

Casa Hogar Rancho Del Rey

Mexico

IMPROVEMENT ROADMAP

June | 2023



Overview of this Children's Home

Background & Mission

Mission: To ensure an integral child development through a harmonious family structure, by means of a program in which children and young people are freed from vicious cycles and harmful pathologies, transforming their reality.

Vision: To transform children born into extreme poverty into adults of purpose, integrity and faith.

Recent Accomplishments

- Two caregivers graduated at university level in Psychology.
- Projection of a new strong families program.



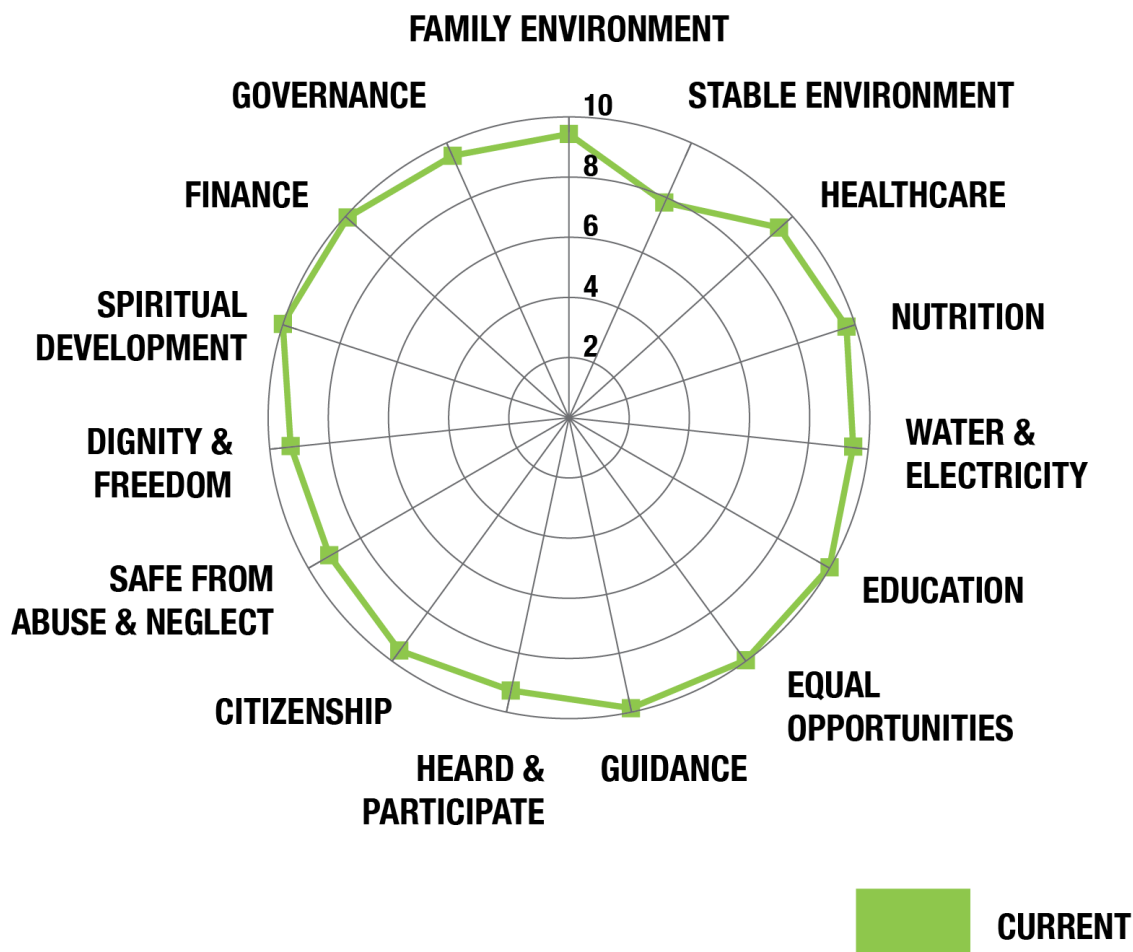
The Thrive Assessment

What is the Thrive Assessment?

In 1959, the United Nations (UN) adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, which defines children's rights to protection, education, healthcare, shelter, nutrition and more. We have codified all 13 Rights, as well as a Finance Standard and a Governance and Human Resource Standard, resulting in a total of 15 standards. These standards ensure that children receive care that truly helps them to thrive, now and in the future.

The Thrive Assessment will be administered every 6 months with each partner home to chart the progress of each standard. Our team works with caregivers to outline next steps which are then compiled into an Improvement Roadmap.

Current Thrive Scale



Strategic Initiatives

"BEGINNING THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL CYCLE WITH STRENGTH" SHORT-TERM PROJECT

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| PROJECT DESCRIPTION | Acquisition and renewal of toiletry kits for the children (talcum powder, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, etc.) and household furnishings (curtains, sheets, pillows, etc.) including minor repairs (tiling of bathrooms, replacement of water pipes, painting, etc.). |
| ESTIMATED FUNDING | \$45,000.00 MXN \$2,650.00 USD (\$17.00 MXN x \$1.00 USD) |

"EXTENDING THE TENT" MEDIUM-TERM PROJECT

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| PROJECT DESCRIPTION | Fitting out an area on the 2nd level of the technology room for a music skills development room. Laying of flooring, windows, ceiling, doors, etc. Fitting out of a bathroom area including a toilet and two showers, tile. |
| ESTIMATED FUNDING | \$ 225,000.00 MXN \$13,235.00 USD (\$17.00 MXN x \$1.00 USD) |

"EXTENDING THE TENT" FINAL STAGE LONG-TERM PROJECT

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| PROJECT DESCRIPTION | Enable the upper part of the technology area with a second complete bathroom with 2 showers, tile, 2 rooms, windows, floors, finishes, hallway, stairs, kitchenette, etc. |
| ESTIMATED FUNDING | \$1,600,000.00 MXN \$94,120.00 USD (\$17.00 MXN x \$1.00 USD) |



Right to Live with Family

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The Rancho del Rey children's home cares for boys between five and six years of age and older, through tutors-trainers, who live with their family and are in charge of a group of children in their care. The home has 6 children with siblings; the siblings have the opportunity to live together in the home. They have mentoring and psychological care but this is not stipulated. Previously they had monthly visits in the home but now they have bi-weekly visits with their family. The caregivers have frequent training and psychological support offered to them, but it is not always well accepted.

- ☐ It is suggested to establish a program that includes the protocol for the selection and safe permanence of caregivers.
- ☐ Apply the CUIDA evaluation instrument to all caregivers and personnel who have contact with minors.
- ☐ It is recommended that sibling groups within the group home spend more time together.



Right to a Stable Environment

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The director conducts an initial interview with the child and family member to share with them the reason for entering the institution, as well as a life perspective. It is recognized that there may be too many activities where the children may feel too pressured by the amount of activities. There is a two-day break per week for caregivers. There is a commitment by the caregivers to remain at the home for at least one year to allow the children to complete an entire school year. Initially they have a trial contract and then others progressively; the couple that has the least time in the home has remained for 2 years. The caregivers have a weekly individual meeting to address various issues. The caregivers play daily with the children in their care and each house has its own celebrations.

- ☐ Strengthen the commitment of caregivers for at least 2 years.
- ☐ It is recommended that caregivers be trained in positive discipline and that the consequences of rule infractions be discussed clearly and directly with children.
- ☐ It is recommended that a review be made of the activities programmed to provide leisure and recreational spaces.



Right to Healthcare

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The home is for boys only. The medical check-up of each child upon returning from the family visit is implemented in a discreet manner. The home has signage for hygiene reminders. Each child is dewormed twice a year following medical and nutritional recommendations. They do not have a specific medical fund for an emergency case, but if one were to come up, they use their regular funds and through the council they raise funds to attend to the situation that arises at the time. The minors who have presented this type of need have always been attended to with medical attention and follow-up, including rehabilitation.

- ☐ It is suggested to develop a medical care protocol for major emergencies and have it in writing so that there is clear evidence of immediate action in case of a medical emergency.



Right to Nutrition

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The home takes great care of the feeding aspect. The home provides balanced and sufficient food, approved under the supervision of a nutritionist. The children are evaluated by the nutrition department four times a year. The kitchen staff is trained in hygienic food handling by the nutrition and medical staff.

- ☐ It is recommended, according to the director's comment, to improve the area of hygiene maintenance in the kitchen area, including countertops and tableware.



Right to Equal Opportunities

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The home does not serve children with disabilities because it does not have the elements to do so, however, those children who require support with glasses or physical rehabilitation, the home seeks to provide them. In case of visual impairment, the home also provides them with the required glasses.

- ☐ It is recommended that this support structure be maintained for sufficient provision and care of children.



Right to Safe & Adequate Water & Facilities

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The home is beginning a process to make the well water drinkable; in the meantime, they use bottled water for human consumption. They have a general alarm and carry out drills once a year. They have two people responsible for maintenance. The home is completely protected in relation to its surroundings; however, they need to improve external security with a night watchman. There is no written maintenance plan, but the emergency batteries are checked annually, the drainage system is checked four times a year, and the electrical system is constantly checked. The general lighting wiring was changed two years ago and each area has emergency lighting.

- ☐ It is recommended to continue with the water purification project.
- ☐ It is recommended that a budget be prepared for the night watchman.
- ☐ It is recommended that a meeting be held with the maintenance area to draw up a written plan of the area's own processes.



Right to Quality Education

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

All children are in the school system and the pedagogical department works with specific programs to meet their needs. They have support activities to stimulate their overall development. They address the academic lag individually and face the challenge of newly admitted children who are behind in literacy. They carry out a program to catch them up and recognize that this takes a long period of time.

- ☐ Maintain the actions and tools that have been implemented in this area to sustain continuous improvement.



Right to Guidance

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The home provides weekly individual and biweekly group psychological care. Caregivers receive general training. Improvements are identified in the area of updating and training to address the sexual behaviors of the minors cared for by their caregivers. Work is being done on values and life skills, education and money management. The multidisciplinary team works with the adolescents to develop their life plan and they have life skills programs. They made the observation of retaking ONE 21, which is a retreat for the youth of Back2Back and the shelters with which it collaborates. It was held over a 2-day camp-like period where there was a full program of living together but also of learning and connection among the young people, as well as times of connection in the spiritual area. This event was financially supported and organized by Back2Back, and we plan to resume it as it allows children to broaden their perspectives and future plans, strengthening their connections, social and leadership skills with their peers.

- ☐ It is recommended to strengthen and implement training for caregivers in the area of sexual behavior management and education. One option is Proyecto Protégeme.



Right to Be Heard and Participate in Decisions

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

In this home, the children's decisions are respected and their voiced opinions are respected. The children participate in the dynamic of serving food and cleaning up their areas at the end of the meal. Weekly life plans are updated, if necessary. Leadership roles are promoted in the different functions they develop, all this supervised and accompanied by their caregivers.

- ☐ It is suggested to provide free time for the children to choose alternative activities to those already planned.



Right to Be Prepared for Citizenship

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

Prior to the pandemic, the home participated in a park clean-up activity in the community that is very close to the location of the home. Because of this, the home was well identified and known by its neighbors and the community in general. The children participate in some activities where they receive points, which they can exchange in a store for certain products. On some occasions, through this system, the children have supported with groceries, which have been sent to communities in situations of natural disasters. For example, when they learn of a natural disaster or a specific situation in vulnerable communities, the children and young people are informed and they decide what percentage of their points will be converted into products to donate for the benefit of the need mentioned, i.e. basic products are sent in kind.

- ☐ It is recommended that they resume their active participation with the community in various activities, as they used to do in the past.



Right to Be Safe from Abuse & Neglect

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The home has exterior and interior cameras. They have been trained in the Protection Policy shared by Back2Back and are in the process of developing their own. There is an annex with the standards of care, but they need to be more specifically set out in their manual, so a review will be carried out this year and they will make the necessary adaptations and modifications.

- ☐ Training on sexual abuse prevention is recommended and can be provided through Project Protect and Darkness to Light.
- ☐ As noted above, it is suggested that a budget be allocated for the night watchman.
- ☐ Plan periodic trainings on the Protection Policy.



Right to Dignity & Freedom

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

In hot weather, the children bathe twice a day. They have well water and have not lacked this service. They are provided with their own closet when they enter the home. With the points program previously mentioned, they can purchase products as an interchangeable economic benefit, such as personal hygiene items of their choice or any other basic product they like.

- ☐ It is recommended that an age-appropriate Life Skills program be researched and developed.
- ☐ Verify that each of the processes in this clothing and underwear area are identifiable in order to visualize them in the corresponding manual.



Right to Spiritual Development

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The home is characterized by maintaining an active program of constant spiritual growth with each caregiver and in turn with the children and adolescents. They also attend a church every week where they are identified as part of their community. At the end of each year they hold a celebration in which all the young people participate in order to transmit a biblical message of encouragement to the families who are invited to this celebration. They encourage and teach the children to pray and maintain their relationship with God with biblical principles.

- ☐ It is recommended to maintain these activities that strengthen the area of spiritual growth as part of their integral life project.



Finance Standard

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The accounting and administrative aspects are kept up to date, keeping evidence of each accounting item. Each month the financial statements are evaluated to make the pertinent adjustments for the annual fiscal projection and a report is given to the board of directors. The board of directors annually reviews the finances and the accountant performs a monthly audit. Special projects are addressed under different rubrics.

- ☐ It is recommended that a document be prepared defining the financial functions of each position.



Governance and Human Resource Standard

SURVIVING

SUSTAINING

THRIVING

The director mentions the need for a board of directors that is more active and committed to the dynamics of the home because, although they are in contact, the meetings are sporadic. The director mentions that he would like them to be more involved in the dynamics of the home. They have two councils, one national and one abroad, the latter being more active with the group home.

- ☐ It is recommended that the national board of directors be more involved, meeting at least twice a year.
- ☐ Staff training on the care of sick children and good hygiene is recommended to prevent illness.



Current Improvement Partners



BACK2BACK
MÉXICO A.C.

Back to Back Ministries

Back2Back Ministries es un actor global con sitios en diversos países. Nos hemos asociado con su equipo en Monterrey, Nuevo León, México para implementar el Programa de Certificación Thrive.

For a list of projects and opportunities to coordinate on go to
www.ACHF.org/Projects



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