



EsEs Kindergarten: A Place of Hope



## Dear Estación Esperanza friends

A lot is in motion – in our lives and in the project. We are experiencing change, surprises, challenges, joys – and we are filled with hope.

### Thank God for EsEs

Three-year-old Sara (names partially changed) came to our kindergarten for the first time this May. Before that, she had attended a public kindergarten – just like five other children who are now with us. There, they were treated poorly (for example, not allowed to drink water so they wouldn't need to go to the toilet). There were hardly any alternatives: private kindergartens are unaffordable for many families, public ones are overcrowded.

But not EsEs. Our kindergarten is affordable – and when needed, we find individual solutions.

After three good days, Sara suddenly stopped coming. For weeks, we heard nothing from her mother, Lia. It was another mother who told us that Lia had been living in a leased minibuss with her three little daughters – their last refuge after losing their apartment. The bus was both their workplace (she and her then-boyfriend had a kind of informal public transport gig) and their sleeping space – a dangerous situation every night. Eventually,



Kindergarten: Parent-Teacher Meetings (Twice a Year)



Celebrating Father's Day



Perform dances Proudly for Their Dads

they couldn't keep up with the payments and Lia disappeared with the children from the area.

But she is fighting. Recently, she began working legally as a cleaner in a well-known restaurant – six days a week, eleven hours a day. Sara is back in our kindergarten. Lia pays less, but helps out occasionally when time allows. It is deeply moving to see her involved.

When she told me about her own childhood, I had tears in my eyes. I've heard many stories. Some are barely bearable – yet they are everyday reality for women like Lia. We want to empower her to walk her own path – independently of the father or any partner who harms her. We remain in contact with the father and aim to make him fulfill his financial responsibilities toward the children. That's not easy, as he wants to move back in with her – and if that happens, the whole cycle may begin again.

### Leadership in transition - hope remains

At the beginning of July, we handed over the operational leadership of Estación Esperanza

to Natalia and Rodolfo. They have been part of EsEs for many years and wholeheartedly carry our vision. We trust them completely.

After three weeks of vacation, we are now back in the project – until March 2026. During this transition, we continue to support the team closely, make space, and empower Natalia and Rodolfo in their new roles. Even though we will move back to Switzerland in April next year, we will retain strategic responsibility. We plan to travel to Peru each year for a few weeks.

Already on the first day in this new setup, the importance of a strong team became clear: Two kindergarten teachers had to leave unexpectedly for several hours due to family emergencies. One of them later resigned because she had to (or wanted to) take in her sister's two children.

### Opportunity in the neighborhood

The resignation of one teacher, combined with the growing number of children joining us, was a challenge – and at the same time an opportunity to help in a completely new way. We were able to create two new part-time po-



The EsEs Team has grown



Helping unload SICA aterials



sitions and hire Andrea and Hillary, two women from the neighborhood who have been supporting EsEs for a while. They are mothers and grew up in the slums. Through their lived faith, they are role models for many.

Hillary had to drop out of her studies when she became pregnant. “Now I’m working, still learning – and it’s a completely new feeling of life. I’m proud, and I can be a role model for my daughter,” she says.

Andrea has a nursing degree. But the long working hours were incompatible with being a mother. Andrea and Hillary bring stability to our project and motivation to the community. They are two examples of the success of our efforts to promote education, career development, and personal responsibility. It’s working!

### News in brief

- We received an unexpected call from the Swiss company SICA, which operates in Peru. Thanks to a former schoolmate of Carlos who now works there, we were able to receive renovation materials. But how do you get several tons of materials from a truck onto our site? Carlos quickly mobilized young men from Kouri Hanna (the neighborhood where he grew up and where our first project house is located). One of them was José. A year ago, he was hit by new bullets and miraculously survived. He and other young men in the neighborhood are struggling against drugs, crime, and hopelessness. But they’re starting to sense: there is another way. They appreciate the opportunity to do small jobs for EsEs, to be trusted, and to earn money honestly. This trust can be a beginning.
- In our small partner church “Familia para toda la vida”, which meets in the EsEs build-

### FOR THIS WE ARE GRATEFUL

- Natalia and Rodolfo – their ideas, their sense of responsibility, and their hearts for God, for EsEs, and for the people.
- Encouraging steps in the lives of Hillary, Andrea, those who were baptized, and others.
- The opportunity to support families and walk alongside parents through our kindergarten.

### OUR PRAYER REQUESTS

- God’s guidance and provision for the planned school construction.
- Wisdom for the leadership process (separating operational and strategic responsibility).
- God’s protection over the newborn twins (born July 23) of Esther and Samuel (core team members living at EsEs Pachacutec), and for a blessed time of reunion with their visiting families: Samuel’s parents are seeing their son again after eight years, and Anakarina’s parents (also part of the core team) have traveled from Venezuela for the first time.

ding, four people were baptized. We’ve accompanied them for years – and now they have chosen to make faith the foundation of their lives. It was a deeply moving moment.

- Since July, we’ve been running new parenting courses on the topic of money: debt, budgeting, priorities. Twice a week, parents

Baptism



School director Pestalozzi



Women's Night with Karaoke



learn how to organize their daily lives better and plan ahead. The courses are aimed at two groups: parents of our kindergarten children and participants invited by the political municipality of Ventanilla. It's only the second time we're cooperating with this larger municipality. The course also takes place in their facilities. Until now, we had only worked with Mi Perú, a smaller district.

- Preparations for building our primary school are in full swing. Carlos is working with government offices, external inspectors, and construction companies. The goal: In March 2026, the current kindergarten children will be able to continue learning with us – in an environment that combines education with relationship and allows us to deepen our connection with the families.

Love from Lima, Miriam und Carlos Bernales-Kühni

<https://estacion-esperanza.com/en/>

## SUPPORT

Checks to "Modern Day Missions" - TAX DEDUCTIBLE:

Modern Day Missions - P.O. Box 535578 - Grand Prairie, TX 75053

Include note inside the envelope of the check: „Donation for Estacion Esperanza, Family Bernales Pinedo"

Link from Modern Day, where Estacion Esperanza has their account.

**<https://www.modernday.org/profile/estacionesperanza/>**



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