

HEART TO HEART

THE LATEST NEWS FROM **CONNECTING HEARTS MINISTRY** – A MINISTRY OF CHAPEL HILL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Impacting Sponsors by Kelly Foguth

We often talk of the impact that sponsorship has in the lives of our sponsored students in Guatemala. We have shared many stories of how God has used sponsorship to not only give students in Guatemala the opportunity of Christian education and a brighter future, but also to draw them into a closer relationship with the Lord. However, our sponsors, too, have been impacted and changed through sponsorship and their relationship with their sponsored student.

My experience has been life changing in many ways. When my daughter, Autumn, and I traveled to Guatemala for the first time, we started sponsoring a boy at the Amigos School. We were blessed to get to know Dany through letters and pictures over the years. When it was time for him to graduate from ninth grade, I made the trip to celebrate with him. Meeting him in person and seeing first hand the impact of sponsorship was overwhelming to say the least. I never knew the little that I was contributing would make such a difference in the life of a child, nor was I expecting the greeting that I received when I got there. Our hearts were connected in such a beautiful way, and our relationship continued to grow from that day forward. I truly understood for the first time the blessing of Connecting Hearts Ministry and the many hearts that have been changed through it, both in Guatemala and the United States.



Kelly Foguth visits Dany for his 9th grade graduation

Of the countless stories where sponsorship has changed the life of a sponsor, here are just a few:

Linda Wise writes, “Initially, my goal for choosing a student to sponsor in Guatemala was to pick someone close to my grandchildren’s ages – someone they could grow up praying for by name. When I had the opportunity to visit our sponsored student, I was unprepared for the intensity of emotions and spiritual closeness I experienced. I realized that all this time God had been knitting our hearts together. I had the “aha” moment of why the ministry is called Connecting Hearts. It’s a connection only prayer can make.



Linda Wise celebrating Angel's graduation from high school

Through the years, I have been able to sponsor additional students and make additional trips to Guatemala. I always explain to friends that I am the one being blessed and that they have become family to me. My trips to Guatemala now seem like trips to visit my “out-of-town” relatives! I can’t wait until I can go again!”

Eric Prayner shares, “Our trip to Guatemala and sponsorship has greatly impacted our lives. While we were connected with our girls in meeting them and spending a short time with them, the lasting impacts are still present in our lives. The sponsorship has reminded us about God’s mission for us to make good things happen for other people



Eric and Emily Prayner telling one of their four girls that they want to sponsor her

and to share our blessings. It has impacted our prayer life and faith that God is always working through us. The joy, smiles and heartfelt messages shared with our sponsored girls is a true blessing and reminds us of the impact we can have through giving. It has also helped our family come together in prayer, purpose, and connection with our extended Guatemalan family. I have shared our trip, sponsorship, and the impact it has made on me to countless people in hopes that more will share some blessings in some way with other people.”



Joseb warmly welcomes his sponsor, Beth Honnold, as she arrives in Guatemala

Beth Honnold writes, “Meeting my sponsored child, Joseb, and his family has made a huge impact on my life. We have built a relationship and become family despite the miles that separate us. We have developed a heart connection that only God could create! To pray, encourage, and lift them up to the Lord has been a tremendous blessing in my life.”

Independence Day by Nataly Rivera

Independence Day is always celebrated big in Guatemala. Celebrations happen nationwide and include activities such as parades, dances, concerts, firecrackers, and special food. Schools always take part in the festivities, but over the last couple of years, they have not been able to participate because of the pandemic. As things return to normal, the Amigos School students were again able to celebrate this special day. Every student participated with great joy, expressing their love for their country. The morning started by singing the National Anthem, followed



Sponsored students, Frayner and Carlos, dress up like kites

by each grade's performance. With music from the marimba, the national instrument, students performed dances that are the perfect mix between the Mayan and Spanish cultures. The creativity among the students was one of a kind. They dressed in costumes that were unique and detailed, including hair accessories, makeup and masks. Their limited resources did not stop them from taking their creativity to the next level. They used materials of all kinds like old CDs, aluminum foil, table runners, plastic flowers, cardboard, tissue paper, etc. to resemble



Sponsored student, Jennifer Ixchopa, dresses up as a bird



Students celebrate Independence Day at the Amigos school

the original costumes Mayan communities wore. Each student did their best to make this celebration a success. The parents and teachers were also part of the celebration, helping the students get dressed and ready for the big moment. They were so happy and proud that the children joined together and performed their dances as one team. It is a wonderful experience to see the cultural diversity that Guatemala has and how children learn to embrace it and be proud of it from a young age. Congratulations to Guatemala on their 201 years of independence!

PRAISES & PRAYER



Carlos David celebrates his graduation with family

📍 The Amigos school celebrated their 30th anniversary in August. The creativity of the teachers and students was evident as classes were decorated and the students dressed according to a specific theme. What a wonderful time to celebrate the blessing that this Christian school has been over the years in Peronia, Guatemala!

📍 Carlos David Rivera graduated with a Master of Science Degree in Urban Management and Development in the Netherlands. What an accomplishment and opportunity he has had studying abroad. Please pray that God will continue to guide and direct his steps.

📍 Connecting Hearts Ministry is now able to take groups again to visit our sponsored students and the Amigos School in Guatemala in order to build relationships. These trips are life changing.

📍 Please pray for the students as they finish their last month of school before their summer vacation. Pray that in the coming year the students in all grades will be able to return to school in person.



Third grade dresses up as Disney characters



Second graders celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Amigos school

From One Heart to Another...



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