

Friendly Confines



Delivering Shoes to Guatemala

Jon and Barb Brightman

While at our summer mooring at Mario's Marino at Izabel Guatemala, we visited a school in the near by town of Esmeralda, populated for the most part by Mayan Indians

We asked the principal, Cilda, what her needs were. She answered, school supplies, and children's shoes



Shoes cost almost as much as they do in the U.S.

\$30 can represent two to three days of a typical wage in Guatemala



Barb loads up suitcases with over 100 pairs of shoes

Well word got out.

First the night watchman brought his grandson; his boy told a friend on a bike.



Who must have told these kids. We were planning to deliver the shoes to the school. But how could we resist these guys?



These children seem happy with their new shoes, though a little unsure. That didn't stop the news from traveling fast



Less than 30 minutes later we had our hands full. Notice the little guy in the middle wearing boots. He knows a soft touch when he sees one. Guess who he was eyeing?



Barb thought he needed some help.

Yea...right. He had her wrapped right around his finger



Maybe there is another pair



He does like having his picture taken

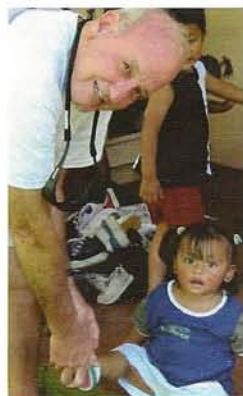


Here red shirt is getting lessons about tying his new shoes

Still more people arrived.

This child brought her daughter.

It's so sad. They start having children so young



Everybody got into the spirit of things



This is one of the after pictures. Don't let the red shirt guy fool you. He's ecstatic



This brother and sister seemed happy



You can't please all the people all the time



We had to fight the urge not to just pick one of these children up and bring them home



Maybe the boys want to show that they're tough guys. What's the big deal with new shoes?

But their mother is pleased



Even the big kids showed up

You can Help

A little goes a long way in Guatemala. Barb's parents and their friends contributed shoes. We visited thrift shops in Chicago. Used children's shoes run from \$.75 to \$1.50. For less than \$100 we brought 130+ shoes to this village. Other than flip-flops, many now wore shoes for the first time.

We are providing scholarships, food, school supplies and glasses to this community.



When we have so much, it's hard not to help

If you would like to support our efforts, please send a tax deductible donation to:

*Izabal Project
LifeNets
3707 Turfway Court
P.O.Box 88165
Induanapolis, In
46208*