

# UNITY<sup>4</sup> ORPHANS

As I wrap up my summer travels to Latin America, I've been reflecting on all that Unity 4 Orphans has accomplished since I started the organization in 2005. I started U4O with a vision to lead San Diegans to serve at orphanages in Tijuana on trips that were experiential, relational and gospel-centered. Today, it has grown into an organization that:

- Operates in 30 sites across 6 countries (the US and 5 countries in Latin America).
- Serves 1,500 children on a monthly basis through five programs: Education 4 Change, Healing 4 Change, Nutrition 4 Change, Play 4 Change and Shelter 4 Change.
- Supports 15 in-country ministry partners and creates part-time jobs for over 30 individuals local to the communities in which they serve.

With the steadfast support of U4O's generous donors, partners, volunteers, teammates, advisors and board members, U4O has grown far beyond anything I had ever imagined to an organization that transforms the lives of marginalized children living in some of the world's most oppressive countries. I am humbled by and truly grateful to you, and of course to the abundant goodness of the Lord, without whom none of this would be possible.

With U4O's rapid growth over the past eighteen months, I've realized that different skills and passions are required to lead it. After many conversations with our Board and prayerful consideration with close friends and advisors, I've made the difficult decision to resign from the organization effective July 31, 2024. I have the utmost confidence in our Executive Director Caitlin Snyder and our Board of Directors and Advisors to continue to effectively advance the mission and purpose of U4O.

I'll be stepping away from U4O to pursue a pastor-missionary role seeking to build disciples in San Diego out of the early church vision in Acts 2:42, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." I will focus on small, intimate groups, diving deep into relationships and faith. Pastoring and shepherding others is my life's calling. I am hopeful that in this next season of ministry, there will be opportunities for those I lead to invest in the lives of vulnerable children in some capacity, since caring for the poor and needy is a mandate that Jesus gives His followers.

So many of you have invested in Unity 4 Orphans and me over the last nearly two decades. I am incredibly grateful for all the support, love and prayers you've shown to me and the organization over the years. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I sincerely hope you continue to support Unity 4 Orphans as they fulfill the vital mission of serving the one billion vulnerable children in the world.

For the Kingdom,  
-Joe Brandi