



From the Executive Director, Lauren Vaske

Friends,

This has been a tough year for Guatemala. COVID cases are still high, and the vaccination rate is low—only 24% of the population is fully vaccinated, and that rate is even lower in the rural areas where Sharing the Dream works. A few weeks ago, we had to suspend many of our in-person activities due to the rising number of infections. The numbers are slowly declining, and we are cautiously resuming those activities. The cost of living has skyrocketed since the pandemic began and continues to climb. The cost of food, electricity, firewood, and transportation have all increased. People are tightening their belts yet again, and there isn't much left to tighten.

Despite their incredible hardships, our Guatemalan partners continue to display a sense of hope that things will get better. We are determined to help our partners in Guatemala survive the economic and health challenges they may face in 2022.

I am happy to report that sales in both our Vermillion and Sioux Falls boutiques are up from last year. A large part of our income is generated through sales at churches and fair trade events, and we've had wonderful out-of-store sales these past few months. The increase in sales means that we have been able to provide more work for the artisans through product orders, allowing them to better support themselves and their families during these challenging times.

Our volunteers in both stores and around the country have returned to volunteer in-person again. As a non-profit, we rely on volunteer help so that we can send more money back to Guatemala. We are so grateful for all of our volunteers. Every hour worked by a volunteer represents a donation to help our partners in Guatemala.

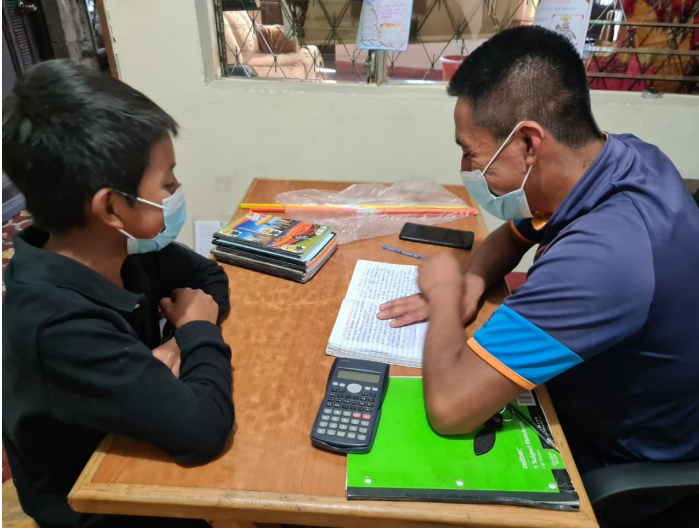
We continue to see an incredible outpouring of generosity through donations this year. This generosity means that we can continue to provide food and medical care for elders, tutoring and scholarships for students, and work and field support for the artisans.

We are so grateful to all of you who have supported Sharing the Dream by purchasing, volunteering, or donating. Thank you for helping to make life better for our friends in Guatemala!

With gratitude,

Lauren Vaske

Scholarship Student Update



The school year in Guatemala is wrapping up, and the STDG tutors and scholarship students have been working extra hard to finish final projects and provide support for those projects.

The school year in Guatemala started with in-person classes, but by May, the majority had returned to distance learning. Due to poor infrastructure and lack of access to technology, many schools used workbooks as their primary teaching method, meaning most of the learning was self-guided again this year. The majority of our scholarship students don't have anyone at home who can help them

with their schoolwork, and the tutors played a larger role than ever before to ensure that they achieve academic success. Without the structure of in-person classes, the tutors did additional follow up with the students who need more guidance, checking in to make sure they were completing assignments, handing them in on time, and understanding the class content.

In addition to the tutoring, we've continued supplementary activities, such as our reading circle. The students have been virtually participating in the reading circle by reading the same book, completing an activity designed to improve their reading, writing, and critical thinking skills, and then participating in online discussions based on their reading with their fellow scholars. Being able to connect with each other was important for the students, as it's something they miss with distance learning.

We don't know what the next school year will look like. We do know that the academic support the scholarships and our tutors provide will continue to be of the utmost importance. The price of everything in Guatemala has skyrocketed, and employment is down. Sending their children to school will be harder for families, and having a scholarship will make a critical difference as to whether a child can go to school or not. **Please provide a child with the opportunity to succeed in school. Consider sponsoring a student or supporting tutoring or the reading program.**

School for Parents

Something new that Sharing the Dream started this year was our School for Parents. In November 2020, we undertook a large needs evaluation to help guide our scholarship program. One thing that continually came up was the disconnect between parents and teachers in Guatemala. Many of our scholarship students' parents were unable to go to school or only went for a few years. They are unfamiliar with the school system, and are often unsure of how and when to intervene if they have a concern. With parents playing a larger role in their children's education during distance learning, we found the need to bridge that disconnect and provide parents with the tools that they need in order to support their children in school. The School for Parents aims to help parents to better understand their children's academic needs so that they help to fulfill them.

Thank you, Volunteers!

We would like to send a huge thank you to our volunteers at the Vermillion and Sioux Falls stores, and to all those who help with our outside sales. Your continued devotion has been extremely valuable to us. We are so grateful for the gifts of your time and talents that you serve with.

The school for parents first met last summer. A psychologist from our partner organization, La Puerta Abierta, taught the first three sessions. The sessions went beyond pure academics and to also focus on the emotional needs of children at school and problems they may encounter, such as bullying. The School for Parents was a hit with the parents, and we have asked them to put together a wish-list of more topics they'd like to learn about. We're looking forward to seeing the impact that parental support has on the students. And we're excited to encourage learning across generations.

The Artisan Collection

At Sharing the Dream, we encourage artisans to develop their creativity and to be more than just producers. To foster that growth, we provide workshops for the artisans, helping them to learn new skills and grow their confidence in themselves as artists. In February, we held one such design workshop with the artisans of the Elder Center Bead Group. The resulting designs have become a part of the Artisan Collection. The Artisan Collection is an expression of the artisans' creativity, and each piece is signed by the artisan who designed and made the product.

You can support the creative development of the bead workers by purchasing a bead-work product from Sharing the Dream. Each product provides an income for the artisan who made it, and allows the bead group to provide support for the Elder Center and to provide skills development opportunities, such as design workshops, for artisans. Pieces from the Artisan Collection can be purchased in our online store under the Artisan Collection category, and in both of our South Dakota boutiques.



Elder Center Update



This year continues to present challenges for the elders and the Elder Center. With COVID cases high and vaccination rates low in Santiago Atitlan, the Elder Center remains closed to in-person visits. We continue to deliver food baskets to the elders at their homes so that they don't go hungry, but the loss of

social interaction that the Elder Center provides has been extremely difficult for the elders. We must think of new ways to keep the elders engaged and to remind them that they are cared about.

The pandemic has been an opportunity for us to provide more individualized attention than we are able to give in the large group setting at the Center, so we've tried to make the most of that opportunity. The staff members continue to visit elders in their homes, and each visit is adapted to individual interests. Activities include stories, games and a nice long chat. The staff also does light exer-

cise with each elder, because a body in motion stays in motion. Although the visits are small acts, they go a long way in reminding the elders that we care about them.

Another of the ways we've tried to help the elders to feel cared about is by helping them to celebrate their birthdays. For many of the elders, this is their first ever birthday celebration. The celebrations are small, with a piece of birthday cake for the elder and a small gift. However, they go a long way in making each one feel special.

The Elder Center staff is now fully vaccinated. Although we had hoped to be able to open the Elder Center once we reached that point, the elders have encouraged us to wait until positive cases decrease and tensions regarding COVID protocols and vaccinations in the Santiago area calm down. We plan to reopen in some capacity as soon as it is safe to do so, but that might look very different from our pre-COVID program. In the meantime, we will continue to enjoy our one-on-one time with the elders and remind them that they are not alone.

You can help to remind the elders that they aren't alone by sponsoring an elder or providing food bags for the elders. **You can sponsor an elder for \$300/ year. For \$100, you can provide food for all 60 elders for one day, or for \$25 you can provide one elder with food for a month.**

Travel to Guatemala with Us

Come with us on a trip to Guatemala to learn more about fair trade and Sharing the Dream. We are now taking applications for our Artisans Wares and Gastronomy Trip, June 12 to 21, 2022. As part of this remarkable ten-day journey, participants participate in workshops to learn about backstrap weaving, basketry, and beading. They will also experience the delight of Guatemalan cuisine, a cuisine that uses simple, fresh ingredients to create complex flavors. To take part in this unique experience, please contact Lauren Vaske at director@sharingthedream.org or 605-624-6895. We will take only eight people, so space is limited.

If you know 8 people who are interested in going to Guatemala, we can do a private trip for your group. Churches, universities, social groups, friends and family all make great travel groups!

Donations Received

Donations received from November 21, 2020– November 30, 2021. 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!

Michael and Joanne Amoroso	David Goldberger	Joni Ann Morella	Elyse and Carl Segelken
Michael Anderson	Lois Haertel	Aloys Mueller	Kenya Simmons
Cynthia Archer	James & Suzanne Halvorson	Robert and Kathy Nelson	Glenn and Sharon Simmonds
Karen Atkinson	Charles and Kaona Hazlett	Carol Ness	Jody Slocum
Brooke Bastian	Tim and Ronda Harrity	Ben Nesselhuf and Angie	Margie Smotherman
Mary Batinich	Vivian Harvey	Schneiderman	Sue Smukler
Don and Janet Beeman	Stella Heartsong	Diane Nesselhuf	Craig and Suzannah Spencer
Mary Berglin	Carol Hilgemann	John and Marge Nesselhuf	Robert & Jennifer Stewart
Better Beauty LLC	Marvin and Shirley Huber	Stephanie Nesselhuf	Joan Sudmann Shapiro and
Kevin Bjork	Bergetta and Michael Indihar	Wayne and Mary O'Connor	Charles Shapiro
Marilyn Boese	Dennis and Robin Iverson	Rolf Olson	Hello Sunshine
Brandon Lutheran WELCA	Barb and Tim Johnson	Our Savior's Lutheran Church	Cliff and Tangi Summers
David & Cathy Brechtelsbauer	Ronald Johnson	Spearfish	Ruth Swedlund
Tony & Teresa Brenengen	Sue and Curt Jopling	David and Carol Oliver	Stacey Thomas
Cathy Beard	Keith and Candy Joy	David and Linda Osmondson	Sharyn and Lawrence Thomp- son
Kelsey Collier-Wise, Royce Mil- ler	Rory and Nina Joygaard	Clarence and Sandy Pederson	Thrivent
Comercio Justo Imports	Linda Kemp	Marilyn Perks and Dennis Tay- lor	Katie Towler
Peggy Cooper	Susan Kern	Cal and Mary Petersen	Tree 4 Hope
Karleen & John Dagit	Cindy Kirkeby	Kirsten and Andy Pethan	Trinity Lutheran- Chamberlain
Dakota Road Music	Robin and Scott Kleiman	Marilyn Pierson, Michael Mel- ville	Trinity Men's group
Dalesburg WELCA	Eldon and Gail Knudson	Pleasant Valley Lutheran	Trinity Women's Group
Penelope Diamanti	Elaine Knudson	Prince of Peace and Grace	Constance Tucker
Chuck & Lorna Dibley	CJ and Stephanie Kocher	Benny and Kristie Quam	Mary Ulrich
Jeremiah & Kamden Dibley	Karen Kraus, Dennis Pearson	Rocky and Judy Quam	US Charitable Gift Trust
Barb Donat	Linda Kronholm	Jack and Debra Ramsey	United Methodist Women- St. John's U.M.C.
Sara Douglass	Alissa Ladas	Ray and Mary Ring	Gracia Valliant
Berle Driscoll	Steve Langenfeld	Renner Family Charity Fund	Catherine Vaughn
Ruth Durham	David & Maryalice Larson	Barb Rickord	Steven and Shelby Vaske
Charles and Nancy Eichholz	Adam and Emma Ladwig	Jennie Ringlaben	Lynn Verschoor
Mary Embry	Erika Lehmann	Rosenbaum Foundation	David and Kimberly Vlcek
Linda & Gene Fennell	Deborah Litvin	Sandi and Brian Royer	Jane H. Warren
Judith Fenno	Lost Island Lutheran	Paula Rutherford	Lanny and Vicki Walker
Hank and Pam Fiaccone	Dana and Michelle Loeske	Jennifer Sales and Gregory	William and Ann Waller
Lyle and Dorothy Feisel	Cheryl Lundeen	Lyon	Casey and Nate Weltzin
Dena Fisher	Stephanie Lundeen	Kwen Sanderson	Neal and Dorene Weltzin
Mark Fisher	Cynthia Mahood Levin	Mark Sanderson	Pat Williams and Howard Han- sen
Bill & Bonnie Forbes	Linda Markegard	Laurel Sandhurst	Jerry and Norma Wilson
Louie Fostvedt	Doug and Joanne Martin	Cathy/ Mario Sangillo	Paul and Cynthia Wilson
Gretchen Freese	Les Miller	Paula Schaeffer	Sara Wise
Jane Galbraith	Scott and Jill Munger	Roy and Dorothy Satre	Karen & James Withrow
Alexa Gauer	Kathy McHenry and Cynthia	Carol Schatz	Kristin Zerse
Johannes and Seraina Gessler	Navarro	Wilza Schmied	Zion Lutheran Church Women
Mary Goettsch	Janet McNaughton	Galen Schram	
Carolyn Goldammer	Mohit Mehta		
	Jean and Bob Miller		



Become a Dream Weaver!

Help Sharing the Dream to weave a tapestry of opportunity by becoming a Dream Weaver. Dream Weavers support Sharing the Dream with a monthly donation and provide ongoing opportunities for elders, children, and artisans in Guatemala.

Join Online on our website by visiting the donation page and checking the "Make this a monthly donation" box.

Join via phone by calling 605-624-6895 during our Vermillion store hours.

Join by mail by filling out the donation form and checking that your intent is to set up a monthly donation.

Donation and Alternative Gift Ideas

Please consider making a donation to Friends of Sharing the Dream in Guatemala. By donating, you make a difference in the lives of elders, children, and artisans in Guatemala. Fill out the form below, donate online, email info@sharingthedream.org, or stop at the Vermillion or Sioux Falls store.

Looking for a gift for the person who has everything? Consider making a donation in someone's name.

Artisans in Guatemala

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

Casa Guatemala

- \$400 Sponsor a community health promoter for 1 month
- \$20 Sponsor the community health
- \$5 Provide a Christmas meal to a child at Casa Guatemala

Elders in Guatemala

- \$300 Sponsor an elder for 1 year
- \$100 Sponsor 1 day of food for 60 elders
- \$25 Provide 1 month of food for an elder
- \$10 Hospital visit for an elder
- \$5 Home visit by staff

Elder Center Construction Project

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

Children in Guatemala

- \$100 Stock a classroom with books
- \$75 One week of tutoring
- \$50 One career skills workshops
- \$25 1 month of tutoring sessions for a scholarship student
- \$5 Participation in reading circle

Scholarships for students

- \$500 High School
- \$300 Middle School
- \$200 Elementary School

Donation Form

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

I want this donation to be monthly. Please call or email me at: _____ to set up.

- 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: _____

Address _____

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

Recipient's email: _____

Ways you can help

- Become a Dream Weaver by setting up a monthly donation.
- Make a one-time donation to your favorite program or where most needed either via check or online.
- Donate your birthday or another event by hosting a Facebook fundraiser for Friends of Sharing the Dream in Guatemala.
- Make a donation in honor of someone or give one of our alternative gifts.
- Consider a planned gift to Sharing the Dream in Guatemala when planning your estate.
- Host a sale at your church, group, or home for Sharing the Dream in Guatemala.
- Shop one of our South Dakota boutiques or in our online store.
- Tell your friends and family about Sharing the Dream in Guatemala. Recycle this newsletter by sharing it with someone.
- Volunteer in one of our boutiques or remotely.
- Make a tax-favorable donation directly from your IRA. Talk to your financial advisor for more information and options.

Donations can be sent either via check made out to Sharing the Dream in Guatemala to our Vermillion, SD office or online through our website at www.sharingthedream.org.

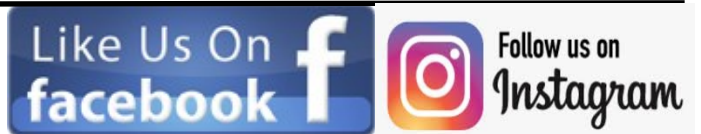
Sharing the Dream in Guatemala

10 W. Main Street
Vermillion, SD 57069

Online Store

Support artisans in Guatemala and get beautiful fair trade products while doing so. Shop our online store at:

www.sharingthedream.org/online-store. We have lots of new products that make great gifts for everyone on your list. As always, these unique items are fair trade and quantities are limited, so don't wait to shop.



Like Sharing the Dream in Guatemala and Sharing the Dream Fair Trade Marketplace– Sioux Falls on Facebook! Follow Sharing the Dream on Instagram



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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.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

