

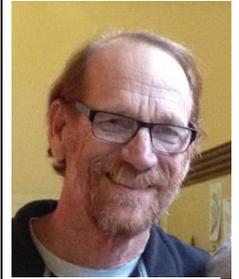


Friends of FORMA

November 2016 Newsletter

Friends of FORMA has been hard at work this year. We have consulted with a lawyer specializing in non-profit organization. We have been busy tying up some loose ends she found. We are confident we are fully compliant with the IRS 501c3 regulations now. Thank you to all the board members for all the hard work.

Speaking of hard work...another school year is coming to a close in Guatemala and our scholarship students have performed admirably. Four students will be finishing their secondary studies, and at least three, and possibly all four, will be attending University next year. Congratulations to Mayra, Lidia, Donis, and Evelyn. Mayra and last year's graduate Juan Antonio, are applying to US colleges. Their English skills are excellent. Good luck to all of them as they continue building their futures.



*President,
Wayne Brown*



From RANDY STEPHENSON, NEW BOARD MEMBER

I am a retired public school teacher who has teaching experiences at all levels from elementary to high school. Currently, I am teaching English as a second language to adults at the Latin-American Association in Atlanta. I have traveled to Mexico, Panama and Ecuador over the past few years, but it was in Guatemala where I felt such a strong connection to the people. During the past two years, I had the opportunity to study Spanish there as well as to serve as a volunteer teacher in two primary schools. I also worked directly with some of the Friends of FORMA scholarship students who come to the Jabel Tinamit Spanish School to learn English among other things. My experiences in Guatemala have enabled me to understand the educational and nutritional needs of the youth in Guatemala.

HELPING CHANGE LIVES by Craig Orr

"I hope that you will see my abilities and trust in me that I can help change people's lives and that they can see me as their inspiration and follow my steps. Together we can make a big change." This quote is from Mayra, one of the graduating high school students in the scholarship program we support. Mayra and Juan are shown in the adjacent photographs tutoring younger scholarship students in the program.

Service to others in their community is one of the tenets of the scholarship program. Mayra and other scholarship students mentor and tutor the middle school students as well as tutor elementary school students in their communities in a structured Saturday supplemental school program.

In my annual visits to Guatemala I have witnessed how Mayra and other scholarship students are changing the lives of people in their communities. They are role models and an inspiration to others.

Thank you for your support of Friends of FORMA!



Introducing Two New Junior High Scholarship Students:



NAYELY ROSA LINDA

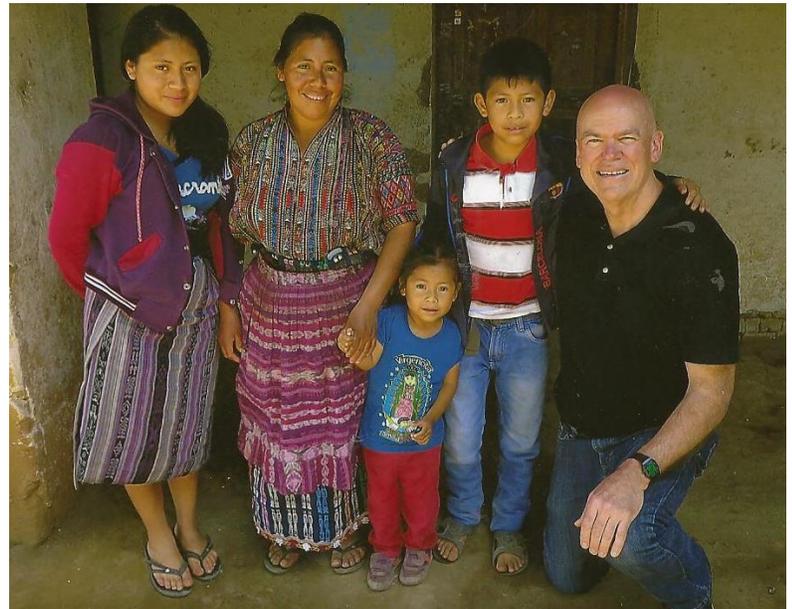
Nayely, 13 years old, is the oldest of three sisters. Her mother takes care of the home and sells specialty breads to support the family in several nearby towns. Her mother is illiterate because she lacked the opportunity to attend school and wants her daughter to continue her studies. Her husband abandoned the family. She is in her first year of junior high and attends afternoon classes. She hopes to be a doctor and be able to help people in her community and help support her family. She is a friendly, intelligent, respectful and enthusiastic young lady who is ready to learn. With great optimism, Nayely wants to set an example and be the pride of her family.



ANGELA CAROLINA

Angela, 14 years old, is the daughter of a farmer and housewife, who is a weaver. Angela is the oldest sister of 3 sisters and 2 brothers. Presently she is in the second year of junior high and attends afternoon classes. She is very intelligent, hard working and determined. Her dream is to be a veterinarian. She likes very much to help street animals such as cats and dogs. Angela helps her mom in the home, caring for the chickens and shelling beans to prepare them for selling. She also helps her siblings with their homework. Angela wants to be an example to others that women have the ability to reach their goals for her family and her community.

This past July, Randy Stephenson returned to Guatemala and spent ten days volunteering with the Friends of FORMA program in the Panajachel area. He was able to teach English to children in two primary schools in the area as well as tutor some of the scholarship recipients who come to the Jabel Tinamit Spanish School on Saturdays for extra help with English and their studies. He visited the homes of some of the scholarship students the last two years. This has been an eye-opening experience in that he was able to witness firsthand the impoverished conditions in which these students are living and the tremendous need for assistance that exists. One of the highlights for Randy was visiting the home of the student he sponsors and meeting some of his family. Randy is extremely grateful that he has the opportunity to serve on the board and to contribute to the betterment of the lives of children in Guatemala.



Randy Stephenson and Oliver and His Family

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