



Why Latin America?




Covenant House believes every young person deserves a safe place to sleep and hope for the future, regardless of national boundaries.

In Latin America, children and adolescents face extraordinary challenges, including poverty, violence, and abuse in contexts rife with political instability, broken education systems, and lack of economic opportunities. These threats lead youth to live on the streets or to flee their own country, urgently seeking safety and opportunity. Struggling to survive on their own, these children are extremely vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking.

When they have nowhere else to turn for the safety and hope they deserve, Covenant House is there.



What's our impact?

-  **81,000** nights of safe housing provided in Latin America
-  **220** youth slept in a Covenant House Latin America bed each night
-  **6,000** young people reached across our programs

Fiscal year 2022

What does Covenant House do?

In 34 cities across six countries, Covenant House cares for young people overcoming homelessness, survivors of human trafficking, and unaccompanied migrant youth with unconditional love, absolute respect, and relentless support.

We have been at work in Latin America since 1981, and the children and adolescents we care for in the region are the youngest across all our houses, just 12-18 years old. At our sites in seven cities in Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Nicaragua we offer shelter, food, medical and mental health care, substance use treatment, educational support, vocational training, and legal aid. In addition to these direct services, we scale our impact and create systemic change in the region through public education and prevention programs, legislative advocacy, and human rights monitoring and activism.

In Honduras, Mexico, and Nicaragua, we are known as Casa Alianza, and in Guatemala as La Alianza.

What can you do?

Covenant House welcomes your partnership with our work in Latin America, whether through personal donations directed to the region, corporate partnerships, foundation support, or advocacy efforts. Participation in our Sleep Out movement is another impactful act of solidarity. To see firsthand the transformative impact of Covenant House in Latin America, consider traveling with us on a Camino a Casa delegation.

Residential Care



In addition to meeting immediate needs of food, clothing, and shelter, our residential programs offer a holistic suite of services to help youth recover from past trauma, strengthen their resilience, and grow into a future full of hope. Each young person is part of a community that accepts them just as they are. Covenant House welcomes all youth regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

Public Education + Prevention

To address the causes of youth homelessness, abuse, and trafficking in the region, we widen our lens to focus on prevention, access to justice, and advocacy. We organize communities in support of child safety, prosecute traffickers, track human rights violations, press for child protection legislation, and train police and civil servants to recognize child rights violations. By working for systemic change, Covenant House in Latin America is making a difference far beyond our residences.



Trafficking Survivors

Many of our youth in Latin America have experienced the horror of human trafficking. We thus have three safe house residences dedicated to caring for these survivors: One for girls in Honduras, another for girls in Guatemala, and our third is a residence solely for adolescent boys in Guatemala. When the latter opened in the spring of 2022, it was the first program in Central America to provide protection and care to boy survivors. We offer all these youth the safety and trauma-informed care they need to heal, grow, and pursue justice against their traffickers. In Coatepeque, Guatemala, we additionally have a non-residential outreach program which provides psychosocial and legal support to survivors of trafficking and sexual violence living in a vulnerable region along the western border with Mexico.



Youth Migration

Covenant House brings compassionate service to the full arc of the migrant experience. We are present in the busy border areas between Honduras and Guatemala and between Guatemala and Mexico with outreach programs to care for youth and young families along the migrant trail. In Mexico City, we have a dedicated residence for migrant boys who have chosen to seek refugee status in that country. In San Pedro Sula, Honduras, we accompany recently returned Honduran deportees, helping them envision and build a better life in their home country. And at all of our Latin America houses, we are working to create conditions of greater safety and opportunity for youth and young families. Our hope is that our transformative programs will reduce their need to embark on such a risky migration journey.



Family Reintegration + Support

Whether we are reintegrating our young residents with their families of origin or supporting youth and families in their own homes in vulnerable communities, our goal is to ensure home environments where children are loved and supported. This means supporting both the child and their family with psychosocial support, parenting support, and entrepreneurial capacity-building to increase economic stability. Our aim is to make families healthy and whole so youth don't feel compelled to leave—or if they have left, to help them return safely to a supportive and loving environment. If family reintegration is not a safe option, a young person can remain at Covenant House until age 18, and we support them in preparing for independent living through education and vocational training.



To learn more about Covenant House in Latin America and opportunities to partner with us, contact Chris Megargee, Latin America Ambassador, at cmegargee@covenanthouse.org or 206.775.6424.

covenanthouse.org/latinamerica