YOU HAVE THE KEY.

SUPPORT

CENTRO SANTA MARTA

Where LGBTQI+ people in El Salvador can find safety, stability, and support.

WHEN YOU SUPPORT SANTA MARTA, YOU OPEN THE DOOR TO SAFETY, DIGNITY AND HOPE.

WHO WE ARE
AND WHY WE EXIST

Santa Marta was founded in December 2020.

It provides specialized shelter and support for LGBTQI+ people facing violence, homelessness, displacement, or family rejection.

It responds to a service gap that remains largely unaddressed in El Salvador.



A NOTE FROM

EDUARDO

CO-FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I know firsthand how being a queer teenager can shape everyday life, from mental health to the choices you feel able to make. After an increasing crisis of queer youth homelessness in El Salvador, I decided to help build a different future: one where LGBTQI+ young people can find safety, support, and a place free from judgment.

Eduardo

A NOTE FROM

JOSEPH

CO-FOUNDER

People come to Santa Marta Center on the worst day of their lives: rejected by family, kicked out, out of options. What they need is a home, so in 2020, we built one with your help. Six years later, we support LGBTIQ+ young people from across Central America, foster community, and advocate for a less hostile world.

And it's worth it every year, when we see alumni show up for the El Salvador Pride march, living fully and freely. Those are the best days of people's lives, but they don't happen unless we're on the worst days. If you're a monthly donor, thank you. If not, consistent support helps us plan ahead and keep showing up every day, the worst ones and the best ones.

Joe

WHAT WE DO

1 SAFE HOUSING

Safety during crisis or displacement.

2 DAILY NEEDS

Food, hygiene, clothing, and transport.

3 PSYCHOLOGICAL CARE

Support for stabilization and recovery.

4 LIFE PLANNING

Housing, safety, work, and personal goals.

5 EDUCATION AND WORK

School, skills, jobs, and opportunities.

6 DEFENDING DEFENDERS

Safety planning for activists at risk.

7 INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

LGBTQI+ voices in UN decision-making spaces.

OUR IMPACT

DIRECT CARE

38,376

MEALS PROVIDED

12,792

BED-NIGHTS OF SAFE SHELTER

UP TO

3,655

PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT SESSIONS

INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

20+

PERMANENT MISSIONS AND NGOS ENGAGED WITHIN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND POLITICAL FORUM

1

CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT DELIVERED

ON BEHALF OF EL SALVADOR WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW

Santa Marta combines direct support with international advocacy. We provide shelter, food, psychological care, and safety while bringing the realities of LGBTQ+ people in El Salvador into spaces where governments, donors, and international institutions make decisions.

WHAT THIS SUPPORT CHANGES

In 2022, I was going through one of the most difficult periods of my life. I had nowhere to live, no clear direction, and little desire to continue. I found the Santa Marta Center through social media and received shelter, guidance, and consistent emotional support.

Eduardo and Helen stayed in contact long after I left the Center. Even in 2024, they still check on me, ask how I am doing, and remind me that support remains available.



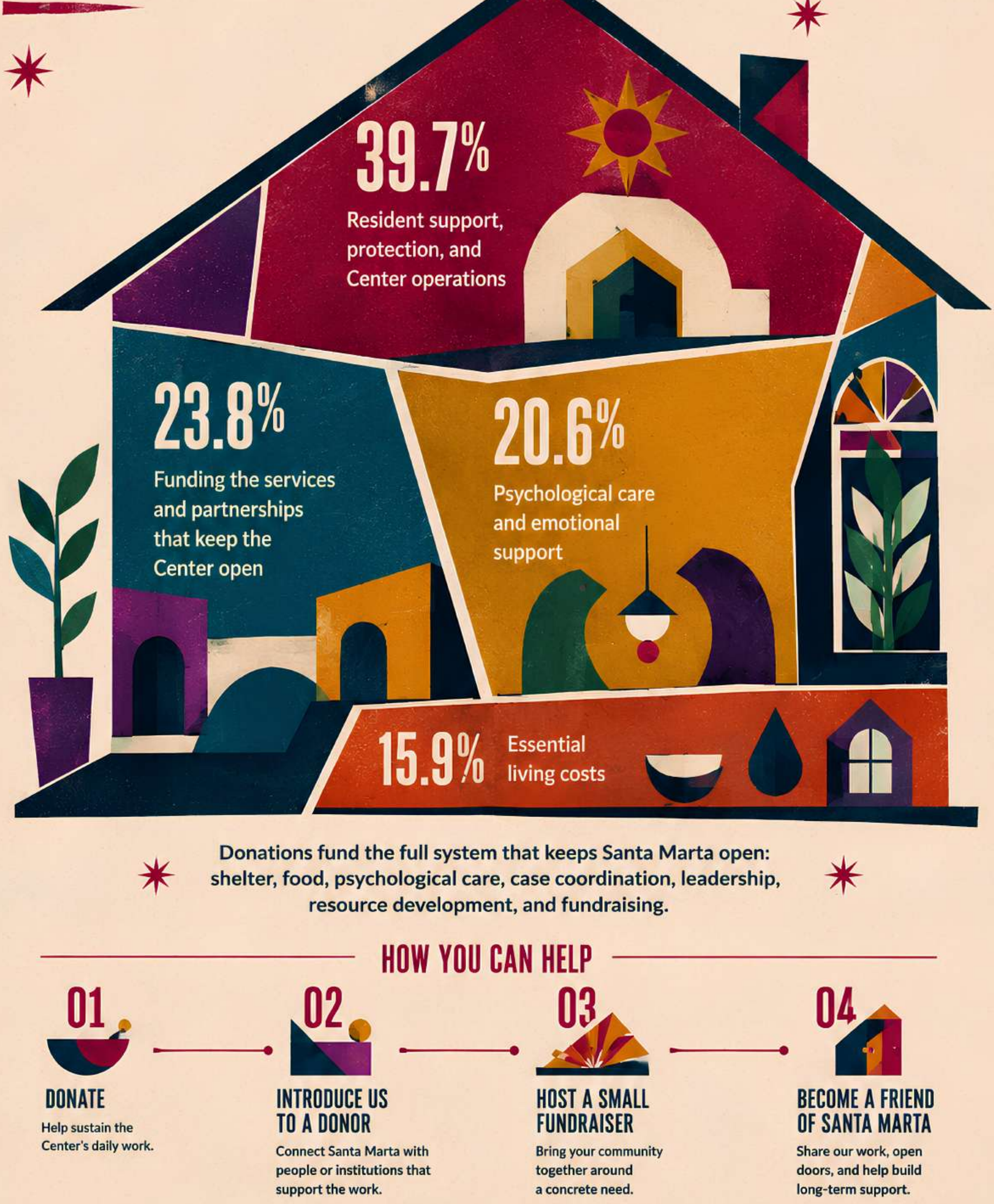
> **“FINDING PEOPLE WHO LISTEN, UNDERSTAND, AND STAY PRESENT CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE.”**

> **“THE SUPPORT I RECEIVED MADE ME FEEL ACCOMPANIED DURING SOME OF THE MOST DIFFICULT MOMENTS OF MY LIFE.”**

ANONYMOUS
FORMER RESIDENT

WHERE YOUR SUPPORT GOES

ANNUAL BUDGET
$80,000



Donations fund the full system that keeps Santa Marta open: shelter, food, psychological care, case coordination, leadership, resource development, and fundraising.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

01 DONATE
Help sustain the Center's daily work.

02 INTRODUCE US TO A DONOR
Connect Santa Marta with people or institutions that support the work.

03 HOST A SMALL FUNDRAISER
Bring your community together around a concrete need.

04 BECOME A FRIEND OF SANTA MARTA
Share our work, open doors, and help build long-term support.