

**September 1, 2022**

Hello!

The long awaited Grand Opening of Hope House is finally here! On September 17th, from 10:00-12:00pm (Brazil time), we will gather at Hope House to celebrate and give thanks for overcoming this huge obstacle in our ministry.

To give a little reminder of what has led to this victory, let's go back a few years...

In **2016**, I came to Porto Alegre, for I think, the 3rd time for my work with A&M Church of Christ. This visit was very different from the previous. I felt God was showing me a new path He wanted for my ministry. And then I learned about the initial ideas for a program to help men be better equipped to stay sober and live positive, Christ-like lives... what would be Hope House. I had been pretty confident I would at some point in time call somewhere in South America my home again but Brazil was honestly one of the last places I was imagining it would be, mostly due to the language. After talking more with the Blumes, praying and thinking through what this would all mean, I accepted this new direction for my life and was ready to learn and put my skills to work.

In **2017**, I focused on fundraising for myself as a missionary and for Hope House, training to be as prepared as I could be for working in the area of addiction recovery, and wrapping up my work leading the international ministries at A&M church.

February 1, **2018** I landed in my new city. I worked on being as proficient in Portuguese as I could, I spent time adapting to my new environment, and continued to develop plans for Hope House.

In May of **2019**, we were able to finalize the purchase of the first Hope House property. A home well located, in front of a little park, near a bus stop and stores, and walking distance from a great church family. We started the process of drafting up plans for how the house would be renovated to serve the ministry needs and entered a long and difficult journey to getting the construction approved.

Then, **2020** hits and the document journey becomes even lengthier and more complex. However, we implemented a new program at Centro Vita, a therapeutic community we partner with and became part of the leadership.

In July of **2021**, we were officially able to start the renovations on the house. Prices for materials and labor had increased like crazy but we tried to maximize as best we could what had been raised. However, we ended up needing to raise additional funds to meet the cost increase.

Earlier **this year**, I shared with you all of a matching grant opportunity A&M Church of Christ offered us and I was blown away with the response. I think it was in a matter of days that we secured what was needed to finish the house!

In **July**, we started onboarding two Brazilian couples to serve as part of the Hope House team - Josimar and Aline, Elder and Elisangela. They are gifted people with significant experience in addiction recovery and will be a blessing to the ministry.



**This week**, we received a grant that will help us complete the external structures - a deck to serve as a laundry area and grill and a platform to support the cookie container for American Cookies.

The interior of the house, construction-wise, is complete! We are in the process of setting everything up and getting it all ready to receive our first cohort. The façade of the house will be complete this week and then the contractor will continue building the two external structures. It will probably be another 2-3 months until the whole property is complete but we are too eager to open Hope House and will simultaneously continue with the construction and receive our first cohort.

On **September 17th**, we will have our inauguration of the house, inviting all of our local network and family to celebrate this big moment with us. And, I will be sending you a video tour of the house so you can join us in the celebration too!

We hope to receive our first cohort September 23rd but we are still waiting on a business license and may need to delay that goal if we don't receive it soon.

**Here are a few things I would appreciate your prayers about:**

\* This business license that we have to have in order to operate: It was supposed to be a fairly quick process but we will have to patiently wait until it is approved.

\* The operating funds: We have received a matching donation of \$30,000 to help us secure start-up operating funds for the ministry (hallelujah!) but are needing to raise the other half.

\* Elder's father is very sick and in one of the public hospitals. They are running tests and considering what type of treatment is best - surgery or chemotherapy - but his body is very weak and in a lot of pain.

\* We have long awaited being able to receive our first students, prayers as we enter this season of ministry are much appreciated!

Thank you for being a part of this journey!

Love,  
Lyndsay

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**Lyndsay Senger, Ed.D.**  
**Hope House Brasil**