

## From the U.S. Director, Diane Nesselhuf

I have been asked about the caravan coming through Mexico and how it affects the people we work with in Guatemala. I guess I do not know of anyone who is in the caravan. I also don't know of any of our groups or people I work with who have had someone go to the U.S. That doesn't mean they haven't; it just means I don't know of any.

I do know about the violence in Guatemala. I will tell you one story about my friend who is administrator of a group in the squatters settlement of Guatemala. I have known her for years. She had a daughter who was in the U.S. legally for several years. Her daughter wanted to go back home to Guatemala. She was back in Guatemala for about a year and was killed. They do not know who killed her or why. My friend had to flee her community, but she did not leave her job at the cooperative. She needed the job, plus she wanted to support the other 65 women. Many of these women have lost children, husbands, nephews and nieces from the violence. Several months ago 2 women were shot at a bus stop right in front of the building where my friend works. Both women were killed. One was carrying her child and fell on her.

In this community we also have worked with a family of three disabled daughters. One of the daughters died last year and there are two left along with their mom, dad, a younger sister, and her family. This family has been sponsored for over 15 years by two churches in Wyoming. The gangs tried to extort money from this very poor family. It got so bad that they moved out of the community. They owned their own little 3 room house in the community, but had to leave and rent a house in a nearby community. They were able to do this because of the support of these churches in Wyoming that pay for the expenses for the girls.

There are plenty of other stories of the violence, but I also want to talk about the economics. Statistically, 60% of people in Guatemala live in poverty. Sharing the Dream in Guatemala works with these people through our many programs to help improve lives. Here are some of this year's statistics on what we are doing. I will use direct service and indirect service. The direct service are the people we work with and the indirect are the families. The average family size is 6 people.

- **A rural school, 165 students Indirect 990** Sharing the Dream bought the land for the school; we have provided a teacher periodically, and we do some school supplies every year. This year we also provided a team of optometrists to do eye exams for students and their families.
- **Artisans-Direct 250 people Indirect 1200** In the past we have provided stoves, chickens, pigs, water, and many other projects for the artisans.
- **Elders-Direct 65 elders Indirect 195** It is indirect because most of our elders' children cannot afford to take care of their parent so this helps the families out. Again, this does not include our past elders.
- **Lubia and family - Direct 3 Indirect 4** We have worked with this family with disabled daughters for over 15 years.
- **Staff 8 direct 40 indirect**
- **Scholarship students Direct 23 Indirect 138** This does not include all of our past students.
- **Casa Guatemala- 215 direct and 1290 indirect beneficiaries** At Casa Guatemala, a children's home in Rio Dulce, we have a health promoter. She works with the children at Casa Guatemala and their families, who come from 30 different villages. She also works with the local village, where she has about 130 medical contacts per month, and she lines up all the teams that come to the village. In 2018, she has helped organize 2 medical teams and 2 dental teams.

**In 2018 we have 729 direct beneficiaries and 3,857 indirect beneficiaries.** This is how we keep people in their homes and in their communities and with their families. Sharing the Dream makes a huge difference to many families in Guatemala. If you buy our fair trade products or donate to Sharing the Dream, we are able to help families stay in their communities and help their families.

# Casa Guatemala Health Promoter

A full day's trip away from our Guatemala offices at Lake Atitlan is Casa Guatemala. Casa Guatemala is located on the Rio Dulce, which means sweet river, and is accessible only by boat. That is where Sharing the Dream sponsors the salary for a Health Promoter, Amelia.

Amelia is a trained nurse assistant who is in her second year of a professional nursing degree at the university. She not only takes care of all 215 children at the children's home, but she attends to the surrounding communities as well. At Casa Guatemala, she provides regular workshops for the children at the school and in the surrounding communities, makes daily visits to the houses at Casa Guatemala to ensure the wellbeing of the children on-site, sees patients from the surrounding villages and makes house calls to those who are too sick to come in, and makes emergency hospital visits when necessary. She also helps with visiting medical and dental groups and provides fol-

low-up care for any of the children who need it. As Casa Guatemala Executive Director, Heather Graham, said, "It is normal for the visiting medics and dentists who also visit surrounding villages to comment on the stark difference in the health of the children at Casa Guatemala versus children who do not receive our care." Amelia plays an integral part in that care.

To read more about Amelia and Casa Guatemala's work, check out Casa Guatemala's website [www.casa-guatemala.org](http://www.casa-guatemala.org). Help us to continue to provide this service to Casa Guatemala by making a donation to support the Health Promoter. The cost for one month's salary is \$400, but everything helps!

Please also consider making a donation to support Casa Guatemala's Christmas meal. For just \$5.00, you can provide a child with a Christmas meal.

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## Sharing the Dream Marketplace

421 N. Phillips Av, Sioux Falls, SD

Sharing the Dream in Guatemala opened our second store last May in the newly renovated Jones Seed Company Building at 421 N. Phillips Avenue in Sioux Falls. Customers are delighted that Sharing the Dream is here! Here are some of the customers' comments:

"I love that you sell all fair trade items!" "Everything is so beautifully made!" "I always buy fair trade for all my gifts!"

The Sioux Falls Marketplace is located near the entrance to Falls Park and is open Tuesday through Saturday. Karen Kraus serves as the part-time store manager and operates along with eleven volunteers.

For store hours, call 605-838-1534 or find us on Facebook at Sharing the Dream Marketplace.

We look forward to seeing you!

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## Elder Center Update

This year, the staff at the Elder Center has been focusing on improving the elders' health. Earlier this year, the elders received a presentation from a visiting group on ways to control their blood pressure, and the scholarship student from the Hospitalito gave presentations on issues that affect the elders' health, such as hygiene in the home. The staff has begun to monitor the elders' blood pressure. They have also implemented changes to the menu that will help to control the elders' blood pressure, such as reducing the amount of salt in the food.

In August, we formed an exercise committee made up of elders who lead their peers in some light exercises each

time they come in to receive their food. The exercises have been well received, and the elders are loving the new ways to get involved.



# Chuk-Muk Construction Update

We are excited to say that in 2018, we broke ground on the new Elder Center. In February, we held a ground-breaking ceremony to commemorate the occasion, and the Chuk-Muk mayor and town councilmen attended, along with the Sharing the Dream elders and staff members. In April, we cleared the land in order to prepare for the land leveling. That day, we asked for volunteers from the elders and scholarship students, and we had around 30 elders and 10 scholarship students volunteer to work alongside the staff to get the land cleared. In May, we started leveling the land. The heavy work was done by machinery, and close to 100 dump trucks full of rock and dirt were hauled off of the land. Once the machinery was finished, we hired rock breakers, called canteros, to break the rocks that were too big for the machinery. One of our goals with the construction project is to provide work for the community of Chukmuk, and hiring the rock breakers was our first chance to do so.

This year has also provided many opportunities for us to strengthen our relationship with the community. In April, a new mayor and town council were elected, and we have been work-

ing closely alongside them to find construction workers who need work. They have also been very supportive in helping us to get the formal land title.

We have made progress on getting the formal land title for the property. We have the right to possession, which lists us as the owners of the property, but the land title is a more formal declaration of ownership. Recently, the Santiago town council approved our petition for the formal title, and we are now working on the paperwork for the title. Once the paperwork is finished, it can be submitted to the Guatemalan government to be signed off on, before being returned to Santiago to be signed by the mayor. Like all things in Guatemala, the government moves slowly, but we are hopeful that we will soon have the signed title so that we can begin building.

Thanks to a generous donor, all donations up to \$100,000 will be matched, which means that your donation will be doubled.

Please consider making a donation to the Elder Center Construction Project.

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## Reading Club

Guatemala is a country with only a 58% literacy rate among the indigenous population. This low level of literacy means that reading is not something that is fostered at home, as many parents are unable to read and write well enough to share books with their children. Sadly, it is oftentimes not emphasized at school, either, due to the lack of available resources to purchase books. As a result, many students are reading well below their grade level. To combat this, we have been focusing on reading and writing with the scholarship students during their tutoring hours.

To teach the scholarship students that reading can be fun, we have been working with our partner organization, La Puerta Abierta, to run a reading club for our junior and senior high scholarship students. The reading club meets twice a month to discuss the months' reading selection, read together, share

ideas, and improve the students' reading and writing skills through games and activities. The games and activities are designed to help the students to go deeper in to the readings and to think critically. Through our partnership, all of our scholarship students also have access to library books that they can take home with them. La Puerta Abierta has been sharing their knowledge and training with the Sharing the Dream tutors so that they can help the students to better develop their reading and writing skills in their tutoring sessions. We are so thankful to La Puerta Abierta for all of their support and for sharing their love of reading with us. It has been wonderful to watch the students develop their own love of reading, and we look forward to seeing the impact that it has on their academic lives.

You can read more about La Puerta Abierta on their website- [atitlanabierta.com](http://atitlanabierta.com). Help to make an impact in the lives of these students by supporting the reading club.

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## Guatemala Staff

Lauren Vaske- Guatemalan Director  
Ashley Ford- Artisan Development Director  
Isabel Quisquina- Artisan Development Coordinator  
Bernabela Sapalu- Elder Center & Bead Group Coordinator  
Esteban Sapalu- Tutor, Accountant, Inn Coordinator  
Juan Cali- Elder Center & Bead Group Assistant  
Antonio Sol- Executive Assistant & Assistant Tutor  
Maria Yataz- Elder Center Kitchen Assistant

## U.S. Staff

Diane Nesselhuf-Founder/Director  
Michele Mechling- Store manager  
Vermillion Store  
Karen Kraus- Store Manager Sioux Falls Store

## U.S. Board

Gail Ament- President  
Jill Munger-Secretary  
Dana Loeske-Treasurer  
Mary Isaacson Vice-President  
Dave Larson  
Brian Walton  
Craig Spencer  
Cristobal Francisquez

# Donations Received

Donations received from Nov, 14, 2017-Nov.14, 2018 Please let us know if your name is incorrectly spelled, or if you have been omitted from the list. We appreciate all these donations, as this is giving so many people in Guatemala opportunities that they would not have without your help. Thank you!

Jerry and Norma Wilson	Sandy and Clarence Pederson	John and Marjorie Nesselhuf	Steven and Mary Baron
Vicki and Lanny Walker	Ro Ann Redlin	Teresa Brenengen	Rachel Ringlaben
Amazon Smile Foundation	Janis and David Olson	All Soul's Church	Donald B. Pryce
Diane Nesselhuf	Trinity Lutheran Men's Group	Laura Kagan	Cliff and Tangi Summers
Ronald Johnson	Trinity Lutheran Women's Group	Bradley and Lauri Petersburg	Alexa Gauer
Steve and Shelby Vaske	Dorothy and Lyle Feisel	St. John's Lutheran Church Dismock	Wilza Schmied
Les and Bev Miller	Barb Rickord	Carol Schatz	Lisa Christiansen
Jodi R. Ruis	Benny and Kristie Quams	Dalesburg WELCA	Kristie Schmidt
Prince of Peace and Grace Lutheran Church	Comercio Justo	Trinity Lutheran Naomi Circle	Larry Kimballl
First Lutheran Brookings	Mary E. Stutz	Barbara and Charles Yelverton	Kimberly Vleck
Michelle and Dana Loseke	Craig and Suzannah Spencer	Mette Risdal	Dorene and Neil Weltzin
Richard and Margaret Stang	Cathy Beard & John Davidson	J&K Rentals	Charlotte DeTroy
Bob and Mary Brown	Glennis Stewart	Diane Wendt	Denise Vaagene
Mary Beherns	Elyse and Carl Segelken	Kwen Sanderson	Gail Ireland
Craig and Nancy Foster	St. John's Lutheran Church	Jennifer Sales and Gregory Lyon	Catherine Bowman
Eric and Priscilla Hagen	Ira Pearson	David and Linda Osmundson	Mirielle Razzi
Lanie Paymar	Mary DeJong and Tate Profflet	Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church	Ellice Curry-Tucker
ZLCW	Tree 4 Hope	Church	Karin Kurry
Patricia and Mark Meyers	Wes Pravecek	Adam and Emma Ladwig	Amy Hunter
Lyle and June Wagner	Marcy Lund	Marlys Graettinger	Lost Island Lutheran Church
Stephanie Kocher	Lana Svien	Mary Goettsch	Nancy Zuercher
Kaona and Charles Hazlett	Grace City Church Ladies' Ministry	University Lutheran Church	Karalynn Miller
Susan and Douglas Tuve	Mario Sangillo	Wayne and JoAnn Piebenga	Berle Driscoll
Dennis and Robin Iverson	Peggy Cooper	Teresa Gilbertson	David Vleck
Alan and Agnes Schulte	Karen Juhl	Henry Fuchs	David Struckman Johnson
Stacey Thomas	David and Carol Oliver	Barbara Donat	Jeff Tveit
Steven and Frances Gylling	Keith and Candace Joy	Phillip and Barbara Lewison	Grace United Methodist Church
Pamela Fiaccone	Ronda and Timothy Harrity	Mary Roche	Karleen Dagit
Scott and Jill Munger	Judy and Kermit Swanson	Charles and Joann Shapiro	First Presbyterian Church
Trinity Lutheran Church	Patricia Cavaleri	Karen Kraus	
Rocklin and Judith Quam	Glenn and Sharon Simmonds	Debra Washburn	
Mary and Wayne O'Connor	Evin Leek	Marilyn Perks	
Susan and James Thompson	Catholic Daughters of America	Jody Slocum	
Rolf Olson	Chloe Davidson	Margie Smotherman	
L'Nora and Ruth Bylander	Patricia Brown	Jane Warren	
Dunham/ Pommersheim	Marcia Bellas	Jennie Ringlaben	
Kolly and Michelle Fostvedt	Spirit of Peace UCC	Royce Miller and Kelsey Collier	
Robert and Kathy Nelson	Bethany Lutheran Church	Wise	
William and Denise Ladwig			

# Trips to Guatemala

To learn more about fair trade, you can join us on one of our trips! Diane's February 2019 Learning Trip is full, but there is still space on our June Artisan Wares and Food trip, and we are accepting applications for Diane's February 2020 trip. For more information or to reserve your spot on the June trip, please contact Lauren at [director@sharingthedream.org](mailto:director@sharingthedream.org) or call 1-605-540-6159. For the February 2020 trip, please email [info@sharingthedream.org](mailto:info@sharingthedream.org). We only take eight people on our trips, so space is limited.

If you have 8 people that are interested in going to Guatemala, we can do your group. Churches, universities, social groups, friends and family all make great trip groups!

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## 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](mailto: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

\$5 Provide a Christmas meal to a child

\$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

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## 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.*



## Ways you can donate

- Make a one-time donation to your favorite program or where most needed either via check or online.
- Become a monthly donor by setting up a monthly recurring donation on our website or through a bank transfer.
- Make a donation in honor of someone or give one of our alternative gifts.
- Do your Amazon shopping using Amazon Smile instead of Amazon and choose Friends of Sharing the Dream in Guatemala as your beneficiary charity and Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase to Friends of Sharing the Dream in Guatemala at no additional cost to you.
- Donate through Thrivent Financial's Thrivent Choice Program. Friends of Sharing the Dream in Guatemala is registered with the program.
- Consider a planned gift to Sharing the Dream in Guatemala when planning your estate.

Donations can be sent either via check made out to Sharing the Dream in Guatemala and sent to our Vermillion, SD office, or online through our website at [www.sharingthedream.org](http://www.sharingthedream.org).

**Check address:**

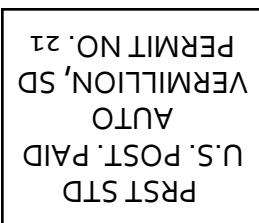
Sharing the Dream in Guatemala  
10 W. Main Street  
Vermillion, SD 57069

Visit our online store at [www.sharingthedream.org](http://www.sharingthedream.org) to find handmade, fair trade Guatemalan crafts, such as jewelry, scarves, and baskets. \$5 flat shipping per order to anywhere in the U.S. Also on our website, you'll also find more information about Sharing the Dream in Guatemala and ways to get involved.



*Like Sharing the Dream in Guatemala and Sharing the Dream Fair Trade Marketplace— Sioux Falls on Facebook!*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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Vermillion, SD 57069  
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[sharingthedream.org](http://sharingthedream.org)  
[info@sharingthedream.org](mailto:info@sharingthedream.org)  
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