

Friendly Confines



Shoes-Glasses-Scholarships for Guatemala

Jon and Barb

Our return to Izabal Guatemala in the fall of 2004 was awaited by our local friends. Our friend Mitch, the only American in the village was asked, "When are the Gringos with the shoes coming back?"

Word got out and this was the crowd waiting for us in the village. 120 shoes were not enough!



Needless to say we were somewhat overwhelmed

We were not able to provide a pair for everyone, but occasionally a boy or girl would come over to thank us, and the Methodist Church of Baraboo for their shoe drive.



We have to admit that before we took the shoes to the village, an occasional visitor to our boat would ask for shoes.

Could you have said "Wait till we deliver them to the town?"



This trip we also collected and delivered glasses. This lady after, after trying on many and peering out the window, selected a -5.00 strength. How could she have seen at all before this?



We are not sure, but we think that some of the visitors to our glass clinic thought that glasses were "chic" and were out to make a fashion statement. What do you think?



This year, like last year, we are focusing our efforts on school and educational initiatives. The local school does operate, though conditions are crude.



Cilda, above, is both teacher and principal. All families must pay 10Q a month for their children to attend the school.



10Q translates to \$1.20. So for \$12.00 we agreed to send this family to elementary school for a year. We supported nine families for the school year.



We were so pleased to return this fall and have Sorayda present her report card for her first year of Basico. Seven "A's." We gave her a propina of 10Q for each A and agreed to pay for her second year.



Mitch asked us to interview Maria and her father. Maria wants to attend Basico as well. Basico is equivalent of high school. The cost is about \$400 per year.



This is Maria after we said OK.

You can Help

We would like to give you the opportunity to help in our modest projects in Guatemala. When we return in January 2005, we will be bringing back duffle bags containing 150 or more shoes.

Our two scholarships run about \$800 per year, so far. We also sponsor Spanish tutoring, school supplies, tuition assistance and medical supplies. Our commitment is about \$2500/ annum.

To those of you who have contributed our sincerest thanks. As you can see, a little goes a long way.



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
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46208*