

Mission of Love Missions for 2019

April 24 Yucatán México Begin to build a traditional eco Maya school and clinic.

May 29 - Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, S. D. furnish foster care home, furnish and build addition to Lakota Girls school. Send 53 ft trailer with building, school and aid supplies.

July: Guatemala - meet C 17 plane via the Department of Defense Denton Program to offload and load humanitarian aid, corn, bus for transportation to Tecpán for distribution.

August : Honduras sending humanitarian aid to the Norma Love Foundation, Indigenous Mosquitia Indians via 40 foot container.

September 11 Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, S.D. To secure Homes for the Indigenous Lakota elders.

Guatemala ~ Metropolitan Hospital Guatemala October - 35 surgeries planned for facial deformities for the disfigured Maya Children.



Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote,

The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.” Going in to my first ever trip to Guatemala I was not necessarily in the best place in my life. I was forced to withdraw from college four months prior for personal reasons and to be completely honest, viewed the world as a terrible place. I felt sorry for myself. I needed something, anything, that would allow me to feel some sort of happiness again. It truly is amazing how mysteriously God works, how he puts you in certain situations, and gives you certain challenges right before he drastically changes you for the better. The mission trip to Guatemala in March of 2018 was one of those certain situations for me.

Servant leadership has such an arbitrary definition, simply because there are so many different types and styles of servant leadership. Upon arriving in Guatemala City I was nervous, I had no idea what to expect, and I was completely out of my element. That changed pretty quick. If any of you know Kathy Price, you probably already know that she has such an unbelievably welcoming presence. She constantly goes out of her way to make sure everyone feels comfortable and is happy before herself. She will never judge you or make you feel anything less than appreciated. She is the closest illustration to what servant leadership is, and what it should be.

Throughout my week in Guatemala, I was trying to embody some of the ideals and qualities that I saw in Kathy. I remember carrying 20 pound bags of corn that were given to feed hundreds of families. In that moment, I was not thinking about complaining about the strenuous work, but I was thinking about how I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to help those in need. When helping the families in Guatemala, it was never about me. It was about giving families the resources they so desperately needed. Not only did I help the families get the food that they needed, but I was also able to build relationships with some of the Guatemalan children. I remember being at an orphanage that was run by nuns. I felt a huge connection with some of the little boys from the orphanage, as they did not have any male figures in their life. While I was playing with them, I could tell how excited they were to have my father and I there with them. Spending time with these children is where I felt most present on this trip. I felt truly happy being there with them, and that was a feeling I had not felt in a very long time. This trip was one that I will remember and talk about for many years to come, as it served as a turning point in my life. I left Guatemala with an entirely new perspective and the people around me. When bad things happen, it is so easy to think the absolute worst, and get stuck in this cloud of negativity. The perspective I gained from this trip now allows me to take a step back to see the bigger picture. I am now able to live a more grateful life, a more present life, and a more meaningful life. For this trip and opportunity, I am forever changed and forever grateful. For anyone thinking about going on a mission trip like this, I can assure that you will not regret it. I am so thankful for Kathy and the Mission of Love Organization for allowing me to join them on this absolutely life-changing trip to Guatemala. ~ Joey Pavlou

Our Mission of LOVE Foundation (since 1989) is a non-profit 5013C organization consisting of ALL volunteers. We provide humanitarian aid to those in need worldwide and focus on providing basic human rights to the children who have none. We are backed by individuals, groups, local businesses, and the United States Military Denton Program. Our Mission of LOVE is the largest user of the Denton Program in the world. We have distributed millions of pounds of AID, via planes, trucks and containers throughout five continents of our world including our Native American Friends on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota and survivors of Natural Disasters in our country including victims of hurricane Katrina, LA. Once our AID arrives, Mission of LOVE volunteers, both young and old, from all walks of life, are there to utilize the AID by building orphanages, schools, clinics, hospices, and homes while administering surgeries, cleft palate surgeries and giving medical treatment to the sick and those who are deformed since birth.

LOVE is patient and kind, LOVE is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. LOVE bears ALL things, believes ALL things, endures ALL things.

Mission of Love Foundation
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Kathleen Price, Founder/Director
330.793.2388



Every \$1.00 donated to Mission of Love generates \$122.00 worth of goods & services: Because WE are ALL volunteers



Mission of Love Good News



“You are not here to save the world, but to touch the hands that are within your reach.”

Catch the Spirit of Good News!

FELLOWS IN ACTION MISSIONS OF LOVE IN GUATEMALA

December 20, 2018/PUBLISHED

Dr. Rick Scheetz is an oral and maxillofacial surgeon who has been a Fellow of the International College of Dentists for twenty years. About seven years ago he was asked by Kathleen Price, a woman from his hometown of Youngstown, Ohio, to help provide care for the extremely poor indigenous people of Guatemala. She had already sought help from the US Government and had become the largest user of the DENTON program in the United States. This program delivers excess goods, humanitarian aid, materials, and gifts collected by charitable organizations to poorer countries while training US military pilots to fly large transport aircraft.

Rick's brother, Chuck was in the medical industry and had been helping Kathy Price obtain surplus goods. It was through Chuck that Rick Scheetz was recruited. Over the years they have flown tons of grains, clothes, supplies, medical equipment, wheel chairs, building materials and even a couple of buses, ambulances, and fire trucks using this federal program.

Kathy Price was dedicated, tireless and persistent, and was supported by her attorney husband Bob quietly in the background. At the beginning, they had a plastic surgeon who worked primarily repairing cleft lips and palates. When Rick joined the Mission of Love team he brought with him significant experience in bone grafting, nasal surgery, maxillofacial surgery, tooth removal and anesthesia. The plastic surgeon eventually left and Rick was able to recruit two exceptional oral and maxillofacial surgeons: Dr. Carlos Ugalde, who was fellowship trained in craniofacial surgery and practices in Portland Oregon, and; Dr. Guillermo Chacon who was the program director and Acting Chairman of the Ohio State University Department of OMFS, and now a private practitioner in Tacoma Washington..

Over time, many other volunteers have given their time including Rick's wife, Cindy who is an RN, his surgical assistant and officer manager, Joyce, his son Derek, a surgical assistant, his niece, Kristin who is a speech pathologist, her husband, Shannon, an ex-Army helicopter pilot, Joyce's daughter, Lindsay, an OB-GYN nurse who has a child with a cleft palate, Don Pavlov as a translator, and his dentist brother, Bruce Pavlov. Also volunteering were Dr. Chacon's wife, Molly (from Youngstown), his surgical assistant, Dakota Williams, Chuck Sheetz, and Rick's high school friend, Kurt Zabel. Chuck and Kurt are chief procurement officers and facilitators in Youngstown, and on the site, at the hospital in Guatemala, they were able to utilize their great negotiating skills. Dr. Rick Kapitan joined the group on one trip. Dr. Todd Bolotin, an emergency room physician and translator was on several trips. Drs. Chacon and Ugalde were godsenders as they are both phenomenal surgeons.

The hospital in which they work is a former three-story hardware store in Guatemala City run by a bright, charitable, energetic and skilled general surgeon. Dr. Edgar Moran can perform almost any surgery imaginable with the assistance of his surgeon brother, Edwin. Others doctors at the hospital were Dr. Frinee “Numero Uno” (a hospitalist), Dr. Bayron (an anesthesiologist), Dr. Frinee “Numero Dos” (an anesthesiologist), and other physicians. The people of Guatemala made the volunteers feel most welcome and they were served delicious lunches every day in the hospital cafeteria.

As the hospital has no elevators, surgery is performed on the first floor and post-operative patients are wheeled up a ramp to the second floor. On the third floor is the cafeteria, doctors' offices, and an open air laundry. The wash was done by hand and hung to dry until the Mission of Love provided a washer and dryer.

Dr. Scheetz and his fellow surgeons have provided evaluations, multiple and varying surgeries as simple as removal of grossly abscessed primary teeth to repair of cleft lips, cleft palates, alveolar cleft bone grafts, and cleft rhinoplasties.

(Continued on page 2)



Written by Our Mission of Love Volunteers • Winter • 2018



FELLOWS IN ACTION MISSIONS OF LOVE IN GUATEMALA (Continued from page 1)

In addition, they have performed complex orthognathic surgeries with limited equipment, and complex craniofacial surgeries including reconstruction of an entire hard and soft palate on a woman who had had the removal of both for cancer, treatment of a 5-year-old boy who had to be fed with an eye dropper due to severe ankyloses of his temporomandibular joints, and orthogna-thic surgery on a twenty-year-old woman subsequent to involved orthodontic treatment.

The children and their parents, especially those parents of the cleft children, are grateful beyond belief and very stoic. When asked about pain on days following surgery, even after taking bone from their hip to reconstruct maxillary alveolar clefts, al-most all would respond “No dolor”, meaning “No pain.” Once, after Rick finished a simple surgery, the interpreter, Dr. Bolotin, told the boy’s mother what he had done, and she responded to him for two minutes in Spanish. Dr. Scheetz later asked what she had said. Dr. Bolotin replied, “If I tell you what she told me, I will start crying.” These poor Guatemalan people are so very appreciative as they rarely receive the care they need.

The Mission of Love Foundation also has an orphanage, clinic, school for disabled children, a rehabilitation clinic for elders in Tecpan, Guatemala. Additionally, they run a home called the “House of God”, which is similar to a Ronald McDonald House serving children with cancer.

There are so many other things Dr. Scheetz remembered: visits to an orphanage run by nuns; a petting zoo run by Dr. Moran for local kids; parties, out in the country; climbing a semi-active volcano and roasting marshmallows in the hot vents; nearly the entire team contracting salmonellosis at a popular fried chicken place; meeting the attorney general of Guatemala who presented the Mission of Love team with certificates; and, most of all, the feeling they all experienced from the opportu-nity of helping these people in simple ways, and their extreme appreciation. To read more about the Mission of Love see www.missionoflove.org.

A very nice cleft lip repair by Dr. Carlos Ugalde under difficult circumstances, forever improving her life.



(L to R): Chuck Scheetz chief procurement officer and negotiator, Joyce Rush surgical scrub and the person who makes the surgeries happen, and Dr. Rick Scheetz.



Guatemalan general surgeon brothers Dr. Edgar (left) and Dr. Edwin (right) Moran, great surgeons and phenomenal



Nearly the entire team one year at the “Hospital Metropolitan” including Mission of Love director Kathy Price, the sponsor of these trips.

A MESSAGE FROM KATHY PRICE - Mission of Love Founder/Director 1989 (Continued from page 18)

was purchased for \$ 1200. Medical and school supplies and furnishings were purchased via auctions. I was able to hire help to load, unload, pallatize and pick up humanitarian aid for our International Mission of Love. Our move to another building is being made possible because of you.

Astrid Choc Cacao is our administrator of our GRANDmothers Home in Tecpán, Guatemala. None of this humanitarian labor of love could be done without Astrid in Guatemala. Astrid directs the Mission of Love orphanage, clinic, school, rehab therapy clinic, organizes the Denton airlifts, medical journeys, distributes to the most needy the humanitarian aid, and so loves her Maya community in need of basic human rights.

The above includes just some of the hands and hearts that you have touched in 2018. Know that every day in every way I work to make our God’s Mission of Love a success. I want you to know, none of these acts of mercy could not have been accomplished without you. You have given me the resources and strength to continue on for our Mission of Love’s thirty first year. Thank you is just not enough when wanting to say just how much I and the poorest of the poor appreciate your generosity in contributing to our God’s Mission of Love. Thank you for believing, trusting and donating to our Mission of Love. Please continue to allow us to service the poorest of the poor via your donations in 2019.

I hope that you enjoy the stories in our Mission of Love yearly newsletter. The volunteers words are filled with inspiration, hope, compassion and love.

With love and gratitude,
Kathy

HONDURAS

Dear Kathleen,

Thank you so much for your great interest in helping the children and families from La Mosquitia, Honduras.

I remember Hurricane Mitch, we were so desperate in La Mosquitia. There was no food for the children, hundreds of families were without homes. We were so isolated, and didn’t know what to expect from Mother Nature.

But, like usually God doesn’t forget HIS children and suddenly a big Hercules plane from the United States of America landed in the Quinto Batallion, the plane was sent by Kathy Price, Mission of Love to the Norma I Love Foundation. The plane was full of food, medicines, first aids, etc. You, Kathy was our Guardian Angel. Do you think you can send another Den-ton, Department of Defense Air Force plane to La Mosquitia, Honduras, the same as you do Guatemala? It would be wonderful! We need school supplies, medicines, toiletries, peanut butter for malnutrition, baby diapers, wheel chairs, blankets, linens, mattresses, school desks, etc.

I will pray with all my heart that whatever happens will be in our Gods hands and your Mis-sion of Love Organizations hands.

Sometimes I feel so alone, trying to help, but God never forgets about me or the indigenous families. I love you my dear Guardian Angel!

Always,
Norma Love

SOUTH DAKOTA

Anpo Wichapi Owayawa
Pine Ridge Girls School
2237 BIA 27
Porcupine, SD 57772

Dear Ms. Kathleen Price,

We here at the Anpo Wichapi Owayawa thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your willingness to help our school and students. We currently have 30 students en-rolled in the school.

Our mission statement is as follows...Through an academically rigorous pro-gram grounded in Lakota culture, language, and values, the Pine Ridge Girls School aims to empower the young women of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation by fostering self-respect, a love of learning, and leadership qualities to help them serve and shape their world.

Once again, we here at Anpo Wichapi Owayawa offer you our upmost humble wo-pila tanka (immeasurable gratitude) and we appreciate your interest in the success and wellbeing of our young ladies. We have made wish list for you for our Apo Wichapi Owayawa Pine Ridge Girls School.

Sincerely,
Ta Ounye Luta Win – Cindy Giago
Head of School

MEXICO

Dear members of the Mission of Love,

For thirty years Mrs. Kathleen Price has been a huge support for us in the communities of Espita and Xualtez, collaborating in a wide spectrum with the needs of the poorest of the area.

Help that has included a school bus, essential for the transfer of Mayan children to school, medical support and support for deaf children with problems of various abilities between many others., building a clinic and sending a ambulance. Today I want to inform you of the work we are trying to do at Casa Maya, in Espita Yucatan, as a cultural and training center for young people, housewives, single mothers and young people.

Because the Mayan house is not finished, we have worked on the project in different places, not always suitable for the development of workshops, like the one we recently made in Nacuché, where we did not have the infrastructure, nor the furniture to give the workshop Optimally, even so, the girls were encouraged to recover the ancestral tradition of embroi-dery.

There is talk that love is a verb and not a noun, and in that sense Kathleen has been a great example for all of us of love as a verb, of love that sacrifices itself to reach these distant communities, in many cases dispossessed of the most indispensable . We have no way of paying her the enormous effort he makes to get here, this lost corner of the map of Yucat-an, and its small communities, but we know that God sees it and we believe that the reward for Kathleen will come from His hand.

Today we are once again asking you that she might come to Yucatan, to come back to sup-port us so that the Mission of Love does not stop, because there are so many needs and shortcomings. Only someone like Kathleen and her team can help us move forward.

With all my gratitude.
Mrs. María Raquel Cocomo Xuluc.
Mr: Juan Osorio Chan



A MESSAGE FROM KATHY PRICE - Mission of Love Founder/Director 1989

Dear Mission of Love Friends,

There are not enough words, photos or speaking engagements that can describe our Mission of Love to the extent of what our non profit humanitarian organization is. Know that we are not here to save the world but in this world to touch the hands and hearts that are within our reach. I would like to share with you some of the accomplishments that we have done in the last year.

Thousands of Maya and Lakota indigenous Families have been touched by receiving our humanitarian aid via containers, trucks, and the United States Department of Defense Denton Program C 17 cargo planes. Clinics, homes, and schools were built because of you.

Saint Francis of Assisi Hospital, Tecpan Guatemala has been furnished and supplied with a Lane ambulance from my hometown. The hospital will open in a few months to service one million indigenous Maya Indians because of a dream of Francisco Nistal. 30,000 pounds of corn was donated from Lutz Farms Warren, Ohio and flown to Guatemala City via the Denton Program and placed into the hands of the starving. No photos or words can truly express the gratitude that the people have while receiving a bag of corn from Ohio. Water systems and pumps were placed in Maya schools. The disabled children now have a physical therapist treating them. Because of you, disabled children, children with Down syndrome, and children who are blind now have a school to attend, while not being recognized in the main stream school system in Guatemala. Homeless and abused grandparents now have a safe and secure home to live in. Andres, Julio, Roberto, Laura, Elsa, Mauricio, Leonel, a family of seven have been securely housed, kept together, thriving and receiving a education. Just two years ago I met them while walking the streets of Tecpan, Guatemala. They were all together, hungry, shoeless, and homeless, not attending school because their parents had both died because of cancer. It has been two years since I have rented a home in Tecpan, Guatemala for this homeless family. No words can express the gratitude that these children have to you for securing a home, staying together, obtaining a education and sharing our love with them. We have the homeless grandmothers and the homeless children taking care of each other in our Maya Mission of Love GRANDmothers home. A fire truck from my hometown, Austintown, Ohio was flown via the United States Department of Defense Denton Program and given to the volunteer fire department of Tecpan, Guatemala. This is their first pumper Fire truck in the area. The firemen had a parade around town to celebrate its new fire truck. Again there are no words for the appreciation of this emergency vehicle to service the Tecpan communities. The Maya elderly have been taken care of because of you with food, humanitarian aid and stipends monthly. The cancer children of The “ House of God “ have been given food, medicines, humanitarian aid, clothes, and toys. 530 Maya patients were given eye exams and glasses and evaluated for hearing loss and given hearing aids. Hundreds of volunteer firemen were given fire gear, boots and helmets who had none. Guatemala communities that were devastated from the Fire Volcano were serviced via our Mission of love medical team and given food and humanitarian aid. Donated comfort quilts were distributed amongst the fire fighter widows and fire crew who aided in the volcano’s deadly eruption. Surgeries were planned and done by Doctor Edgar Moran for those in need. Volcano widows were given the opportunity to make blankets and clothes with the material and sewing machines that we have sent for the orphans and elderly. Hundreds of wheelchairs, walkers and canes were distributed to those who had none and are disabled. We secured a home for a young family of seven whose mother died from cancer. The baby was only three months old. They had to sell their home in order to pay for her cancer treatment only for her to die a few months later. The family was homeless and we bought the home back and legally placed the home into the surviving children’s name, so that they will always have a home. A home was built for a young girl, Vilma who is paralyzed from the neck down, due to some unknown disease transmitted by a bug at the age of nine. Prior to us building her home, Vilma and the family of ten lived in a one room hut. Vilma now has a home, legally placed in her name, and a reclining \$ 4,000 wheelchair stroller that was donated so that her mother does not have to carry her on her shoulders in order to go outside. A young boy with a massive tumor on his neck was transported for six hours via our Mission of Love ambulance to Guatemala City to be evaluated by the cancer doctors and admitted to the Guatemalan hospital to receive his first evaluation and treatment. We donated eight newborn baby incubators and warmers that were distributed to Guatemala and Dominica hospitals where life saving baby equipment does not exist. These donations came out of a Erie Pa. Hospital pediatric ward.

Two forty foot containers left our Mission of Love warehouse, Ravena Ohio with hospital, school materials and humanitarian aid to Guatemala. A forty foot container arrived in Dominica to service the hurricane victims. The humanitarian aid included building materials to replace the orphanages that were destroyed and supply the hospitals with supplies that were lost, educational and humanitarian aid. Four C17 Mission of Love Denton planes / airlifts took place containing over 200,000 pounds of humanitarian aid.

Orphanages have been given food, milk, diapers and furnishings.

Native Americans in South Dakota were given humanitarian aid, heat and food because of you.

Know that I do not have a secretary, office, new car, warehouse workers, maid, or staff to maintain our God’s Mission of Love. Every dollar that is donated generates \$ 122.00 worth of goods and services because Mission of Love consists of ALL VOLUNTEERS.

Because of you our contract for our Mission of Love was renewed via the Corp of Engineers, for \$ 2500 for five years. A seventy two seat school bus

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Mission of Love ~ Juan Manuel Socop ~ Tecpán Guatemala

We started another mission, together with the team of volunteers and directed by our founder Kathy Price. As always with many activities to be done, the two most shocking were the medical days aimed at two populations affected by the eruption of the volcano of fire.

We went the first day of the day to the Yucal community in the department of Escuintla, about 3 hours from Tecpan. Starting at 4:30 a.m. some loading the vehicles, others organizing food and others making a plan to provide care to the needy. We arrived to the community, where the residents were waiting for us, because according to some neighbors, they had not received any kind of help before us.

At the start of the day, we held a small meeting to clarify the way of working, but more than that, to make a small break in our lives and to realize the situation that many of our Guatemalan brothers are going through. With a prayer, we began our medical day, where children, young people and adults were attended who in one way or another were affected by natural disasters.

For day number two, we mobilized with the entire team of volunteers to a community called Osuna, very close to the disaster area, starting our activities again very early in the morning with that emotion but at the same time uncertainty because we did not know with what we were going to find, maybe some strange disease, or children suffering from skin problems due to the fall of ash, respiratory problems, in short, we were willing to support what we could. In both places we had the blessing of being able to share food, clothes, toys and medicines, we did not need any kind of payment or words, the smile that was drawn on each patient’s face was enough.

When arriving at these communities it was incredible to see so much need, personally I found it very sad that in both communities the common denominator was Diabetes (DM) and arterial hypertension (HBP). And especially when they are relatively young people, many of them without knowing that they are a kind of time bomb because they simply do not know their condition and, of course, they do not know about a suitable treatment. I find it very sad that at this point in life, there are people who can not handle a disease such as DM and HTA, these are precursors of other complications that can condemn them to a disability or reduce their productive capacity and decrease more to a quality of life. But this is where the mission of love work in Guatemala takes on a very important role, because we could have sown a seed of change in people, since it took the necessary time to be able to talk with each patient and explain what to do to improve your health. As health professionals in Guatemala, we are often pressured to attend large numbers of patients, without having the opportunity to adequately attend to each one. However in our mission is a very important point, the care of each patient, since they are our priority. Empathy is a value that our founder day by day instills in each of us as volunteers, and it is something that I appreciate because many times we need to be more human than doctors, physiotherapists or nurses.

There is no doubt that day by day we learn something different, but learning is deeper when one is an active part of the procedure, we have a lot to do for people in need and here we will be doing our best, because as Kathy has taught me, we are to touch the hands that are around us.



Juan Socop and Kathy Price



Mission of Love Guatamala Volcano Volunteers

MEXICO MISSION OF LOVE - Erin Keich

As I sit back and reflect on my experience in Guatemala and Mexico I struggle to admit that my mom was right. As a stubborn, independent 21-year-old this is difficult for me. One of my mom's favorite sayings is, "If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you". Typically I roll my eyes and continue to complain about whatever petty college event is making my life difficult, but this time I understand what that saying really means.

Over this past winter break I had the opportunity to travel with the Mission of Love to Espita, Mexico and Tec Pan, Guatemala over the course of ten days. I had been working with a club on campus to develop online website for a family in Espita so that they could sell their handmade Mayan hammocks in the U.S. I was eager to meet Juan, who would oversee the online store. I had all my research laid out, logos carefully designed, and a set agenda filled with numbers, prices, and carefully calculated statistics. I was all business and ready to explain the logistics of running an online store.

Well, my mom was right again with another one of her old sayings, "Always have a plan and never plan on sticking to it". I had this great, elaborate plan laid out, and while it had merit, the way the trip actually went was a lot more fun. I met with Juan and Raquel (the unofficial town leader of Espita) and laid out my business plan along with the help of a translator and my first ever "international business meeting" went well. Once we finished with all of the official business the real fun started.

We visited Juan's house so I could take some pictures for the website where we were greeted by dozens of children and members of Juan's family. The little girls were fascinated by my blue eyes, fair skin, and "blonde" hair (I have medium brown hair). After being presented with beautiful flowers, a handmade gift, and dozens of smiles, we distributed the school materials and other supplies that the community needed and headed back towards Cancun, where we needed to catch our flight to Guatemala the next morning.

Mexico was fun, but Guatemala was a whole different trip. They share a similar culture and the same language, but the towering mountains and the smoking volcanoes of Guatemala will always have my heart. By the time we reached Tec Pan, Guatemala I became more confident in my Spanish skills and began conversing with Juan and Raquel who had traveled with us to Guatemala. I also made friends with the people that I will simply refer to as "the group". This group was one of the most diverse groups of people that I ever met, we had a two Mexicans, three Americans, and a whole gang of Guatemalans ranging from translators to physical therapists to a couple of hitch hikers that we just picked up (a little sketchy to me, but normal in their culture).

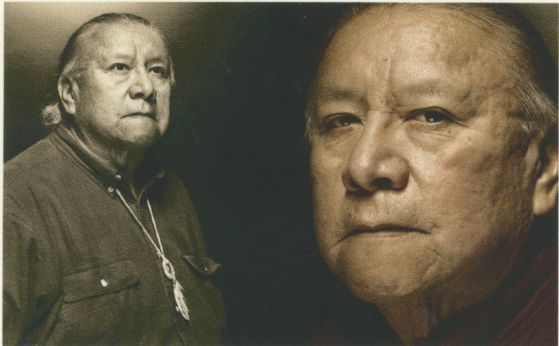
We all traveled around in an old green van that would have been scrapped a long time ago by American standards and we had some adventures in that van. I could rattle on for days about our travels and all what an impact we made in just five short days, but I will mention just a few instances that really stood out to me.

While we were in Tec Pan, one of our projects was helping to dig a well for a school that would service over 400 people. We visited to school daily and distributed school supplies and bought materials for the well and I always had so much fun talking to the little girls in my broken Spanish. One girl caught my eye the first day and she was as cute as could be with a pair of dirty, but bright blue sweatpants that were tattered at the hem. On the first day, we made small talk and then she ran along to play with her friends. The next day she was excited to see me again and I played with her for some time, the only thing that I found strange was that she was wearing the same pair of beat up old sweat pants. I was thinking that she must really be fond of those pants, why else would she wear the same pair of dirty pants two days in a row? By the third day of her wearing the same pair of sweat-pants it finally clicked, she did not have any other clothes to wear. I felt so stupid and slightly ashamed that it took me so long to realize that she only had one pair of pants to wear. I wanted to take that sweet little girl straight to JCPenny and buy her a whole new wardrobe and watch her eyes light up as she tried on brand new clothing. Instead I watched her smile as we handed her a new set of school supplies and gave her the promise of clean, safe drinking water.

Another instance occurred early in the morning, right around 6:30 am. I was lucky enough to form a friendship with the physi-



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Wanbli Win!
THANK YOU! Kathleen Price

I want to personally thank you for your generous contribution to provide an opportunity for the Lakota language to be successfully transmitted to future generations. The endeavors of this project has a long history.

The Treaty of 1868, had been signed by Chief Big Foot, and his father, Chief One Horn, and other Lakota leaders, declaring that this territory belonged to the Lakota. The treaty was passed by Congress and signed by the President of the United States. Eight years later, it was broken after gold was discovered in the Black Hills. In 1882, Chief Big Foot, traveled to Washington, DC., along with other Lakota leaders to discuss their concerns brought about from an ever increasing presence of white people coming onto the Lakota territory. At this meeting, Chief Big Foot requested the establishment of a school for their children to learn and understand their ways. In his wise ways, he knew that this would offer a chance of future survival of the people. The government officials agreed to establish such a school, but never took action. Instead, eight years later, he and his people were massacred at the Wounded Knee Creek Massacre on December 29, 1890.

128 years later, this school is about to become a reality, in fulfillment of his vision, by the help of people, like you; and family descendants. But, in contrast, to revitalize and stabilize our language, a beautiful and spiritual-based language from which our children can find their own identity as a people. With a better understanding of their own identity, the losses through assimilation will be stabilized. Revitalization of their culture, and language as taught by their elders of what is important and necessary to live a quality life in two worlds, in the best of both. You have given a great gift in this effort.

With all my respect to you,
Leonard Little Finger
Your heart soars Above All!
April, 2008

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Traci Keller, 60th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs broadcast journalist, shares a moment with a local child after covering the delivery of emergency response vehicles through the Denton Program at La Aurora International Airport, Guatemala City, Guatemala, April 20, 2018. The Denton Program is a Department of Defense transportation program that moves humanitarian cargo, donated by U.S. based Non-Governmental Organizations to developing nations to ease human suffering. The emergency vehicles were donated by the Mission of Love Foundation, they are the largest user of the Denton Program, having delivered medical, relief and humanitarian supplies to needy communities throughout the world. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Master Sgt. Joey Swafford)

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE

When emergencies happen in the U.S., the sirens of fire trucks and ambulances coming to the rescue can be comforting. Thanks to a C-17 Globemaster III crew from Travis Air Force Base, California, indigenous Mayans in Tecpan, Guatemala, will now hear that same sound of hope and help.

The crew made up of Airmen assigned to the 21st Airlift Squadron and the 860th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron delivered the ambulance and fire truck to Guatemala City, Guatemala, April 20, 2018. They were donated by the Mission of Love Foundation and shipped through the Denton Program.

The Denton Program is a Department of Defense transportation program that moves humanitarian cargo, donated by U.S. based non-governmental organizations to developing nations to ease human suffering. The approved cargo is transported by DOD land, air or sea assets on a space-available basis and is managed by the U.S. Department of State and DOD.

“This is the most rewarding part of our jobs to have the opportunity like this where we get to help out those who need it,” said Staff Sgt. J.R. King, 21st Airlift Squadron loadmaster. “Humanitarian cargo like what we are delivering is important. We see vehicles like these every day in the U.S., but for less fortunate countries, they may not have the access or the luxury of having these resources. Missions like these are rewarding and hold a special place in my heart.”

The Mission of Love Foundation has been working in Guatemala for the past 24 years and are the largest user of the Denton Program, having delivered medical equipment, relief and humanitarian supplies to needy communities throughout the world.

“We work on five continents with an all-volunteer force,” said Kathleen Price, Mission of Love Foundation founder and director. “It is truly a mission of love unconditionally, and with that, all things are possible. With a group of volunteers, the Denton Program and the Air Force together are making this possible for those in need. I couldn’t do it alone. I am just a facilitator.”

It was a team effort to deliver the emergency response vehicles, and an important part of that team was the Air Force Reserve Airmen at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio, that helped package and load the vehicles.

“The reservist packaged everything up and helped us load it up to an active duty plane to fly down to Guatemala,” said Maj. Derik Neitz, 21st Airlift Squadron C-17 Globemaster III pilot. “Once in Guatemala, we were met by local entities there and Mission of Love. It has been neat to see all the different organizations work together.”

The emergency response vehicles are not the typical cargo that Travis Airmen deliver, so they came with challenges that the crew worked through.

“A lot of us have flown together before,” said Neitz. “Our enlisted crew is very experienced, and we needed that on this mission, it is an unusual upload with no tie down rings on the vehicles.”

“They say that iron sharpens iron,” said King. “Working with these guys is a good opportunity to help me learn and better myself. A big part of a successful mission is teamwork and trusting each other; our jobs can get hectic. There are always three or four things going on at a time, and you have to trust your teammates that they are going to get the job done.”

A lot of planning has gone into making this mission a success.

“We did all the flight planning ourselves starting two or three months ago,” said Neitz. “We also worked with some 621st Contingency Response Wing Airmen at Travis who helped with the accommodations and networking with people in Guatemala, so we knew who to talk with when we arrived.”

All the planning paid off and the Airmen were able to deliver the emergency response vehicles to a thankful reception in Guatemala.

“I’ve been working on this for a year,” said Price. “Just to know the plane was flying here today with this aid for these beautiful indigenous people made my heart sing. You’re not here to save the world, but you are here to touch the hands within your reach. I appreciate what the Air Force has done here today.”



MEXICO MISSION OF LOVE *(Continued from page 4)*

cal therapist who was traveling with us and he agreed to go running with me in the morning. His name is Juan and he gave me a whole new perspective on Guatemalan culture. He met me at the hotel and we began our run up the mountain so I could get a picture of the sunrise. Now run is a very loose word for what we did, out of breath hike is a better description, but we got to the top of that mountain. The road was a little more than a rocky path barely suitable for horses, but when the sun rose over the volcanoes and illuminated the city of Tec Pan, my heart skipped a beat and I took in the beauty that was before me. Now people talk about sunrises at the beach and the feeling of sand in your toes and that is great and all, but there was something special about that morning and about that sunrise. The whole way back to the hotel, I let flow a stream of questions about the Guatemalan culture and their day to day lives and Juan was patiently listened to my broken Spanish and responded the best he could in his broken English. It was just one of those moments that you never forget.

One of my favorite things about the Guatemalan culture is their kindness. Juan and I would be running down the street and everyone was saying good morning to us. I made a joke about Juan being so popular and he responded that all of those people were strangers and were just being friendly. I was shocked. That would never happen America. Everyone is so focused on their own lives and cannot take a moment to share a smile and wave hello to a stranger. I made a resolution to smile more and greet more people when I was back in Ohio. I upheld this resolution and my friendships are flourishing.

I could go on and on about my experience in Espita and Tec Pan, but the main thing that I want to focus on was the challenge of this trip. I am not talking about the multiple flights or changing time zones, I am referring to how emotionally draining the trip was. Let me explain. Everywhere I looked I was faced with people, same as me and you, living in such extreme poverty and with so little to their name. It was devastating and terrible and made me want to cry, but in the next instance I would encounter a smile and a warm welcome to a homemade meal. We would share laughs and broken Spanish conversations and so many hugs that I lost count. I made so many friends in Guatemala that I truly feel like I left a piece of my heart there. It was all so conflicting. There was this horrible hunger and poverty and families living in little more than scrap metal huts along the side of mountains, but there was also a happiness that seemed to radiate out of everyone there. It was all so terrible and wonderful at the same time.

To echo the wise words of my Momma, this challenge most certainly did change me. I have a greater appreciation of the little things like running water and space heaters and FDA regulations, but I also have a greater appreciation of the little things like a shared smile between friends or a greeting from a complete stranger. I also have a burning desire to return and make a difference in the lives in Tec Pan and Espita. It must run in the family because my grandma (known to most of you as Kathy Price) has a saying as well, “You are not here to save the world, but to touch the hands within your reach”. That is my goal and I will never forget the lives that have touched mine on this trip.



Kathy Price and
Grandchildren
Erin and
Edward Keich



Erin Keich and Juan Socop
taking 1st time photos.



Cancer Children at
the House of God

“Back to the Beginning” Bob Price



So, far, I would have to say that I have lived a very interesting life. I have been married to the most fascinating person that I know for almost half a century, we have raised four beautiful daughters, and those beautiful daughters have blessed us with six special grandchildren.

Besides being a husband, dad and grandpa, I was the first volunteer of the Mission of Love. Since the inception of the MOL I’ve followed Kathy around Mexico and Guatemala for almost two decades. I have walked through the ancient cities of the Maya, slept in buildings erected by the Spanish in the 16th century, climbed a volcano, I have spent weeks in a tropical rainforest, and I have been permitted to stand by surgeons as they remade the faces of children born with facial abnormalities. I have also experienced a hurricane while staying in the Mayan village of Xualtez in the Yucatan Peninsula. Life has been more than interesting, it has been an adventure.

Part of the pleasure of these adventures is being able to share them with people that I love, Kathy, our daughter Bridget, and her two adult children, Edward and Erin. My first trip with MOL was to Xualtez. My latest trip, this past January, was a return to this rustic Mayan village, fifty miles, and

fifty years removed from the modern tourist town of Can Cun. The plan was for our family, Kathy and I and Bridget and her kids, to meet with old friends to try to establish a cottage industry in this small community. When I first travelled there, a young child known as Juanito Chan lived in a small house typical of the homes in the community. It had bare cinderblock walls and a corrugated steel roof. He is now an adult and still lives in that three- room house with his parents and twelve siblings. Mission of Love volunteers had constructed this house for the Chan family many years ago. There were fruit trees, turkeys, chickens and pigs in the yard.

The rooms were multifunctional, and at night each room was converted into a bedroom. The family slept in large Mayan hammocks that they had made by hand at home. These hammocks were made by stretching multi colored threads between two racks about six feet apart. The threads were then hand woven into multi colored works of art, one thread at a time. It is a very time consuming, labor intensive job, that required both patience and skill. There are no looms, only threads stretched between the two racks. Juanito and his older siblings made these hammocks, that could be easily stored away during the day, by simply hanging them from hooks on the walls. These hammocks are so strong and functional that two adults, or several children could sleep in one, like a Mayan kind size bed.

Every time that Kathy traveled to the Yucatan, she would ask the Chans to make her a hammock. She would bring them home to us and our girls and grandkids were the recipients of these hammocks.

This wasn’t the first time that Bridget and the kids had travelled with us. They had all spent time in Guatemala, and they fully appreciated the important work that MOL does. This time Erin had an idea, and we wanted to go to Xualtez to see if there was a possibility that the idea might fly.

Erin is a student at Westminster College, a private liberal arts school in Western Pennsylvania. She has been studying Spanish and international business. She understood things about business, students, and hammocks. Erin appreciated the beauty and functionality of these hammocks, and because they are genuine hand made artifacts produced by indigenous people, she believes that there is a niche market among college students. Getting the product produced and into the hands of the potential consumers was the difficult part.

Erin and fellow students developed a business plan. She had to account for start up costs, communications with her producers who did not speak English, and shipping and importation issues before she could even think about marketing. Most importantly, she had to physically meet the people and understand the process involved in making the hammocks. That is how we all found ourselves in Xualtez this January morning. The plan included helping the Mayans to establish a web presence and to direct market the hand made hammocks to college students. Erin and her friends would get them started and eventually, they would be on their own.

My wife does not travel lightly. We had rented a seven passenger van for only five people for a reason. Before we went to Xualtez, we went shopping. The van was loaded with two grandparents, one daughter, two grand kids, and enough school supplies and sweets for every kid in Xuatez. There were also more than a few soccer balls and other sporting equipment. We also had a mess of “mamoots”, which are Mexican Eskimo Pies. What we didn’t have was a lot of space for five passengers.

You might say that we were expected. When we pulled into Xualtez, the entire Chan clan was waiting. There was also a large contingent of neighbors, mostly of the kid variety.

Juanito and his family invited us into the house. There was a hand painted banner welcoming us. The family served refreshments and the kids sang. Then, came the gifts. My young friend Juanito gave me a Mayan water bottle. It was a dried and hollowed

(Continued on page 7)

FIRST TRIP OF THE YEAR:
Juan Socop Tecpán Guatemala

The year 2019 began well. We finished the first month of 2019 with the visit of our founder Kathy Price to our town, Tecpán, Guatemala.

From the beginning I knew that there were going to be days full of emotions, happiness to be able to share, help the most disadvantaged, sadness to see so much need, and a great feeling of thanks for being part of the mission.

In Santa Apolonia there is an orphanage that is home to more than 40 children. It is a place where you always have good experiences and you can share with the children who live there. For this occasion, we wanted to do something different for the children.



We left early that morning for the open air municipal market. We shopped from merchant to merchant, and were soon able to find a lot the supplies that we needed, as well as the groceries so that we could cook the favorite foods of American children, Sloppy Joes for Guatemalan children.

We arrived at the orphanage in time for dinner. Seeing so many smiles and happiness because of our visit simply makes you appreciate the true value of small things. As always it was very nice to have that night of partying.

On our second day, I had the opportunity to meet a whole family of blind people. Again a quite strong experience. As I said at the beginning, somehow I knew that it would be like that, but the experiences that we lived surpass my expectations. While we were visiting with the family, they told us that one more member was starting with visual problems and that he needed a laser surgery urgently. Without thinking twice, the processes were initiated, so that the profesionales in the región could begin to assist this young person.

Personally, I take these missions as a lesson in my life. Sometimes we complain about insignificant things, but when I see cases like the family of the blind, it makes me feel that I have no right to, and although at the end of the day my face says that I dont want more, my heart and my mind are filled with many positive things.

On Saturday we traveled to visit two special cases, the first in a community that is 35 minutes from Tecpan. We arrived a little dusty, but very happy to be in the community and see Don Juan. In Guatemala we use the saying “necessity obligates” is an example of that. Because of an accident, he suffered an incomplete spinal cord injury, so now he is confined to a wheelchair. Even though his legs done’t move, he still has the drive and determination to invent his own tools that he operates by remote control as well as his own shower system. Don Juan uses his mind to créate ways to work to provide fo his family. He is such an example of perserverance.

Our second visit of the day was with Don Edgar, a person also with spinal cord injury. His case case was somewhat different. Due to the lack of mobility that he had been developing pressure sores for more than a year. After being evaluated, It was determined that a more aggressive treatment was necessary, since the only thing that his family did for him was to clean it and place an antibiotic. Don Edgar was evaluated and treated by Dr. Edgar Moran, who ruled out complications such as infections, and ordered appropriate treatment.

The next day, I had planned to spend a fun day with the children of Mission of Love GRANDmothers Home, and other special guests. We shared a lunch and games together with them and enjoyed a nice day at the farm Way-bi, but our plans changed that evening.

Since the first day, we had been anticipating the arrival of the two 40 foot shipping containers that Mission of Love had sent from the United States. At long last, it finally arrived.

There was work to be done. Now that the container was here, it had to be unloaded. It was cold and rainy, but we oganized ourselves into crews and got the job done. Everything was moved by hand, and it was incredible to see how good hearted people worked together.

In the middle of our long night, around 11 pm we had the first break. Then we entered the second container to start downloading. Without thinking, I asked a question aloud, “what are you doing in Guatemala, at 11 o’clock night, with cold and rain in the middle of a lot of people unloading a container?” - At first there was a spontaneous laugh, but, in the end Kathy answered me. She said that “IT IS THE WORK OF GOD.” We finished our work around 2:30 in the morning and although tired, we returned home very happy to see that very soon we will have a hospital that will help our town, and school furnished for the children, and humanitarian aid for the poorest of the poor.

Thank you again for all your work, Kathy and also for your teachings. God bless you.

GUATEMALA WAS AN EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER...

(Continued from page 13)

changed my perspective on life. Such as, when Firefighters took us to a devastated site, it looked as if I was on a movie set. The damage that was caused, words can not express the images that are burned into my memory. The people and land will forever be changed. Those who had so little, now have even less. You can't even begin to imagine until you have stood among them.



Life is so much more than what we are living. While writing my thoughts about my experience, it occurred to me how much Divine Intervention has taken place recently in my life. I changed with my moms passing, removing myself just a bit from the bubble I had lived in for so long. Now, I'm free entirely thanks to a little girl with such determination.

The need vs want that plagues our society is unreal. I have been asked why I left my own country to help another. That's a fair question, I have no problem answering. I help our people, our government helps our people. I support local nonprofits. Do you do any of these? I have been blessed in my career. As a business owner, I have more of an opportunity to travel. I've been all over the United States. I've fed the homeless in New York City and Chicago. I've driven through the Mid West, stopping in small towns that were once well off and had clearly lost a large portion of business and community. Traveling the West Coast that had such wealth, I could only hope and dream to own. Guatemala without a doubt has far less than anything I have ever been witness to. I've had people tell me throughout my life that I live in a bubble. I don't have a strong political or religious opinion. I'm not a confrontational person. I don't keep up with the dramatics of life. My eyes are now wide open. My opinion does matter, especially because it helps people. My soul has been cleansed. I don't need anything and I don't want everything.





"You are not here to save the world,
but to touch the hands that
are within your reach."

"Back to the Beginning"

(Continued from page 6)

gourd with a hole drilled in it and a corn cob stopper. The kids sang songs to us, and the adults stood in line to shake our hands. We were made very, very, welcome.

This was fun, but fun would have to wait. We had come a very long way, for a very specific purpose. Erin wanted to see the process for making hammocks. Even Erin was impressed that each hammock was woven by hand, no machinery involved. She knew that if she could show people how remarkable they were, that the demand would grow. A small business that took two weeks to produce one hammock could grow and include many hands, and improve many families incomes. Erin took pictures and lots of notes. With the help of an interpreter, she explained her ideas to Juanito.

Well, I said that fun would have to wait, but not too long. Soon, the back door of the van was opened, and that gifts were given. Kids received school supplies, soccer balls, and sweets. There was even a wheel chair for one special house bound child.

The Mayan kids were amazed by Erin's long soft brown hair. They were also amazed by my silver haired spouse. These kids had never seen Americans like this. Some thought that Kathy was Mrs. Claus. They crowded around, touching and teasing, until it was finally time to go.

Bridget is the kind of mom who teaches her kids about the world by encouraging them to watch and to do. She learned that from her mom. Those fine children have grown to be very fine adults.

That was six months ago. Erin has followed up, but communication with a rural community in Mexico is difficult. Small progress is being made where there was none before. A seed of hope has been planted and we will watch to see if it grows.
Stay tuned. ~ Bob Price



Joan, Maria, Edward, Erin,
Bob and Kathy

When I was a very little boy, like most children my age, my parents told me benign fibs. I truly believed in Santa Claus, and the Easter Bunny, because it made me happy. When I was about five years old and about to lose my first baby tooth, my parents told me about the tooth fairy, to ease my fears. My childhood was a happy one, but not every child grew up with the same comforts that most of us did. In the mountains and jungles of Guatemala, children lived in homes without electricity or running water. They did have parents that loved them. To ease the anxieties of the children, parents would give them little dolls made of colorful cloth and wood. They were told that if they slept with the worry dolls, that by morning, their worries would go away. Was it the magic of the dolls, or the love of the parents that eased the children's anxieties?

Enclosed, please find our gift to you, a worry doll from Guatemala. We suggest that when your worries are heavy, to place it under your pillow and think of your blessings, and in the morning, your worries will be less. You would not be reading these words of you were not a caring person. Thank you for being that type of person.~ Bob Price



Bob aka "Santa" and Kathy





There is nothing I can give you which you do not have, but there is much that while I cannot give it, you can take.

No Heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in it today. Take Heaven.

No Peace lies in our future which is not hidden in this present instant. Take Peace.

The gloom of the world is but a shadow, behind it, yet within reach is joy, there is radiance and glory in the darkness could we but see and to see we have only to look. I beseech you to look.

Life is so generous a giver, but we, judging its gifts by their covering cast them away as ugly or heavy or hard. Remove the covering and you will find beneath a living splendor woven of love, by wisdom with power.

Welcome it, grasp it, and you touch the angel's hand that brings it to you. Everything we call a trial a sorrow or a duty, the angel's hand is there, the gift is there and the wonder of an overshadowing presence. Our joys too be not content with them as joys. They too conceal diviner gifts.

And so at this time I greet you, not quite as the world sends greetings, but with profound esteem and the prayer that for you, now and forever, the day breaks, the shadows flee away.



Fra Giovanni - 1513

GUATEMALA WAS AN EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER... (Continued from page 12)

The orphanage of Tecpan; I hadn't actually known orphanages still existed, had you? I understand that there are orphans, sadly that is everywhere in the world. I was under the impression that foster care, like what we have here in the states was just how other countries would be. I see now, I've been living inside my bubble for far too long. To the best of my ability, I played soccer or what they call football with some of the children. I'm not one for sports of any kind, so this was very entertaining for these kids! My tattoos created quite the group of onlookers. They walked up smiling, looking at and touching my arm. I think I might have been the first person they had ever seen with what they must have thought to be a coloring book on my skin! We had a pizza party and handed out toys, hats, hair accessories and jewelry. It needed to be extra special, they too like a large portion of the elders have been forgotten about. Although the children are housed and cared for and receive some education, they have very little. We supplied the orphanage with much-needed aid, school supplies and cafeteria tables was among the favorites of those who help these brave kids daily. It was my absolute pleasure to play a very bad game of football, let my tattoos be a story amongst them and share a pizza with such a talented group of children. I do hope to see them all again someday. They are the image of what strength and happiness should look like when given such a difficult situation.

Now, do you all see why I said it's very difficult to choose just one moment out of such a monumental experience?! The Aha Moment; It truly was a moment of sudden insight and discovery. It started out a very relaxing morning, drinking a fantastic cup of hot Guatemalan coffee. Mentally preparing myself for the day ahead. Our team was making the journey to where a volcano had erupted. I noticed throughout the trip, the scenery had slightly changed, it had a fog or haze look to it. The temperatures continued to rise as we grew closer to our destination. Local firefighters met us, they were our transportation to a village that had been affected by the volcano. Sadly one village out of many. This Volunteer Firefighters/Rescue Team were the same that had worked tirelessly for search and recover victims. They also traveled to help MOL offload aid. I can't imagine how tired they must have been, but they continued on. The road that leads us to our goal was only accessible by emergency or 4x4 vehicles. As we headed up the mountain, I stared out the window watching people, such worn clothing and shoes. Vehicles were stranded in an attempt to make it through. In my mind I wondered if they had family they were trying to get to, people they needed to help. My thoughts and emotions were all over the place, how helpless they must feel. I then started thinking about moments in my life where I thought I was helpless, or felt frustrated and thought it couldn't possibly get any worse. A small giggle escaped me, obviously not a funny situation I was currently in. But all my moments in life where I thought how will I, why can't I, when will I. Those were all so microscopic compared to the here and now. We arrived at a village where a man had lost 11 of his family members from the volcano eruption. The closest person I have ever lost was my mother, it's actually a fairly new loss to me. She died only 8 months ago, yet it still feels so fresh in my heart. A person changes when they've lost a loved one. This man, he will never be the same. His life was hard to begin with, having so little and in one day so much taken away from him. This village, this is where we needed to start our journey of help and hope. The Maya people surrounded our vehicles with such excitement. Kathy spoke to them with love and encouragement. Juan translated every word and as he did the people grew more and more excited. Kathy was an absolute presence of what good is, they trusted that we were there to help them. I passed out jelly beans to the children, these little hands reaching for something we can easily buy if we wanted. It was emotional as each of them said gracias, turned away with nothing more than a handful of jelly beans. Our site was set up for the day, one side of the building had our medical team the other side had clothing, shoes, and toys. It was time. The sick, scared and poor were filling the room. Everyone began their work. I observed Kathy, she had spent the week working alongside us everyday step for step. She doesn't give up, her hugs and the comfort quilts were medicine to these people. I watched my new friends with amazement. They were all so gentle and caring. Astrid, working with the medical team. Juan, so carefully treating an elderly woman that was in pain. Sarita, helping a young mother and her baby. Angel and Esa tending to the many people with breathing difficulties. I was in the presence of a greater power. I truly felt an energy in the room that was electric. I made my way over to the toy area to help with the children. Each could pick out one toy, anything they wanted from a large selection. This little girl walked up to the table and picked up a small cardboard package. She looked up at me with a pleased expression. I knelt down, looked at her and then looked at the toy she had in her little hands. It was a small bubble kit. I desperately wanted her to pick something better, something that would last. I picked up doll, she shook her head no. I tried a stuffed animal, she again shook her head no. Clearly, she was determined, I shook yes and said ok. She smiled a huge smile, held her bubbles up with excitement and simply walked away. My Aha Moment, that little girl. She made me see and I was overcome with guilt. We have too much, we want too much, we think we need way too much. We've created a society full of unappreciative, selfish and mean people. I was devastated, not just for myself but the people I know who take what they have for granted. Many overwhelming moments played a role in how I



GUATEMALA WAS AN EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER... Tiffany Daley

I've always been an adventurous person, a free spirit some would say. In my twenties, my friend Molly and I saved up very little cash, jumped in my car and headed Out West on a two-week adventure. No plans, no map and, cell phones then.... were not what they are now. I know, I know for some of you in your twenties, that's hard to believe!

Fortunately, we had some concerned adults in our lives buy us a GPS. We named her Window Wendy, vowing to only use her when absolutely necessary. I miss those moments in life, all of you have experienced them, where we felt carefree and invincible to the world. Where does it go?

Life progresses, daily routines inhabit us and before you know it, your looking back on those days as distant memories. The drive for success, although a good thing tends to blur our vision of the now and turn our focus inward. Our daily grind of watching the news, shaking our heads, sometimes tearing up... is just that, our daily grind. Some might wish they could do something, help or make a difference. Some might not care at all. If it's not happening to me if it's not in my country why should it matter. Unfortunately, I was one of those people. Don't get me wrong, I have feelings and can be mad at the current events, sad at the current events but my daily grind encased me deeper and deeper into a... not selfishness, but an inward being. Solely focused on what's my next step, how do I keep my business current and trending, I can't forget to post on social media, thought after thought of me, my life, my business, my bubble.

Call it chance or call it fate or something entirely different. I'm calling it Divine Intervention. A random moment meeting a not so random woman, some interactions here and there during a years time. It was a basic day, you know... doing the daily grind, then comes a simple request for some help, so desperately needing it... even willing to pay someone. Without any thought or hesitation, I volunteered myself and my nieces. As a business owner, my first thought went to, hmmm a nonprofit can't afford to pay people to simply help. Most small nonprofits are solely funded and run from their own pocket, donations from the community and from people volunteering. This I learned from our local animal rescue organizations. It's just as hard as owning your own business, actually now seeing it from all angles I'd like to say it's probably more difficult. So, let me say a quick & very sincere Thank You to all nonprofit organizations. Okay, back to my Divine Intervention. My nieces Tiffany & Taylor, I and a few others did a week's worth of work in two days. 60,000 pounds of humanitarian aid had to be loaded on the semi trucks, Kathy needed us. We did what seemed impossible and simply put it was amazing. I knew we were meant to be in Kathy's life, to help Mission Of Love.

Guatemala was an experience like no other, a week that forever changed my heart & soul. For I to pick a single moment out of my eight-day mission trip... would be like me asking all of you to choose just one moment in your life that made you smile. Pretty difficult, right? The one moment or day that had the most impact on me, although many people and moments are very special to me.... this one, this was eye-opening. But first, let me start from the beginning.

I was wished a "have a good vacation" by family & friends. I didn't correct them because honestly, I wasn't sure what kind of trip I would be on. Remember, I told you how adventurous and free spirited I once was. I had absolutely no idea what I was getting myself into. Really my only question or concern about the trip was I spoke zero Spanish, how would I understand them or them me. Kathy's simple response, I don't either ... well except Feliz Navidad. That was enough for me, so I got on a plane and left the country for the first time ever. The week-long "vacation" mission trip had begun.

My surroundings; they were amazingly beautiful and yet at the same time, so very heartbreaking. The Guatemalan MO Love volunteers; without a doubt are the most genuine, caring souls I have ever had the pleasure to work with. I often wonder what their first impression of me must have been like. I'm white. I'm short ... but not too short, dark hair, blue eyes and splattered with colorful tattoos. I'd say I'm typical, don't judge a book by its cover!!! No matter their first impression, we all became family and continue to stay in touch. Our days; they were so long and packed full of such hard work. This was not a vacation, definitely for the heart and soul, but certainly not for the body! The amount of work we squeezed into each day was insane. The craziest thing about it, even though I had times where I was hot or thirsty, sweaty and dirty it didn't feel like work at all. I felt like I was being energized by the people helping, by the children's smiles, the elders hugs. I don't recall a single moment in those eight days where I had any stress, headaches or exhaustion. We organized over 60,000 pounds of humanitarian aid. I learned that 100% of the aid was donated, items that were bound for the trash. Clothing and household goods. Medical and school supplies bought from funds raised by MOL. Medical equipment donated due to renovations at local hospitals. Everything we were sorting, loading and transporting was just day to day things that you and I take for granted. The people receiving, to them it was life-changing.

The elders of Tecpan; on this day I have to admit I was very nervous. I walked in and looked at all of these little people, aged like a piece of old leather. I don't say this to be disrespectful, I'm simply trying to give you the image that I experienced. Earlier in the week, I'd see elders from a distance, walking the streets with bundles of sticks. These bundles they'd carried were strapped to them by a cloth tied around their foreheads. I couldn't understand why people of that age would still be doing such backbreaking work, it made me sad. It explained why they looked so worn. I quickly put all of these thoughts toward the back of my mind, smiled and made the moment about them. That is why we were there, "to touch the hands and hearts within our reach". Every one of us was welcomed with hugs, hugs that my mom would say are Real Hugs, with meaning behind them. I helped hand out pillows and chocolates, seeing face after face come alive. Their excitement to see Kathy was comparable to you or I meeting our favorite actor. She brightened up every room we entered throughout my entire trip. It was a pretty amazing sight to witness, I was traveling with a hero. Our time with the Mayan elders came to an end, we had another very important stop to make.



(Continued on page 13)



Mission of Love
Kathleen Price

Tecpán Guatemala October 24, 2018

We are grateful for the support given to our community through your headquarters in our town and we want to tell you about our ambitious project, a dream to support the community and improve the quality of life and health in the area in general.

This is the construction and equipment of a small but first-class hospital building that has as many as possible in our possibilities number of specialties and as many number of instruments and accessories we can provide for the correct diagnosis and treatment of the most common diseases that can currently be treated exclusively in the capital of our country that is approximately 2 hours away from our town.

The main objective is to operate a center with a social projection at low prices and as a headquarters that can accommodate free medical journeys that come from abroad to contribute with their time resources and knowledge to the poor people of our region.

We are finishing the construction phase which is 80% completed, and starting to program the equipment phase for which we ask you to support us in whatever is within your possibilities to support the areas with which the hospital will be providing service to the community.

The service areas that will be available and for which we request equipment support are the following:

Emergency, diagnosis, maternity, newborns, ophthalmology, dentistry, laboratory, tomography, x-ray, physiotherapy, bedding, incubator, major operating theater, and minor operating room, waiting area and food preparation area

We know that your organization has been very helpful for many other projects in our country and we already appreciate the support you can give to this great dream that has as its only goal to improve the quality of life in the region of Tecpán Guatemala.

We are firm believers, we are simple stewards of the goods that God provides us so that many may benefit.



Francisco Nistal
Founder





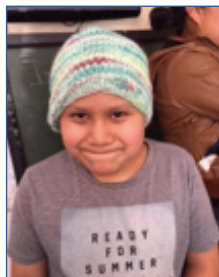
A week in Guatemala with Kathy Price

by Sieglinde Warren

MAJOR
GOAL:
Obtain two 40 foot
containers from
customs
& distribute

DAY 1

- A shopping trip for basics such as cinnamon, honey, toilet paper, paper towels, diapers, beans, sugar, meat, oil, bread and rolls, etc. for the House of God.
- Distribution of food, toys, tooth brushes, tooth paste, knit hats and clothing items at the House of God.
- Interacting with the children and parents.
- 2 ½ hour trip to Tecpan.
- The containers were still in the customs maize.



(approx. \$5.20) to each



DAY 2

- Morning hospital update meeting with Francisco, the leader of the St. Francis of Assisi hospital and two physicians. Hospital to open in 6 months.
- Visit to the Senior Center to distribute 40 Quetsales senior.
- Meeting at the center to discuss the future of the center, the existence of which is uncertain.
- Visit to a possible alternative senior center location.
- Accompanied by the senior center director and food manager, purchased food for a month at the market. \$1 per day per senior food allowance allocation.
- Celebrated Sarita's birthday with Mission of Love family (Grandmother's House)
- Dinner with the Mission of Love family (the grandmother, Elsa, Laura, Julio, Marissio, Andreth, Rober to and Juan, along with Astrid, the Guatemalan Mission of Love representative, and Julio, the driver and jack of all trades.
- The containers were still in the customs maize.



DAY 3

- Breakfast meeting with a variety of folks involved with the St. Francis of Assisi Hospital.
- Grocery shopping for bags of food and cleaning products for 10 families.
- Purchased rolls, platenos, beverages, and popcorn needed for preparing a "sloppy joe dinner" for the orphanage.
- Sloppy joes meal preparation at Mission of Love house.
- Loaded the van with items for the orphanage.
- Stopped to pick up an elderly Mayan who was walking quite a distance at dusk.
- Served the meal at the orphanage and celebrated with the children and adults.
- Provided children with toys, balls, items of clothing, jewelry and party fun.
- Surveyed the needs of the orphanage.
- The containers were still in the customs maize.

DAY 4

- Morning visit to a clinic in Chimaltenango.
- Discussed needs of five adult siblings suffering from debilitating medical condition.
- Arrangements were made for an evaluation and an appointment with a neurologist for the five adults.
- Invitation to dental surgeon to participate in the next Mission of Love cleft palate surgeries.
- Purchased milk, cereal, and baby formula among other needed items for the orphanage.
- Visit to a blind family. Delivered bags of food.
- Made arrangements for cataract surgery and transportation for a younger family member.
- Arranged to have a mother and daughter transported to Mission of Love House for treatment of lacerations suffered from an auto accident. CAT scan for mother was arranged.



DAY 4 (Cont'd)

- Dinner for all was provided at the Mission of Love House.
- Needed items were delivered to the orphanage.
- The containers were still in the customs maize.

DAY 5

- Morning meeting with Marietta to make arrangements for a visit to the Eco-school in Chimaltenango.
- Desks for the school are in the containers.
- Visit to evaluate paraplegic. Sores were cleaned and appointment was made for a doctor evaluation. Transportation was arranged.
- Bag of food and soap products were provided.
- Battery for a wheelchair was arranged.
- Visited another handicapped individual in a small community.
- Nurse tended to his sores. A new wheelchair was promised. A bag of food and soap products were provided.
- A mattress was ordered for his wooden slat bed.
- Balls and cake were given to the community kids.
- Arrangements were made for an elderly man to be evaluated for epilepsy.
- A visit to the Eco-school site.
- Meeting with school coordinator and community leaders. Reviewed the school plans.
- Distributed cake to the children.
- Dinner at a community home which included a power point presentation on the school and workshops offered to the children.
- The containers were still in the customs maze.



DAY 6

- The children from the Mission of Love House were treated to a birthday picnic at WayBi celebrating the birthdays of Flora and Oscar.
- The children enjoyed a sunny day at the family park, interacting with bunnies, horses, ducks and geese, etc.
- Two groups of folks toured the WayBi hospice which will serve children and their families. Funds are needed for the opening.
- Received good news that the containers were to be delivered at 7:30 pm.
- The containers arrived around 8:30 pm.
- A crew of 20+ folks helped unload the containers.
- The Container unloading was completed around 2:00 am.



DAY 7

- Meeting at the warehouse to supervise the delivery of the school desks.
- Cleaned up the warehouse area.
- Purchased fresh vegetables and meat for the House of God.
- Departed for the 2 ½ hour trip to Guatemala City at 3:00.
- In Guatemala City produce and meat delivery made to the House of God.
- Farewell dinner!



**GOALS
ACCOMPLISHED!!!**