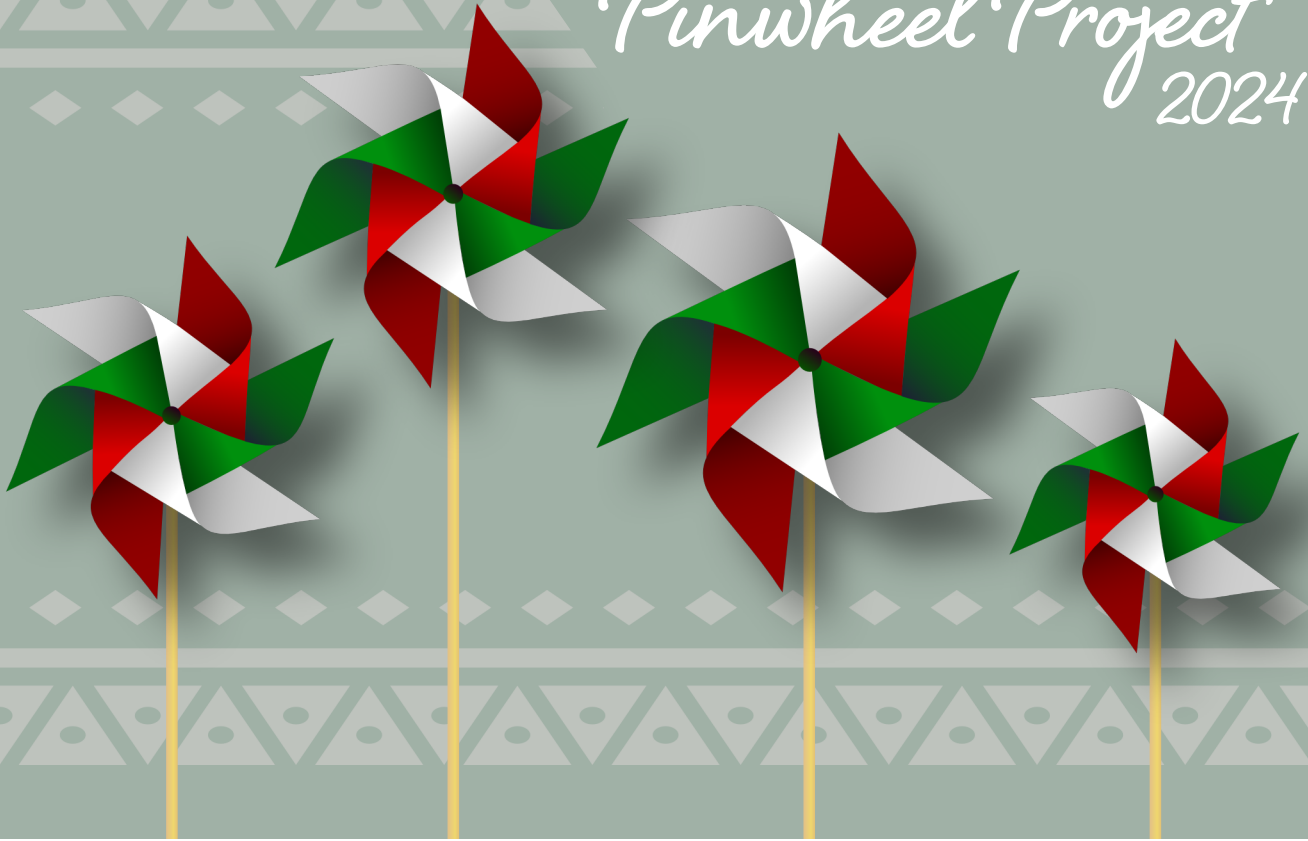


Pinwheel Project 2024



For four years now, WDMCC has facilitated a Spring fundraising and advocacy effort known as the Pinwheel Project. Through this project, WDMCC partners with a local community organization to 1) raise awareness about a specific need our neighbors have and 2) help address the need in a practical way. The first year we partnered with DMARC to address food insecurity during the pandemic. In 2021 we partnered with the Des Moines area Boys and Girls Clubs to send kids on summer field trips. In 2022 we partnered with the Des Moines Public School System to provide direct support to kids needing medical care, personal care items, and counseling services. And last year WDMCC partnered with Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), supporting their multi-fronted efforts to accompany children through obstacles that prevent them from thriving.



▲ Above: Pastors Mark & Luke with the recipients of a Homes of Hope house in Tijuana, Mexico | May 2023

For this fifth anniversary year of the Pinwheel Project, we are partnering with **Homes of Hope** to build a home for a low-income family in Tijuana, Mexico. The impact a home can have on a family is dramatic (*see infographic on next page). *Homes of Hope* isn't just a house-building organization... it's also—and primarily—a people-building movement working to lift families out of poverty and set parents and kids alike on a path toward better physical, mental, and spiritual wellness. *Homes of Hope* builds homes for families in poverty because it changes lives. By giving our financial resources, our time, our talents, our hands and our hearts to this project, we get to be part of that change and part of the new thing Jesus is doing in the lives of the family who will call this house “home.”



THE NEED

A child without a home is three times more likely to not attend school.

-Source: endhomelessness.org

Children without adequate shelter suffer more from anxiety, depression, withdrawal and other mental health problems.

-Source: National Organization for Homeless

One In four Mexicans are classified as extremely poor and unable to afford adequate food or housing.

-Source: Washington Post Foreign Service

45% of the 127 million people of Mexico live below the poverty line.

-Source: The World Post

Over one billion people now live in slums without adequate housing.

-Source: UN-Habitat Report

5 BENEFITS OF A HOME

1

ECONOMIC

A debt-free home helps leverage families out of poverty and it is estimated that it sets them ahead economically 7-10 years.

2

EDUCATIONAL

Children who come back to a home the parents own are three times more likely to stay in school.

3

HEALTH

A home with a solid floor reduces parasitic infections by 78%, reduces diarrhea by 49% and dramatically improves cognitive development in children.

4

TRANSFORMED THINKING

Home ownership produces healthy long-term thinking in the life of the family, helping to break the cycle of poverty in one generation.

5

SPIRITUAL IMPACT

The gift of a home on the land the family owns is a practical demonstration of God's love to an impoverished family.



How It Works

- ▶ Families purchase land the home is to be built on
- ▶ Families apply and interview with *Homes of Hope* staff to verify eligibility and commitment to *Homes of Hope's* expectations
- ▶ Families who have at least one child and low income (less than \$125/week) are welcome to apply for a home
- ▶ Families prepare the land for the new house (e.g., clear site, remove old buildings, build retaining walls, etc.)
- ▶ WDMCC raises money to fund the build
- ▶ WDMCC sends a team to build the home alongside the family



3 Ways You Can Get Involved

1

Educate yourself. Making meaningful change in any community starts with educating ourselves about the needs of our neighbors. Join us at 9:00 am Sunday, April 14th in the Fellowship Hall to hear a presentation on *Homes of Hope* and Mark & Luke's 2023 trip to Tijuana to build a home. Breakfast provided.

2

Donate to the cause. The cost of the materials to build the home is **\$12,700**, so that is our fundraising goal this year. 100% of donations will go directly toward purchasing building materials for this house. For each donation of \$10 or more, we will place pinwheels on the front hill of the church grounds to track our progress toward our **goal of raising \$12,700**. You can give in person or online via the payment portal on the church website.

3

Prayerfully consider signing up to go to Mexico with WDMCC to build the home at the start of 2025. It is important that we not only give our financial resources, but also put our hands and hearts to the work of caring for our neighbors. You will see more information about this opportunity in the coming months.

