

A Breeze of Hope Foundation
P.O. Box 148
Essington, PA 19029

Wish for Humanity
<https://www.womenforhumanity.co>

Sent via email: lisbeth@womenforhumanity.co

October 19, 2021

Re: 2021 Proposal – Wish for Humanity + A Breeze of Hope Foundation

Dear Lisbeth,

I'm so grateful for the work you're doing through Wish for Humanity, and I'm especially thankful that you've included me in that work. I very much enjoyed doing the interview with you. My hope and wish are for all your interviews and work—taken as a whole—to inspire and guide a generation of women's rights advocates!

Today I humbly request that Wish for Humanity consider making a gift of \$10,000 to ensure that 40 girl survivors of sexual violence have 12 months of dedicated legal support. Dedicated legal support helps girl survivors rediscover the magic of childhood—*the wonderful delight and rapture of simply being alive and being loved*. That magic only happens when a girl feels safe and receives nurturing care. Your support will make this happen for girls who have suffered unthinkable trauma.

About A Breeze of Hope

As a survivor of childhood sexual violence, I created A Breeze of Hope to provide healing and justice to other Bolivian child survivors. Since 2004, we have provided free legal, social, and psychological services to more than 2,500 children and nearly 8,000 of their supportive family members. We have also maintained a 95% conviction rate in the hundreds of cases we've prosecuted under State authority (compared to the 2% conviction rate of local district attorneys).

Bolivia has the highest rates of child sexual violence in Latin America and one of the lowest rates of reporting to officials.¹ Our work in Bolivia responds to this crisis by ensuring that survivors *know of* and *have access to* free, high-quality support services. Child survivors and their families turn to us because we reach them faster than the police, network social support better than government agencies, and coordinate search and arrest warrants faster than district

¹ Bott S, Guedes A, Ruiz-Celis AP, Mendoza JA. *Intimate partner violence in the Americas: A systematic review and reanalysis of national prevalence estimates*. Rev Panam Salud Publica. 2019;43:e26. <https://doi.org/10.26633/RPSP.2019.26> See also, PAHO, *Violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean: A comparative analysis of population-based data from 12 countries*, 2012.

attorneys. Our center is the only one in Bolivia that is effectively providing holistic support that meets the unique needs of child victims.

Description of Project and Beneficiaries

Our project will provide 40 girl survivors of sexual violence with 12 months of free legal support. These girls will be from Cochabamba, Bolivia, and will range in age from 3 months to 18 years. Most of them will be of low or impoverished economic status and will come from a variety of Bolivia's ethnic backgrounds (Aymara, Quechua, Guarani, and Mestizo). Most of the girls will speak either Quechua or Spanish as their dominant language.

Access to justice is a fundamental human right and one of the most critical healing domains. It is nearly impossible for a child survivor to begin the healing process while their aggressor is still circulating freely among the general populace. To address this, every girl in our program will have a specialized attorney who prosecutes the aggressor, thereby reducing impunity and intimidation and giving voice to that girl and her human rights.

In addition to legal advocacy, our project will empower girl survivors to be social advocates by providing them with knowledge of their human and civil rights within Bolivia's judicial system. The goal of this additional legal advocacy education is to enable girl survivors to be powerful advocates for themselves and other girls who are suffering sexual violence. Our experience has shown that girls tend to break the silence to other girls. Girls with real knowledge of rights and legal recourse are our greatest first responders within schools, homes, and communities.

To complement our Wish For Humanity legal services project, our center will ensure that these 40 girls also have access to psychological resources for their own healing and for that of their non-offending family members, as well as social work support at our center that includes our economic independence program, education assistance, and alternative healing activities such as yoga, dance, art, sports, and music. These psychological and social services are made possible by the generous gifts of other donors.

Project Time Span and Budget

The cost of providing 40 girls with free legal support is \$10,000 per year. That figure will ensure that these children have a dedicated attorney for 12-months. We have attached a separate budget to our request.

Sandy's Story (recounted in her words & shared with permission. Please do not share these pictures publicly.)

"I was too scared to ask for help. My stepfather was sexually abusing me. When my mom figured out what was happening, he threatened to kill her if she told anyone about it. And after watching my stepfather beat my mom, I was sure he would kill us if we told anyone. So, I stayed quiet. We didn't know what to do.

My aunt knew something was wrong. She pushed me to tell her what was happening. I couldn't tell her, though. The fear was too strong. But after a year and a half of her insistence, I finally said something. She helped my mom and I to find help. She took us to A Breeze of Hope (ABH).

I was just 10 years old. I didn't want to be there. I felt worthless and dead inside. I didn't want to be around the other kids or go to school. I hated being alive. I started to think that taking my life would take away the pain, that it would make everything better. But the more I came around ABH, the better I felt. I felt calmer and less scared. The other girls showed me how they had learned to live again. But even though I was doing a little better, I had trouble sleeping. My stepfather was still out there and I feared he would come hurt me again.

My attorney at ABH told me she would do everything she could to keep me safe. And, she did. Soon my stepfather was arrested and put in jail. Since then, I have felt safe and I slept at night. That night after my stepfather went to jail was the first time, I remember falling asleep without being scared.

After my stepfather went to jail, I started doing much better. I started opening up to my psychologist and to other girls at ABH. I started to believe that maybe life had a purpose and that I could be happy again.

I still kept myself sometimes, but little by little I began to open up and get along with other girls in the classes at ABH. The staff at ABH made me feel important and safe. I remember feeling like I wanted to stay there forever.



One of the aspects that I love most is the friendship and support of working with other girls like me and the encouragement of ABH's staff. Thanks to them I have learned a lot, lost my fear, and started dreaming for the future. I feel more confident and valuable. ABH's staff tell me that I'm valuable and that I can do anything I put my mind to.

Earlier this year my cousin died in a car crash, and I didn't know what to do with myself. I stopped going to ABH and stopped going to school. I wanted to stay in bed all the time. But the other girls from ABH called me every day. They even came looking for me with my psychologist and social worker. Because of them I enrolled in my final vocational training course at ABH, which I will finish in

December. I am also starting to work at my aunt's salon in the city. Today, I feel that I have so much to live for!

I have just one year of high school left. After I graduate, I want to study nutrition and open my own business. I want to help people care for their health in a natural way, and I want to do it as part of a salon. Because in salons people share about themselves and you get to know people while caring for them. It's the perfect place to make friends and help one another. I want to let people know that they are not alone.”



We believe the synergy of A Breeze of Hope and Wish for Humanity will make the world a safer place for girls. Once again, I humbly request that Wish for Humanity support us with a grant of \$10,000 to provide these essential services to girl survivors.

With gratitude and loving kindness,

Brisa De Angulo, JD, MA
CEO at A Breeze of Hope Foundation

Attachment: Budget for 2021 Proposal – Wish For Humanity + A Breeze of Hope Foundation

Budget for 2021 Proposal
Wish For Humanity + A Breeze of Hope

Budget Item	Item Sub-total	Item Totals
Legal Services for 40 New Cases		\$10,000
1,250 hours of legal service	\$10,000	
BUDGET TOTAL		\$10,000