



A BREEZE  
OF HOPE

# 2022

## ANNUAL REPORT





Dear friends,

As we look back on 2022, we take a moment to pause and let our minds marvel at the glimmering transformations that have taken place. We savour the sense of joyful wonder that arises from witnessing healing and triumph. We cherish the victory of dispelling the opaque cloud of suffering to reveal the radiant hope of children's smiles, laughter, and play.

In this spirit, we invite you to embrace a deep truth of the healing process: *As we transform the world, so too do we transform ourselves.* We must treasure the reality that by endeavoring to change society, we breathe new life into our capacity to transform ourselves. In this vibrant aliveness we discover a stronger love, a more profound wisdom, and a broader vision.

This report reflects the fruits of our efforts to restore joy, hope, and safety to the lives of child survivors of sexual violence. It reflects how, together, we've mended wounded hearts and tended the soul's fire until it burns again with innocent wonder and awe at the grandeur of life's beauty. As you take in what is before you in the report, we invite you to treasure the magical truth that as children's lives are transformed and healed through our efforts, so too are our own.

We hold steadfastly to the promise of renewal hidden in each child's smile. This simple faith and stubborn refusal to relinquish hope enables us to see beauty in the world despite overwhelming evil. Our joy is an act of defiance, and we invite you to join us and make that joy complete. *A world that is safe for children is safe for everyone.*

Thank you for sharing in this blessed journey to bring ever greater peace, love, justice, and happiness into the world. Celebrate with us the triumphs of the past year and nourish yourself with the reality that hope is alive and joy is within reach.

Sincerely,



Brisa De Angulo  
Co-Founder & CEO



Parker Palmer  
Co-Founder & COO



Paula Cepeda  
Program Director

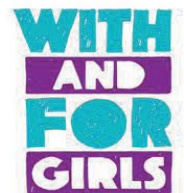
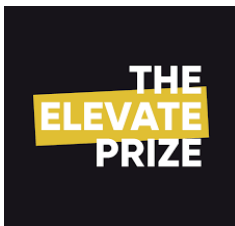
# MISSION

Our mission is to prevent sexual violence against children and restore the lives of survivors through healing and justice.

# VISION

We envision a safe world, where all children experience the magic of childhood and reach their potential to live full, happy lives.

# AWARDS



# BRISA'S STORY



Brisa, age 15.

To be fortunate enough to hear the hypnotic song of a cicada, means that the almost otherworldly insect has completed its remarkable lifecycle. The cicada remains buried underground for 10-17 years, only to emerge winged, with iridescence defying the color spectrum itself and a transfixing voice of its own. The horrors that child victims of sexual violence endure are intended to bury them alive. What aggressors fail to realize is that despite such grisly acts, tremendous life is waiting to re-emerge.

For Brisa De Angulo, the last thing that played in her head were supercuts of her vibrant childhood memories, of a life at the edge of fulfillment. Then, her crystal-clear memories shattered. The shards ripping it all apart. This was the first time her cousin raped her.

Brisa looks back to the wonders of a childhood spent in rural Bolivia where her parents relocated the family from Colombia to serve impoverished communities. Her parents, she recalls, brilliant and generous of spirit, provided her and her siblings with more love than could be imagined, and instilled in her and her siblings the spirit and ethic of love, trust, and kinship. Her home

"and when we speak we are afraid  
our words will not be heard  
nor welcomed  
but when we are silent  
we are still afraid

So it is better to speak  
remembering  
we were never meant to survive."

— Audre Lorde



Brisa with her aggressor at a family party.

environment was the basis for the formation of a deeply empathic young girl, an extraordinary change-maker with an unbridled concern for the welfare of others. At age 7, Brisa set up a rustic tutoring center in her backyard for the tearful children who faced abuse in their school system in her community. She wanted them to find the joys she had discovered through her home schooling. To combat the severe alienation of the elderly in her community, Brisa also mobilized and galvanized volunteers to bring resources and spend time reading, singing, and sewing with them after school.

When Brisa was 15, her adult cousin, Eduardo Gutierrez Angulo, came from Colombia to stay with the Family in Bolivia to complete post-graduate training. Filling the gap of her older brothers who had left to the U.S for their studies, Eduardo showered the young child with care and attention, which over time devolved into manipulation and systematic efforts to isolate her from everything she cared for. This culminated in a heartbreaking act of violence that would rupture the safety and love she had once known. He would continue to rape and torture her for 8 months.



A passage of rite into the life of a victim of sexual assault is the punishing silence that aggressors impose on victims. Through unspeakable forms of torment, aggressors have long figured out that they can deny their victim's voice. Brisa's rapist cousin subjugated her into silence by threatening to rape her younger sisters, torturing her beloved cocker spaniel, Labrador, and cat, and by inflicting beatings on her. Night after night, she wept herself into disturbed sleeps, became bulimic and anorexic, and distanced herself from her sisters. *This way, he'll only hurt me.* The deluge of loneliness her cousin unleashed, for Brisa, began to feel in many ways like dying. Eventually, seeing no other way out, she attempted suicide twice.

Brisa broke the silence on a trip to the US to visit her brothers. Her parents were desperate, having witnessed their vibrant daughter become a shell of her former self. For Brisa, this would be the first fistful of dirt she cast off and the most monumental step towards healing. She returned to Bolivia, knowing she had to press charges against her aggressor. To break her silence was to allow the young girl who once crusaded for the rights of others to live free from violence and with dignity to speak up with clarity and resolve once again: *Other girls' lives are at stake. I'm not the only one. We deserve justice.*

Yet, at some point, the crushing reality that every victim must confront is that aggressors don't operate alone. There are systems and people who shelter their violence. This is even more painfully true in situations of incestuous sexual violence. If the aggressor throws the helpless child into water to drown, then the family, under a code of silence, are bound to pull up any ladders to safety, ignore the victims' cries, or worse, take it upon themselves to jump in and hold his or her head underwater. Brisa and her parents faced a mob-like retribution from her Colombian family in response to her disclosure. Multiple home arsons, death threats, smear campaigns, a nearly executed kidnapping attempt and hit and runs.

But true to herself, Brisa didn't wince or turn away from the pain of others. With the help of a sagacious volunteer team of psychologists, lawyers and social workers, and barely enough money to cover the first month's rent, A Breeze of

Hope opened its doors in 2004, offering sanctuary to Bolivia's languishing children. Since then, this refuge has embodied a practice of hope: *hope* that children can live free from violence, emotionally and socially flourish with their families and communities, and feel the sweet delights of childhood. *Hope* that our institutions and legal systems can redress wrongs and bring to justice perpetrators and their abettors.



A Breeze of Hope Foundation, center in Cochabamba Bolivia.

As Brisa continued seeking justice for herself in Bolivia, her parents sent her into hiding in the U.S at age 16. In the haven of a tremendously generous family Brisa enrolled in an undergraduate program. Here, she would meet her future husband, finding a once-in-a-lifetime type of love and friendship, and her lifelong partner in justice, Parker. In Parker—a fellow survivor of child sexual violence— Brisa found a kindred spirit, a gifted thinker and lionhearted dreamer. The future political scientist and attorney would, just like Brisa, give with every single breath to their common life project to bring healing and safety to all the children who were being entombed by aggressors everywhere.

Meanwhile in Bolivia: *Three mistrials. Several appeals. Litigation before the country's supreme court.* Her aggressor absconded to Colombia, where he remains free to this day.

She went on to obtain her Master's in experimental psychology, specializing in neuropsychology, with her mind bent on how to bring excellency to the treatment and prospects of healing for the children coming to her center. In Bolivia, her case came to a grinding halt. Despite Brisa's best efforts to obtain justice, the justice system and government offered a new wave of violations

and denial of justice in what would be a string of human rights abuses recognized by the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights. Her next step was clear. An undeterred Brisa undertook to become her own attorney, gaining acceptance into Rutgers School of Law.

If it is the case as legal philosopher Martha Nussbaum states, that “hopes need to feed on particulars,” then throughout the grueling years, Brisa’s hopes had fed on the thousands of children who had shown up to ABH’s doors on the precipice of death and emerged as radiant, happy children who once again dreamt of life; on the Rutgers Law School professor who would change Brisa’s life forever, opening a human rights clinic where she and other sharp and idealist law students would file the monumental opening petition to a ten-year process of litigation through the Inter-American Human Rights System; on the tenacious spirit of professors and students at American University’s Washington College of Law; and on the diehard support of many other human rights attorneys and allies.

The sustenance for her hope would be the dozens of giving individuals that believed in her vision and joined her mission, echoing the sentiment of the valiant Equality Now attorney who, upon learning of Brisa’s case and offering her assistance,

acknowledged the untold personal cost at stake, yet stated: “If you chose to walk this path, I will never leave your side.”

Finally, in 2020, with the broad support of a dedicated community of human rights defenders and with countless hours of pro bono support from Hughes, Hubbard, and Reed Law Firm, Brisa’s case reached the Inter-American Court. The first of its kind before the Court, the case was extraordinary precisely because it represented the ordinariness of this experience for hundreds of thousands of children across the world.

The trial itself was harrowing. While Brisa had hoped for a Bolivian state wanting to work together to make things right for its children, she instead faced a hostile, victim-blaming and gaslighting government, covering up the acts of prior administrations. It would also come as no surprise that with the impunity of the aggressor at stake, Brisa’s ex-family renewed their onslaught mere months before the trial in 2022. A wave of death threats, intimidating phone calls, harassment, stalking and a public campaign in Bolivia clamoring for her lynching forced Brisa and her family into hiding in March 2022. But nothing could deter Brisa and her team from having their say in her hard-fought day in court.



Brisa speaking at a conference, Washington, D.C., 2016.



Brisa celebrating the August 9th Bolivian National Day of Solidarity with Victims of Sexual Assaults and Against Childhood Sexual Violence.



Brisa in Germany at the G7 summit, June 2022.



## *On the 19th of January 2023, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights issued its historic verdict in Angulo Losada vs. Bolivia.*



Public reading by the IACtHR presidency of the judgment in Angulo Losada vs. Bolivia. January 19th, 2023.

In a soaring judgement, the High Court condemned the Bolivian State for violating a grievous number of Brisa's fundamental human rights through its failure to investigate and prosecute the sexual violence perpetrated against her, denying her right to access to justice for more than 20 years. The Court excoriated the State for responding to Brisa "with a new form of violence," through its inept and hostile treatment of her during the criminal proceedings, including the abhorrent use of gender stereotypes — something millions of children continue to be subjected to. In a powerful vindication for victims everywhere, the Court denounced **this revictimization as an 'institutional form of violence'** and qualified it as **cruel, degrading, and inhuman treatment**.

The Court then bolstered its verdict by listing an impressive set of reparations, bearing the torch of the 11 demands that Brisa made before the Court during trial. **Milestone victories were achieved through this ruling that will profoundly impact every country in the Americas.** The Court broke ground by establishing a new affirmative consent standard for sex crimes statutes and by calling for the typification of incestuous rape between an adult and child as a crime of its own, along with several other powerful policy and institutional reforms, educational programs for prevention and justice for both institutional actors and children, and services for victims and non-offending family for healing.

Brazilian Judge Rodrigo Mudrovitsch issued a striking concurring opinion, where he harkened back to the moment at trial when Brisa, the human rights attorney, bore witness to the experience of the more than 2,000 children she had helped throughout the years who had lived through the same sexual violence and revictimizations that she had 20 years ago. *I want the Court to know that we have the possibility to change this. So, in 20 years you won't have another girl in my place asking you to act.*

The judge was struck by the impassioned call to action, which he observed disclosed a person more profoundly concerned with attaining protection and guarantees of non-repetition for the countless children presently drowning, than with her own suffering. To achieve these non-negotiable aims, not only was it important for the judgment at hand to properly document Brisa's story, but also for that story to propel concrete action. Both aims had been fulfilled by the judgment, he concluded. Brisa's powerful voice, joined in harmony by survivors and allies everywhere, had delivered a resounding message, transfixing the highest bench in the region — and compelling the judge to issue a second towering opinion. **Brisa's mighty message, he noted, warranted as much.**



Brisa De Angulo, 2022.

# OUR APPROACH

## PREVENTION

A Breeze of Hope works to prevent sexual violence against children and restore the lives of those who have been impacted by it. Our approach is multisectoral, transdisciplinary, and holistic.



## Since 2004 we have:

- Successfully advocated for the repeal of the discriminatory laws and the passage of laws that offer greater protection to child survivors of sexual violence.
- Trained **140,991** government officials, professionals, students, and educators:
  - 132,670** educated and trained in sexual violence prevention and response.
  - 8,321** in early childhood development.
- Published **45** books, manuals, and protocols on trauma healing, sexual violence prevention, and early childhood development.
- Advocated before the Inter-American Commission in several thematic hearings on sexual violence against children.
- Created Bolivia's National Day Against Childhood Sexual Violence, August 9.
- Contributed to the creation of United Nation's official World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Violence, November 18.
- Litigated and won the landmark *Angulo Losada vs. Bolivia* case before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, setting international and regional standards on States' due diligence obligations.



# OUR APPROACH

## RESTORATION

All of our services are in-house, which creates therapeutic continuity, specialization, and strict confidentiality.



Since 2004:

**2,254** child survivors have received free wrap-around care at our center, including legal, social, psychological, and medical support.

**8,760** non-offending family members have also received these direct support services.

**95%** of the **764+** trials we've managed have resulted in convictions.











# PREVENTION DURING 2022



Training  
Government  
Officials,  
Professionals &  
Students



We reached **12,552** individuals through training and workshops (including judges, prosecutors, police officers, child protection agents, forensic doctors, students, educators, civil society professionals, and parents) on sexual violence prevention, trauma-informed response to disclosure, and early childhood development. Training participants came from **Bolivia, Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Peru, United States, and Argentina.**



Comprehensive  
Early Childhood  
Development



- **348** children participated in our early childhood program.
- **78** pregnant women and their partners/families participated in parental skills training.



Research &  
Publications



**Book:** *The Culture of Incest and Incestuous Rape Against Children in the Family.*

## Protocols:

- *Inviting and Forming the Family System Team – A Unique Healing Community.*
- *Providing Highly Trauma-Sensitive Services and Supports in Suspected Sexual Assault Cases.*

**Booklet:** *Self-Diagnosis of our Attachment Styles – A Guide to Understanding our Inner World and Building Corrective Attachments.*



# PREVENTION DURING 2022

**IACtHR – Angulo Losada vs. Bolivia** – A Breeze of Hope with broad support from Hughes, Hubbard and Reed Law Firm, Equality Now, and private attorneys, engaged in strategic litigation before the IACtHR.

**G7** – A Breeze of Hope and the Brave Movement pressured G7 leaders to include sexual violence against children as a priority issue in their agendas & recognize the importance of including survivor voices.

**UN Advocacy - World Day Against Child Sexual Violence** – A Breeze of Hope with the Global Collaborative and the Brave Movement, successfully persuaded the UN General Assembly to enact the World Day against Childhood Sexual Violence.

**UN Commission on Human Rights in Brazil** – A Breeze of Hope engaged with regional advocates to increase civil society engagement with the protection of women and girls' rights.

**UN/CEDAW Hearing in Geneva** – An adolescent from our center in Bolivia spoke at the hearing about the status of adolescent girls' rights in Bolivia.

**Global SOL Reform** – Together with Child USA and Brave Movement, A Breeze of Hope has been advocating for the abolishment of the statute of limitations for sex crimes against children.

**Regional Advocacy** – A Breeze of Hope continued working with human rights activists throughout South America to enhance protections for women and girls [Peru (survivors' network), Argentina (policy advocacy and awareness raising), Colombia (awareness raising and education), Mexico (federal legal reform)].

**Lancet Commission** – Assisting with the development of a multi-country comparative study on gender-based violence.

**Brought awareness regionally – 12,552** individuals trained in trauma informed response and Early Childhood Development.



**Developed and Implemented the Bolivian Police Force's** first official training module on "Gender Perspectives and Women's Rights in Policing".

**Persuaded Bolivia's Regional Appellate Courts** to prioritize appeals involving child victims of sexual violence.

**Expanded the Bolivian Statute of Limitations** from 15 years to 22 through impact litigation and appellate court advocacy.

**Repealed Statute of Limitations (Law 1443)** for executing sentences on fugitives convicted of sex crimes against children.



International  
Advocacy



Public Policy &  
Legal Reform

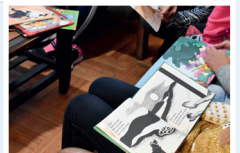
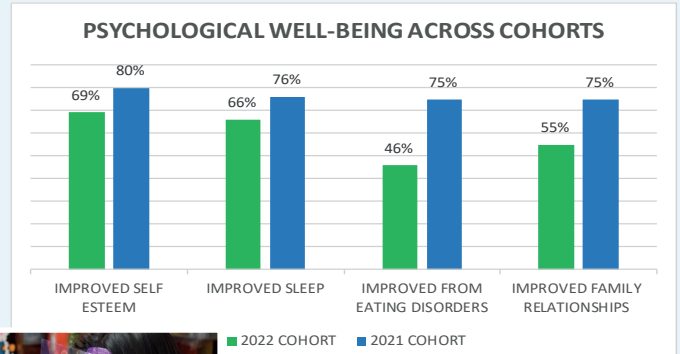
# RESTORATION DURING 2022



We employ a diverse range of evidence-based and proven modalities in advancing the personal healing of every child. This year:

**619** child survivors of sexual violence participated in a wide range of healing activities, including yoga, art, family systems therapy, internal family systems therapy, group therapy, dance, music, play therapy, and more.

Our center's model consistently demonstrates that outcomes improve the longer children have access to our services. Continuing cohorts from previous years show greater improvement in outcomes across all areas of psychological well-being.



Our legal team accompanies victims and their families every step of the way, advocating for and ensuring their access to justice. This year:

- **366** children received legal services.
- **213** children were trained in human rights advocacy.
- **69** trials were managed by our attorneys.
- **67** convictions (over **680+** convictions since 2004!).



We provide therapeutic services to non-offending family members, promoting the healing of family systems and flourishing of support systems for victims. This year:



**659** non-offending family members received psychological support.





# RESTORATION DURING 2022

We work toward equipping each child and family to become economically independent. This year:



- 47 adolescents participated in the training program for economic independence.
- 92 opened bank accounts.



Economic Independence

We support students to complete and excel in their primary and secondary education and pursue post-secondary studies. This year:

- 99% of all school age children were enrolled in school. Children also received individual tutoring.
- 27 adolescents graduated from high school
- 100% (27) adolescents entered the second cohort of ABH's "Higher Education Program".
- 43 are enrolled in higher education.



Education

We foster children's political participation, empowering them to become assured and effective citizens capable of driving large-scale change. This year:

- Adolescent advocates created public awareness events reaching 473,505 individuals.
- Adolescent advocates organized August 9th National Day Against Childhood Sexual Violence and gathered over 8,760 participants.
- Adolescent advocates from ABH participated in the UN/CEDAW Hearing in Geneva.



Political Participation







# SCHOLARSHIPS



As part of our academic support program—made possible by the support of enormously generous benefactors—this year we provided 15 young women with scholarships that enabled them to pursue higher education. Nearly all of the scholarship recipients were the first in their families to pursue higher education.

Because of this immense gift of education, these young women had (and still have) the unparalleled opportunity to develop knowledge and skills that will enhance their personal development and ability to be financially independent. This gift of education sets them squarely on the path of success.

As one scholarship recipient confided to her social worker, “I didn’t have any will to live. I didn’t see any purpose in life. Going to college was completely out of reach, so much so that I never allowed myself to think about it. But this scholarship has completely changed my life. Now I’m studying to be a psychologist so I can provide other girls the same kind of support I found at A Breeze of Hope. I want every girl to feel valued, seen, heard, and protected. I want to ensure they have the same opportunities I have.”

Our 2022 scholarship cohort was comprised of 15 young women from our center. They are pursuing the following university and trade-school paths:

- Systems Engineering
- Social Work
- Education
- Business Administration
- Accounting
- Linguistics
- English Literature
- Salon Management
- Gastronomy

“

*The scholarship helps me in all areas, especially to fulfill my dream of studying at this university, just as it helped me to continue with my life and to have more goals and purposes in life. It was a light in all darkness.*

**(Anahí, scholarship recipient.)**

# VOLUNTEERS



**LYLA LOVETT**

Stayed in Cochabamba, Bolivia,  
helping with alternatives therapies.



**SENA KAPER - DALE**

Stayed in Cochabamba, Bolivia,  
helping with alternatives and  
occupational therapies.



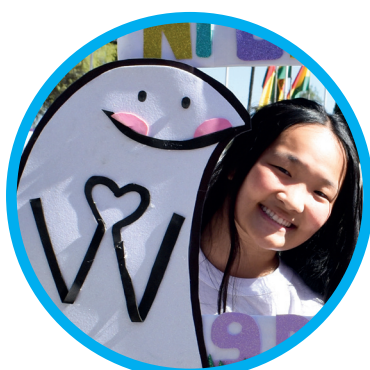
**LEAH KAPER - DALE**

Stayed in Cochabamba, Bolivia,  
helping with alternatives therapies.



**SCOTT CHRISTENSEN**

Stayed in Cochabamba, Bolivia,  
helping with legal advocacy.



**HANA CHRISTENSEN**

Stayed in Cochabamba, Bolivia,  
helping with occupational therapies.



**SOPHIE BOLIN**

Stayed in Cochabamba, Bolivia,  
helping with occupational therapies.



**KAITLYN ARROW**

Stayed in Cochabamba, Bolivia,  
helping with psychological services.



**DEVIN & SKARLETH**

Devin and his wife Skarleth spent time  
with us at our center in Cochabamba in  
November 2022.



# THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

## Institutional Supporters

A Wish For Humanity  
Adams Wealth Advisors Charities  
All People Be Happy  
Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
Benevity Fund  
Brave Movement  
Central Baptist Church  
Donahue Charitable Foundation  
Elevate Prize  
Equality Now  
Experience Community  
Facebook  
Freedom Fund  
Global Fund For women  
GNU Foundation  
Global Women's Institute  
InMaat Foundation  
Light My Fire  
NoVo Foundation  
Oak Foundation  
One Days Wages  
Paypal Charitable Fund  
Rescue Fund  
Sculptology  
The Forgotten International  
The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation  
Tides Foundation  
Together For Girls  
University Impact

## Children's Heroes' (\$15,000 and over)

Paul & Megan Courtney  
Paul Schlee  
Hernandez Hodge Family  
Adams Family

## Children's Champions (\$10,000 - \$14,999)

Gloria Estefan  
Julie & John García

## Children's Advocates (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Frank Ostojic  
Parker Palmer & Brisa De Angulo  
Andrew Hamel  
Mary Ellsberg

## Children's Friends (\$1,000 - \$4,900)

Anne-Marie Jones  
Carla Arrow  
Daniela Ligiero  
David & Alicia Pittinsky  
Emily Summers  
Gail Longenecker  
James & Carolyn Arrow  
Jennifer Cox  
Judy Hodge  
Kate Shafto  
Lamsam Family  
Matthew & Christy Bleach  
Nancy Alvery  
Pat & Jane Tracy  
Russ & Jaque Filbey  
Scott Christensen  
Seth & Stephanie Kaper Dal  
Shelby Quast  
Stella Losada & Miguel De Angulo  
Steven Zimmerman  
Thomas L Lovett  
William Bates



**Devin David**

Organized the Running for Hope fundraiser, where David ran 35 miles on his 35th birthday, raising \$4000 for ABH Foundation and promoting the center's work, in the U.S!

As survivors of childhood sexual violence, Brisa De Angulo and Parker Palmer created A Breeze of Hope to build a world in which all children grow up in safe, loving environments and to help other survivors regain the joy of living.

Support our work! Your donations to A Breeze of Hope Foundation are tax deductible.

DONATE TODAY at:  
[www.abreezeofhope.org/donate](http://www.abreezeofhope.org/donate)



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