialogue in September. At this event, activists, practitioners, and survivors from around the world together set an agenda for work to end violence against women and girls.

María del Carmen is an activist and powerful survivor of childhood sexual violence.



The Reykjavik Dialogue  
 Empowering Activists to End Violence Against Women  
 29-30th August 2021

# VOLUNTEERS



Lyla Lovett stayed in Cochabamba, Bolivia, helping the legal and social teams. She still helps with ABH communications but from the USA.



Paula Cepeda (on the right) stayed in Cochabamba, Bolivia, helping the legal team.

# THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

## Institutional Supporters

Abundant Life Center  
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Central Baptist Church  
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Sculptology  
Sherman Fairchild Foundation  
Strategy For Humanity  
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The Buffalo Group  
The Forgotten International  
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University Impact

## Children's Heroes (\$15,000 and over)

Paul & Meagan Courtney  
Adams Family  
Garcia Family  
Hernandez Hodge Family

## Children's Champions (\$10,000- \$14,999)

Paul Schlee

## Children's Advocates (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Andrew Hamel  
Mary Ellsberg  
Barbara Friedman  
Mr. & Mrs John Lewis  
Pastor Frank D Yubeta  
Lamsam Family

## Children's Friends (\$1000 0 \$4,999)

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Thomas Lovett  
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Judy Hodge  
David & Alecia Pittinsky  
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## Children's Supporters (\$500 - \$999)

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Becky & Joe Sherman  
Monique Dolecki  
Jennifer Streeper  
Tim Morgan  
Ellen Boneparth  
Cormac Murphy  
Jennifer Streeper  
Joan Flagg  
Sarah Ricks  
Beth Stephens  
Robert E Zieger  
Robert E. Andrews

As survivors of childhood sexual violence, Brisa De Angulo and Parker Palmer created A Breeze of Hope to build a world in which all children grow up in safe, loving environments and to help other survivors regain the joy of living.

Support our work! Your donations to A Breeze of Hope Foundation are tax deductible.

DONATE TODAY at:  
[www.abreezeofhope.org/donate](http://www.abreezeofhope.org/donate)



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

