

## Reflections on the Elder Center

Lauren Vaske, Director in Guatemala



I have had the privilege of working for Sharing the Dream for three years. I've seen a lot of growth in the organization in these past three years. We've deepened our programming and strengthened the support that we provide to our beneficiaries. We've fostered relationships with existing and new partners. I've seen our scholarship students attain a higher level of education than the previous generation. I've seen the artisans learn new skills and find new markets for their products. But I think the biggest change that I've seen is in the elders at the Elder Center.

These past few years, we've really worked on making the Elder Center more interactive, and we've worked with the elders so that they start to feel that the responsibility of the Elder Center extends to them, too. We want the elders to give back to the Center, whether that be through helping to make tortillas, volunteering to clear the land for

the new Center in Chukmuk, or taking food to a homebound elder. We also have had a great response when we ask for their involvement in special activities. Over the past few years, we have formed several committees, including an advisory committee that meets once a month to offer us their feedback on meals, issues that arise at the Center, and direction for the program. When we started meeting, the feedback they offered us was brief. Now, a short meeting lasts an hour because of all of the ideas and opinions the committee has to offer, which are thoughtful and show their dedication to the Center.

I think my proudest moment this year came when we were invited to celebrate Grandparents' Day with La Puerta Abierta. The school children always prepare lots of fun games and activities for the elders. This year, the elders wanted to prepare something for the children, so they prepared a skit and a dance based on one of their exercise routines. The elders organized themselves, and put on a wonderful performance! The fact that the elders felt confident enough to present in front of their peers and lots of school children was incredible! This really demonstrates the empowerment that the elders have experienced. I like to think that the Elder Center has helped them to find that sense of empowerment by asking their opinions and listening to them, asking them to be active participants, and asking them to not just receive but to give back to the Elder Center.

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## Be an Ambassador

Do you have time or talents that you would be willing to donate to Sharing the Dream? Consider becoming an ambassador. We are looking for people who can help by hosting sales or speaking events for us in your region.

If you are interested in becoming an ambassador, contact Diane at [info@sharingthedream.org](mailto:info@sharingthedream.org)

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## Thank you, Volunteers

Volunteers are the backbone of Sharing the Dream in Guatemala. We want to send our sincerest thanks to our store volunteers, both in our Vermillion store and the Sioux Falls Fair Trade Marketplace. We are so grateful for all of the time and talent that they donate.

# Casa Guatemala Health Promoter



When she finished elementary school at the age of 15, Amelia's parents told her that she had to stop studying and get married. Against their wishes and speaking no Spanish, she moved to

Guatemala City and put herself through school. She was disowned from her family because of her decision, and she could only return home if she agreed to get married. Amelia didn't

want to marry the young man that her family had picked out for her but instead dreamed of being a nurse. After high school, she put herself through a nurses training course and began looking for a job.

Since starting with Casa Guatemala in 2015, Amelia has gone to university to study professional nursing. She has also gotten married to someone whom she loves and had a baby. Amelia is a wonderful role model for the children at Casa Guatemala, particularly the young girls. She models what can happen when getting an education is a priority and what can be achieved through hard work and determination.

To read more about Amelia and Casa Guatemala's work, visit Casa Guatemala's website [www.casa-guatemala.org](http://www.casa-guatemala.org).

**Sharing the Dream provides Amelia's Salary and Casa Guatemala's Christmas meal. Please make a donation to provide Casa Guatemala's children with health care. For \$400, you can provide a full month's salary for Amelia, but everything helps. Please also consider donating to the Casa Guatemala Christmas Dinner. For \$5 you can provide a child with a Christmas meal.**

## Chuk-Muk Construction Update

Progress is being made on the building of the Elder Center. Last year, we broke ground and began to level the land in order to prepare for building. After the land leveling, we decided to work with a new contractor, as we weren't satisfied with the level of transparency of our previous contractors. We dedicated a lot of time to interviewing new builders and asked for recommendations from local businesses, organizations, and Engineers Without Borders. We narrowed it down to four builders, and each builder prepared a proposed budget for the building. We hired a builder, Miguel, who has 30+ years of experience and is from the community of Santiago. We have worked with Miguel to get the utilities connected to the property.

We have done topographic studies and soil samples.

The topographic study revealed that we still have a small amount of leveling and moving material that we will need to do in order to prepare the foundation of the building. This work can all be done by hand, which will provide work for the community of Chukmuk. The soil sample confirmed that we have good soil for building. These studies have both been sent out to the structural engineers, who are in the process of drawing up the structural plans.

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.

## Outside Sales

We are grateful for everyone who has held an outside sale for Sharing the Dream this year. Thanks to you, we are able to continue providing work for the artisans so that they can support themselves and their families. Thank you!

**These are the groups and churches who have hosted sales for us from November 15, 2018– November 19, 2019.**

Brandon Lutheran Church-Brandon ,SD  
Morningside College-Sioux City, IA  
Trinity Lutheran Church- Fort Collins, CO  
First Lutheran Church-Brookings, SD  
Spirit Garage –Minneapolis, MN  
Messiah Lutheran Church-Marquette, MI  
Lost Island Lutheran-Ruthven, IA  
St. Mary's Basilica-Minneapolis, MN  
Global Fair Trade Market-Edina, MN  
University Lutheran- Norman, OK  
The World Jubilee--MN

St. Mark's Lutheran Church - Sioux Falls, SD  
Aging Gracefully- Sioux Falls, SD  
St. John's Lutheran Church - Dimmock, SD  
Cinco de Mayo –Falls Park ,SD  
Dalesburg Lutheran Midsommar Festival- Vermilion, SD  
Zion Lutheran Church – Scotland, SD  
Zion Lutheran Church –Aberdeen, SD  
ADK Sorority Conference  
St. Paul Lutheran Church-Stickney, SD

Prince of Peace -Casper, WY  
Grace United Methodist-Piedmont, SD  
Our Savior's Lutheran –Spearfish, SD  
Our Savior's Lutheran –Rochester ,MN  
TESL/Closer Connections Conference- Sioux Falls, SD  
Custer Lutheran Fellowship- Custer, SD  
Spirit of Peace UCC-Sioux Falls ,SD  
Spirit of Joy-Sioux Falls, SD

## Artisan Profile

Meet Maria. Maria is from a rural community in the Department of Solola called Chua Cruz. She is a talented weaver, and she weaves using the traditional back-strap loom and the foot loom. Maria's husband is a farmer but work is scarce. In 2012, she decided to join the weaving group La Estrella so that she could support her children and give them a better life. Maria has been working with Sharing the Dream through her involvement in La Estrella since then.

Maria will proudly tell you that six of her seven children have gone to school. Two have already graduated, and the other four children are still in school. She says that through the orders that Sharing the Dream gives to La Estrella, Maria was able to pay for her children's schooling. "Sharing the Dream has not only changed my life, but it has changed my children's lives as well".



## Artisan Development Program Update



In July, the Artisan Development team held a two-day workshop with six different artisan groups participating. The workshop focused on commercialization and creating a catalog to showcase products. The workshop also created a space for the artisans to share their experiences with one another. Through sharing their experiences, they realized that many of them have faced similar challenges and were able to benefit from the ideas of others about how to overcome those challenges.

By participating in workshops, the artisans learn new strategies for selling their products, which helps them to make new contacts with people who can support their cooperatives. When artisans receive work, they are able to support themselves and their families, as well as invest money back into their cooperatives to help them grow. When they receive an order from a client and are paid a fair wage, it gives them the economic resources to send their children to school and get adequate healthcare for their families, both of which have the power to provide positive generational differences for them and their families.

You can support the work of the Artisan Development program by purchasing products in either of our brick and mortar stores, our online store. For fair trade stores and businesses who would like to purchase items wholesale, you can do so through our wholesale site: [www.compartidosuenosenguatemala.org](http://www.compartidosuenosenguatemala.org). Please consider making a donation to the Artisan Development program to support the important work that we do with the artisans. For just \$20, you can provide a scholarship for an artisan to attend a workshop, or for \$200 you can sponsor the entire workshop.

## Store Inventory

One of the things that makes Sharing the Dream different from many fair trade stores and organizations is the way we do orders. Every time we place an order, we pay 50% of the total order cost up front so that the artisans can pay their expenses. The remaining 50% is paid when the artisans turn in the products and they pass quality control. All of the products are paid in full when they get shipped out of our Guatemala offices; nothing is on consignment. Since all of the products are paid in

full, it can be difficult to buy inventory for the stores due to the large investment that must be made.

Earlier this year, we received a generous donation of \$10,000 from Dana and Michelle Loseke to help us to purchase inventory. Thanks to this donation, we were able to provide work to the artisans and purchase many of the beautiful new products that you see in our stores and online. We are so grateful to Dana and Michelle. Thank you!

The Losekes would like their donation to be matched. Please consider making a donation to help us to purchase inventory.

# Donations Received

Donations received from Nov, 15, 2018-Nov.19, 2019 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!

Amazon Smile	Graettinger, Marlys	Nesselhuf, Stephanie	Spencer, Suzannah & Craig
Batinich, Mary	Gyling, Frances & Steven	Network For Good	St. Paul's Lutheran- Stickney
Beard, Cathy & John Davidson	Haertel, Lois	Niles, Karen & Mick	Stang, Margaret & Richard
Becker, Sarah	Hagen, Priscilla & Eric	Nordyke, Shane	Stewart, Glennis
Beeman, Janet & Don	Hanna, Deb	O'Connor, Mary & Wayne	Storm, Glenn & Lois
Behrens, Mary	Harrity, Ronda & Tim	Ofstehage, Glenda & Bernard	Sudmann Shapiro, Joan & Charles
Better Beauty LLC	Hazlett, Kaona & Charles	Oliver, Carol & David	Shapiro
Blaser, Ronald	Hilgemann, Carol	Olson, Janis & David	Suihkoner, Julie
Bliss, Kevin & Julie Stewart	Hvizda, Ryan	Olson, Megan	Thomas, Elaine
Bloder, Katharine	Indihar, Michael & Bergetta	Osmondson, Linda & David	Thomas, Stacey
Brandon Valley Lutheran	Iverson, Robin & Dennis	OSLC Spearfish	Thompson, Lawrence & Sharyn
Brenengen, Tony & Reese	Johnson, Ronald	Paypal Giving Fund	Thompson, Susan & James
Brevik, Mary & Todd	Joy, Candy & Keith	Pearson, Denny	Thrivent
Brown, Mary & Bob	Joy, Jeannine	Pederson, Sandy & Clarence	Tree 4 Hope
Brown, Patricia	Kim, Sungjin	Perks, Marilyn & Dennis Taylor	Trinity Men's group
Campbell, Laura Lee	Knudson, Elaine	Petersburg, Laurie & Bradley	Trinity Women's Group
Carter, Roger & Shirley	Kocher, Stephanie & CJ	Pleasant Valley Lutheran	Tuve, Susan & Douglas
Chadima, Richard & Sarah	Kraus, Karen	Pommersheim/Dunham	Tvedt, Megan
Clear Creek Botanicals	Kronholm, Linda	Pravecek, Wes	Ulrich, Mary
Comercio Justo Imports	Ladwig, Emma & Adam	Prince of Peace and Grace	University Lutheran Church
Conrad, Trinity	Lafferrandre, Beverly	Quam, Judy & Rocky	US Charitable Gift Trust
Cooper, Peggy	Langenfeld, Steve	Quam, Kristie & Benny	Van Gorp, Kristine & Tracy
Dagit, John & Karleen	Lehmann, Erika	Redlin, Ro Ann	Vaske, Shelby and Steve
Dalesburg WELCA	Leja, Diane	Rickord, Barb	Vee Allgrun, Jeanna
Dee, Jase	Lensing, Deb	Ring, Mary & Ray	Wagner, Lyle & June
DeJong, Mary & Tate Profilet	Lewis, Barbara & Philip	Roche, Mary	Wakefield, Karen & Tom
England, J. & O. Christensen	Loeske, Michelle & Dana	Rosenbaum Foundation	Walker, Mary
Erickson, Richard	Lorenz, Jeaneite & David	Rusch, Lana & Arthur	Walker, Vicki & Lanny
Fiaccone, Pam & Hank	Mau, Donna	Sales, Jennifer & Greg Lyon	Waller, Ann & William
Fisher, Dena	McKenna, Shannon	Sanderson, Kwen	Washburn, Deb
Foster, Nancy & Craig	Miller, Bev & Les	Sangillo, Mario	Weltzin, Dorene & Neal
Fostvedt, Jade & Jordan	Miller, R. & K. Collier Wise	Satre, Dorothy & Roy	Williams, Karel
Fostvedt, Louie & Nila	Morella, Joni Ann	Schmied, Wilza	Williams, P. & H. Hansen
Freese, Gretchen	Munger, Jill & Scott	Schmieding, Greg & Janet	Wilson, Norma & Jerry
Friedman, Joy	Negen, Audrey & Jim	Schulte, Agnes & Alan	Wisniewski, Gayle
Gaudet, Michael & Marcia	Nelson, Joy	Schulzetenburg, Jim & Bonita	Yelverton, Barbara & Charles
Gessler, Seraina & Johannes	Nelson, Kathy & Robert	Schwartz, Charles	Your Cause LLC
Gilbertson, Teresa	Ness, Carol	Segelken, Carl & Elyse	Zion Lutheran Church Women
Goettsch, Mary	Nesselhuf, B. & A. Schneiderman	Simmonds, Sharon & Glenn	Zuecher, Nancy
Grace United Methodist Church- Piedmont	Nesselhuf, Diane	Slocum, Jody	
	Nesselhuf, Marge & John	Spencer, Josephine	

Thrivent Donors: Faith & Bob Freese, Judy & Kermit Swanson, Cory & Stacy Thomsen, Jeff Tveit, Kimberly & David Vleck

**We want to extend a big thank you to the anonymous donor who has helped us start the Sioux Falls Fair Trade Marketplace.**

## Guatemala Staff

Lauren Vaske- Guatemalan Director  
Ashley Ford- Artisan Development Director  
Isabel Quisquina- Artisan Development 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 Ver-  
million Store  
Karen Kraus- Store Manager Sioux Falls  
Store

## U.S. Board

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

# Travel with us to Guatemala

To learn more about fair trade and Sharing the Dream, you can join us on one of our trips! Diane's February 2020 Learning Trip is full, but we are taking applications for the February 2021 trip and there is still space on our June Artisan Wares and Food trip. For more information or to reserve your spot on the either trip, please contact Lauren at [director@sharingthedream.org](mailto:director@sharingthedream.org) or call 1-605-540-6159. 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. 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

### Elder Center Construction Project

- \$15 One day's wages for a construction worker
- Any Amount: Supports the construction of the new Elder Center

### Artisans in Guatemala

- \$20 Scholarship for workshop attendance
- \$65 Provide support for staff field work
- \$200 Provide one day-long workshop
- Any amount: Helps to purchase inventory

### 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

### Children in Guatemala

- \$5 Participation in reading circle
- \$25 School supplies for one student
- \$50 One career skills workshops
- \$75 One week of tutoring
- \$100 Stock a classroom with books
- Scholarships for students
- \$200 Elementary
- \$300 Middle School
- \$500 High School

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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: \_\_\_\_\_
- Purchase inventory for US stores \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donor name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing 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.
- Host a home jewelry sale
- Write a Thrivent Action Grant to help Sharing the Dream. Get in touch with us to find out where the grant is needed.

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:**

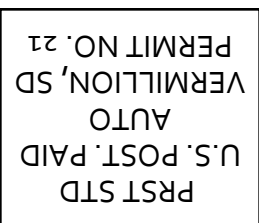
Sharing the Dream in Guatemala  
10 W. Main Street  
Vermillion, SD 57069

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. Also on our website, you'll 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

The logo for "Sharing the Dream" features the words "Sharing the Dream" in a stylized, cursive font. "Sharing" is in blue, "the" is in a smaller blue font, and "Dream" is in a larger blue font. To the left of the text is a colorful woven square pattern. Above the logo, the words "IN GUATEMALA" are written in a small, red, sans-serif font.

10 W. Main St.  
Vermillion, SD 57069  
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[sharingthedream.org](http://sharingthedream.org)  
[info@sharingthedream.org](mailto:info@sharingthedream.org)  
Friends of Sharing the Dream in  
Guatemala is a 501(c)(3) organization  
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