



Scholarship Student Update

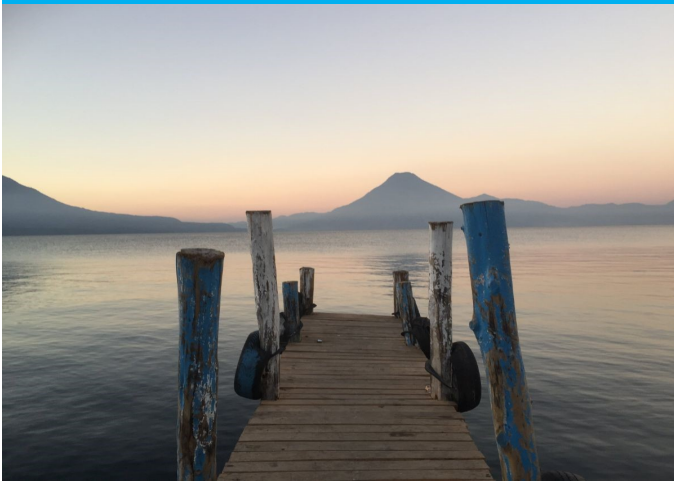
Our scholarship program is growing! In 2019, we have 25 scholarship students located in 4 municipalities. The vast majority of the students are from the communities outside of Santiago Atitlan, but we also have five scholarship students in Chichicastenango, two in Tamahu, Alta Verapaz, and one in Chua Cruz, Solola. In order to provide the individualized attention that we see as being so important, we have two tutors this year.

Apart from their tutoring sessions and required 6 volunteer hours a month, the scholarship students have been busy this year. In February, the students prepared the entertainment for the elder's Valentine's Day party. They sang songs, played games, performed skits, recited a poem, and danced. In March, the scholarship students participated in a workshop on environmental education. After the workshop, the students were assigned to come up with and execute a community service project. In April, we held our annual scholarship student get-together. The students listened to a speaker on a topic related to their health and wellbeing, and they played games and had lunch together.

This year, we have continued with the reading circle. Due to the large number of students and the difference in reading levels, we have formed two groups that meet twice a month each. During the reading circles, the students read together and then do activities that help them to analyze the readings and think critically. The reading circles also help to foster a love of reading in the students.

Check out our recent blog "[Summer Scholarship Student Update](#)" to read more about what the students have been up to recently and to see pictures of the activities. Please help us to continue to provide tutoring and other essential support to the scholarship students. Make a donation to support children in Guatemala.

Thank you to Thrivent Financial in the US for all of the grants and for their support to Sharing the Dream in Guatemala. The extra t-shirts go to the scholarship students, where we really strive to fulfill the motto of living generously.



Trips

Learn more about fair trade and see Guatemala. We have several upcoming trips, each of which will give you an appreciation for and understanding of Guatemala's culture and people.

Director Diane Nesselhuf will be leading a Learning Trip February 2-11, 2020. The Guatemalan people are very kind, respectful people who have built a relationship with the Sharing the Dream

staff and have taught us a lot over the years. Throughout the trip, you will have the opportunity to listen to their hopes and dreams and learn about this vibrant culture. We will be welcomed in their homes to learn how they make their beautiful crafts and about their work with Sharing the Dream.

The next Artisan Wares and Gastronomy trip will be June 15-24, 2020. Learn about the Guatemala cuisine, a complex mix of flavors and fresh ingredients that has evolved from Maya, Latin American, and western traditions. As part of this unique trip, participants will learn about and participate in workshops on backstrap weaving, ceramics, basketry, and beading.

If you have already been on one of our learning trips, join us for our Guatemala, Past and Present trip, October 19-27, 2019. Learn about the ancient Maya while experiencing the everyday life of the indigenous peoples of Guatemala. This trip begins in Belize and travels through the Peten, Rio Dulce, and the Dry Corridor before ending in Guatemala City.

We only take eight people per trip, so the trips fill up quickly. To learn more about the trips, please visit the "Trips" page of our website. <https://www.sharingthedream.org/trips.html>

Gift your Airline Miles!

We need help getting the Sharing the Dream team members to and from Guatemala. If you have frequent flyer miles or travel vouchers, we are asking you to please help us to purchase a ticket. In order to purchase a ticket, we need the following amount of miles:

American Airlines: 50,000 miles

Delta Airlines: 64,000 miles

United Airlines: 70,000 miles

If you are interested in purchasing a ticket using your airline miles or donating a travel voucher, please contact Lauren at director@sharingthedream.org for more information on how to do so.

Guatemala Director in the US

Lauren, our director in Guatemala, will be in the US this summer and is available for speaking events. She will be in South Dakota from June 24- July 3, and will be in Minnesota from July 15-29th. If you would like her speak to your group, please contact her at director@sharingthedream.org or 605-540-6159.

Chukmuk Construction Project

The construction of the new Elder Center in Chukmuk has been an ongoing learning experience, but through the help of Engineers Without Borders and many contacts, we are excited to be moving forward. We have contracted a builder who is from Santiago Atitlan and has many years of construction experience working in the Santiago area. We have also had the land surveyed and have gotten permission from the municipal government to connect water and public sewer to the property. We are now in the process of having structural plans drawn up and hope to begin building soon and have the first phase completed at the beginning of next year.

A very generous donor has offered to match all donations up to \$100,000 for the construction of the new Elder Center in Chukmuk. We still have money left that can be matched, so make a donation and double your impact!



Elder Profile

When you walk in to the Elder Center in Santiago Atitlan, one of the first people to greet you with her kind smile is Magdalena Damian. For the past nine years, Magdalena's honorary spot at the Center has been in the first row, and she gets there early in

order to be able to chat with her friends. Despite the hardships that Magdalena has faced in life, she still smiles.

Magdalena is the mother to 11 children, but sadly, only six of her children are still alive. She is the grandmother to 47 grandchildren. Magdalena's husband was killed in a bus accident forty years ago, leaving her to take care of the family by herself. After his passing, Magdalena worked doing embroidery and weaving in order to support her children. She is no longer able to weave or embroider, and she depends on the little support that she receives from her children and the support from the Elder Center in order to survive.

Magdalena is in need of a sponsor. For \$300/ year, you can provide Magdalena with three hot, nutritious meals a week, access to medical care free of cost to her, and much needed social interaction and care. To sponsor Magdalena or another elder, donations can be taken through our website by sending a check to our Vermillion, SD store.

Casa Guatemala Health Promoter Update



Sharing the Dream in Guatemala provides the salary for Amelia, the health promoter at Casa Guatemala, a children's home in the jungle. As the health promoter, Amelia is responsible for health care for all of the children at Casa Guatemala, as well as the surrounding villages. Her care is essential for the wellbeing of the children and the surrounding communities.

As the health care provider, Amelia is responsible for everything from administering first aid to accompanying patients to the nearest public clinic down the river for more serious cases. She cleans cuts and scrapes, treats common ailments such as stomach aches and ear infections, and ensures that treatments by

doctors are being followed as prescribed.

An important part of Amelia's position is coordinating and helping with visiting medical groups. In February, Amelia helped to host a group of visiting doctors, and in March she helped with a group of visiting dentists. Amelia is responsible for taking care of any follow-up from these visiting medical groups after they leave, such as bringing students to the nearest laboratory for exams.

Amelia's position is not only curative, but preventative care as well. This year, Amelia has given several workshops to the children at the school on topics such as good personal hygiene, proper handwashing, and good nutrition. She has also given workshops to the parents of the school children, such as her workshop on improving communication in the family.

Stay up-to-date with Amelia's important work through her monthly report blog posts. The blogs can be found under the Casa Guatemala section of our blog. <https://www.sharingthedream.org/blog/category/casa-guatemala>

Please help us to support this life-saving work by making a donation to Sharing the Dream for Amelia's salary. For \$20, you can sponsor a day of Amelia's important work, or for \$400 you can sponsor a full month of health care.

Sioux Falls Marketplace

Sharing the Dream Marketplace just celebrated our one-year anniversary at our new location in Uptown Sioux Falls. We sell a wide array of jewelry, scarves, bags, glassware, and many other beautiful items. Please come visit us soon!

Our hours are 11:00 - 5:00, Tuesday through Saturday. We will also be open during the Levitt outdoor concerts, beginning June 14th.
421 N Phillips Ave
Sioux Falls, SD

Celebrating 15 Years of Business!

We are celebrating 15 years of business in our current downtown location in Vermillion, SD at 10 West Main Street.

JUNE 29th 2019 Saturday: 10am – 5:30pm

- Hear from our Founder / Director Diane Nesselhuf
- Hear from our Director Lauren Vaske visiting from Guatemala
- Enjoy delicious Guatemalan foods made by Store Manager Michele Mechling

Receive 25% off jewelry purchases and check out our new wares from Guatemalan Artisan Cooperatives



Maya Crosses

Deep in the jungles of the Peten grows a vine that has a naturally occurring cross pattern inside. Called the Cruz Maya (Maya Cross), its use as a spiritual symbol dates back

to the Maya civilization more than 1000 years ago.

One of Sharing the Dream's partner artisan groups turns this raw vine into Pocket Crosses. These pocket crosses help the artisans to support their families and their schooling, and a portion of the proceeds go to support the reforestation of the important Bio-Itza forest in the Peten. The Elder Center Bead Group has also made the crosses into stunning necklaces.

The pocket crosses and necklaces make great fundraisers and gifts for church groups, camps, and retreats. They can be purchased wholesale either through Sharing the Dream's wholesale website: compartendosuenosenguatemala.org or by contacting Lauren at director@sharingthedream.org. They can also be purchased individually at our Vermillion store, Sioux Falls Marketplace, or our online store.

Thank you, Volunteers!

We want to give a big thank you to all of our volunteers in both of our South Dakota stores and across the United States. Sharing the Dream is a volunteer based organization, and because of our volunteers more money is able to go back to support the artisans. Volunteers are the backbone of the organization, and we are so grateful for their support. Thank you, volunteers!

Shop AmazonSmile

If you shop on Amazon, do your shopping using [Amazon Smile](https://www.amazon.com/amazonsmile) instead and choose Friends of Sharing the Dream in Guatemala as your beneficiary charity. Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase to Friends of Sharing the Dream in Guatemala at no additional cost to you.

Donation Ideas

Please consider making a donation to Friends of Sharing the Dream in Guatemala. 100% of your donation goes to programming. By donating, you will be changing the lives of elders, children, and artisans in Guatemala, and you're helping to enable Guatemalans to provide for themselves and create a better lifestyle. Every little bit helps. Fill out the form below, call 605-624-6895, email info@sharingthedream.org, or stop by the Vermillion store.

Looking for a gift for the person who has everything? Consider making a donation in someone's name. Just fill out the form below and check the box stating that it's a gift for someone.

Elders in Guatemala

\$5 Home visit by staff

\$10 Hospital visit for an elder

\$25 One week of transportation for an elder

\$100 Sponsor a meal for 65 elders

\$300 Sponsor an elder for 1 year

Elder Center Construction Project

\$15 One day's wages for a construction worker

Any Amount: Supports the construction of the new Elder Center in Chukmuk

Children in Guatemala

\$5 Student participation in reading circle

\$25 School supplies for one student

\$50 One career skills workshops for 15 scholarship students

\$100 Stock a classroom with books

Scholarships for students

\$200 Elementary

\$300 Middle School

\$500 High School

Casa Guatemala

\$20 Sponsor the community health promoter for one day

\$400 Sponsor a community health promoter for 1 month

Artisans in Guatemala

\$20 Scholarship for one artisan's workshop attendance

\$65 Provide support for an artisan group in the field

\$200 Provide one day-long workshop for an artisan group

\$650 Furnish one month's salary for our coordinator and provide support to multiple artisans

Donation Form **Yes! I want to help Sharing the Dream! Please put my donation toward:**

- Where most needed \$ _____
- Elders in Guatemala \$ _____ Specific: _____
- Children in Guatemala \$ _____ Specific: _____
- Artisans in Guatemala \$ _____ Specific: _____
- Elder Center Construction Project \$ _____ Specific: _____
- Casa Guatemala \$ _____ Specific: _____

Donor name: _____

Email Address: _____

I want this donation to be a gift for someone! Recipient's name: _____

Recipient's Address: _____

Please use the enclosed envelope to mail in your donation gift or give online.

Shop Online

Can't make it in to our Vermillion or Sioux Falls stores? Shop our online store. We offer a variety of handmade crafts directly to you from the artisans all without having to leave your house. Please pass on this information to your friends and family.

<https://www.sharingthedream.org/online-store.html>

Wholesale Website

We are excited to announce that Sharing the Dream now has a wholesale website. We offer handcrafted jewelry, baskets, textiles, and much more directly to you from Guatemala.

<https://www.compartendosunosenguatemala.org/>



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605-624-6895
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info@sharingthedream.org
Friends of Sharing the Dream in Guatemala is a 501(c)(3) organization under the IRS Code, Tax ID #83-0385287.
Your donations are tax deductible.

Ways you can help:

Hold a craft sale at your church, synagogue, community group, or even in your house.

We will send you everything you need to host a successful sale. We welcome individuals from all over the country to hold sales to benefit Sharing the Dream.

Are you a member of Thrivent Financial?

Through the Thrivent Choice program, you can designate a certain dollar amount to charities registered with the program. Sharing the Dream has become a registered organization, so please keep us in mind.

Spread the word.

Help us to increase our reach. Share this newsletter with your friends and family.



Like Sharing the Dream in Guatemala on Facebook!
It's a great way to keep up with news, events, store sales and new products.

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