



**Send Relief**  
Quebradillas





## Contact Information

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## Meeting Needs, Changing Lives

Send Relief works with churches and volunteers to meet needs and change lives in communities within the U.S. and around the world.

By offering help and hope to the most vulnerable in collaboration with missionaries, local ministries and churches, your gifts and efforts through Send Relief have a long-term impact.

With Send Relief's help, churches and partners like you receive resources and training to be the hands and feet of Jesus to communities in crisis, refugees, human trafficking survivors, those affected by natural disasters and vulnerable children and families.



## Ministry Centers

Send Relief ministry centers deliver compassion ministry within local communities while providing mission trips and training opportunities for churches all over the country. The goal of ministry centers is twofold: serve communities well and encourage others to do the same.

All over North America, Send Relief ministry centers actively assess community needs, develop ministry strategies, deliver ministry and provide opportunities for others to go on mission.

# Community Snapshot

Quebradillas derives its name from the large amounts of streams that run through the town. It is a playground for nature-lovers who enjoy the outdoors. People visit the humble town to enjoy its beaches, surfing, food and festive live music.

- Few people of Quebradillas live near the recreational tourist areas.

**Distant from the mountains and the coast, the small communities are often forgotten and neglected creating an imbalance in these communities.**

The average household income in Quebradillas is **\$23,412** per year.

- **52.8%** of the population for whom poverty status is determined in Quebradillas live below the poverty line
- Housing consumes **1/3 of a family's income**, making it difficult for families to meet basic needs.
- The largest demographic living in poverty are Females 45-54, followed by Females 6-11 and then Males 6-11.
- Poverty, trauma due to negligence and or abandonment are the greatest threat to Quebradillas' children, increasing the likelihood that they will experience factors

leading to poor academic, cognitive and health outcomes.

**The child poverty rate in Puerto Rico has remained constant for at least 10 years.**

- There are approximately **3,500 children** in out-of-home placement who are in the custody of the Puerto Rico Family Department.
- Of these children, approximately **450** have a plan of adoption and **185** of them, their parental rights have been removed already and there are no legal restraints to be adopted where an adoptive family has not been identified.
- **90%** of these children have been diagnosed with some sort of trauma
- At least, **6 out of 10** of these children have been returned to the system from their prospective adoptive families due to the lack of trauma training.
- Before Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico was importing **85% of its food**, making food security difficult.

Sources: DataUSA, AdoptUsKids, DataCenter-Kids Count, Adoptando en PR inc.



# Quebradillas Ministry Center Snapshot

## Ministries

### Protecting Children and Families

#### Adoption and Foster Care

- Foster and Adoption Ministries

### Strengthen Communities

- Poverty
- Homelessness
- Food Insecurity
- Basic Needs

### Mobilization Opportunities

- Mission Trips
- Vision Tours
- Training



# Quebradillas Ministry Center Community Partnerships

Through the partnership with Send Relief, Adoptando en PR became the first and only Christian adoption agency in Puerto Rico. In 2021, it became the first and only organization in Puerto Rico to be certified in Trust Based Relational Intervention—a healing therapy for children who have experienced trauma. In June 2022, they opened the very first Emotional and Restoration Center for children called CREE which means “Believe”. CREE is an orphanage specialized in deep complex trauma.

- The Quebradillas Ministry Center meets needs, equips families and portrays the gospel through caring for orphaned children, vulnerable mothers and struggling communities.
- Amid the many natural disasters—such as Hurricane Dorian and Hurricane Maria, earthquakes and COVID-19—Send Relief’s Quebradillas Ministry Center exists to minister to its communities and children in need.
- The Quebradillas Ministry Center soon will expand its services to a new satellite office in the San Juan area where they will partner with a pregnancy center to provide services to neglected single mothers and counseling for expecting mothers considering abortion.
- The Center focuses explicitly on community areas that include extreme poverty, trauma and abandonment. Also they deal with issues resulting from children growing up in a single-parent home or with grandparents.

Javier Vargas, the Quebradillas Ministry Center director, said, “The Quebradillas Ministry Center was built in an abandoned elementary school. Although it is still in need of some renovations, we are already serving our orphans and our community. It is in a very humble community where we hope to impact not only those orphans that God will allow us to serve here, but also the hundreds of underprivileged children in our community.”

*“We also partner with Iglesia Bautista Ozama in the Dominican Republic. Through our partnership and Send Network, we serve two different orphanages there and the people in need locally.”*

*—Javier Vargas*



Javier wrote, “In regard to partnerships, we support a ministry called Tejiendo Sueños in Venezuela.” Javier explains that this ministry feeds three meals to over a hundred children daily, most of them orphans. “We also partner with Iglesia Bautista Ozama in the Dominican Republic. Through our partnership and Send Network, we serve two different orphanages there and the people in need locally.”

# History of the Quebradillas Ministry Center

## Adaptando en PR

Adaptando en PR began in 2015 after Javier and Yolanda Vargas, founders of Adoptando, finalized the adoption of their two youngest children. These two siblings had experienced severe trauma since birth.

One had survived an abortion attempt two times. After they were removed from their biological family and placed in a foster institution, the siblings had to endure two failed adoption placements due to the lack of trauma-informed counseling on the island.

Placed with the Vargas family, the siblings were adopted soon after and Adoptando en PR began. The

ministry grew to serve families around the island by providing trauma-based education and skills for Christian families.

With its partnership with Adaptando en PR, the Quebradillas Ministry Center is a place that serves many family-based needs. As an adoption agency, the center also funds a trauma-informed elementary school for children in foster care and a therapy-based orphanage.

Puerto Rican adoptive and foster parents receive legal and social services, counseling and church training in the foster care system.





## Quebradillas Ministries Future Ministry Plans

### Expansion of Protecting Children and Families Ministry

- Establish an orphanage and increase adoption and foster placements
- Build playground
- Expand orphanage
- Provide support and care for adoptive families

## Vision

The Quebradillas Ministry Center's vision for the future is to continue doing the work that God has already started and provide a place, not only for adoptive families but all families, to go for everything related to the restoration of families.

"We've had over 50 adoptions in five years, and we've saved two babies from abortion. I know God has more work for us to do," Javier shares.

The Quebradillas Ministry Center desires to build a playground for kids to have a place to play. They also need to create recreational areas for the orphanage and provide a pavilion for gatherings.

"A lot of people in our community come to our facility and pray for us, specifically for what we do. They give me the courage to continue," Javier explains.

# Get Involved

One of the most powerful ways to show the most vulnerable the love of Christ is by taking steps toward them. By helping churches be the hands and feet of Jesus, Send Relief supports and provides opportunities for those who desire to respond directly to these needs in lasting, meaningful ways while sharing the hope of the gospel.

## Give

Your gift provides critical, immediate help to families and communities that need it most. Give today to provide practical care and share the love of Jesus.

[Click here or scan the QR code to give](#)



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## Serve

Participate in various compassion opportunities by taking a mission trip and vision tour to a ministry center around North America. Mission trips can include apartment outreach, food pantry ministry, after-school programs, sports ministry, canvassing, prayer walking, homeless ministry, physical labor, serving at-risk families and university campus ministry. The trip also includes aspects of training and equipping so you can learn how to connect and serve the international and refugee communities in your cities.

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