



*Caminando por la Paz, a mission program in Guatemala, is supported by the non-profit organization, Misionero de Padre Tomas.*

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# CAMINANDO

## Por la Paz

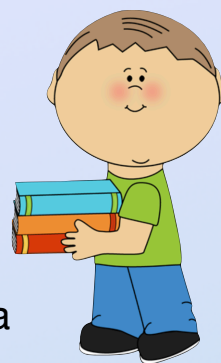
In the last three months, Caminando por la Paz has been working hard:

- A new team will manage our scholarship program.
- Tutor program events
- Reasons to celebrate!
- Visit our Mission
- News from Father Tom's Family Coffee.
- Visit our new website: [fathertomscaminando.org](http://fathertomscaminando.org)



*We believe the best way to improve our children's lives is through education.*

*Ron Covey explains...*



## **The New and Improved Sponsorship Program**

To ensure that the programs developed here at Caminando por la Paz can continue when I am no longer able to direct them, I've asked several good people in the United States to start handling the things I've been doing.

At the top of that list was finding someone who would maintain and further develop our sponsorships. I first started the scholarship program because it was a great way to help send students to local schools. For people living in poverty in Guatemala, education is one way to improve a family's life, but it is hard to acquire without assistance. Sponsorship also gives our committed supporters the opportunity to develop a personal connection with a member of the community Caminando serves.

I have enlisted the aid of one person in the United States and two in Guatemala. Judith Horstman, who lives in Houston, Texas, introduces herself and explains her plans and hopes for the U.S. side of the program in this issue.

Karla Gonzalez and Isis Miranda, in Guatemala, will determine which of the students in our tutoring program are ready to succeed in the local schools and will work with Judith to prioritize who should be offered the sponsorships as they become available. When a sponsor and student are paired, an agreement spelling out what is expected of the student, the parents, and Caminando staff will be signed. Students will be expected to write at least two letters a year, which will be translated and forwarded to the sponsors. Karla will work with the parents to make sure their children follow the rules regarding attendance and maintaining reasonable grades. The students will continue to receive tutoring.

We currently estimate that it costs \$600 per year for a student to attend a local school. At times, program leadership may notify the U.S. sponsors if keeping a student in school becomes more expensive or if special needs are identified. The sponsor will have the option of meeting the extra costs or maintaining the original level of support.

Judith and Karla and Isis will work together to overcome language barriers, obtaining assistance from bilingual cohorts as needed.



## Introducing Our New Sponsorship Coordinator

Hello, my name is **Judy Horstman**. I am excited to introduce myself as the U.S. Coordinator of the Caminando por la Paz Sponsorship Program. I want to share some of my thoughts regarding the Sponsorship Program and solicit your feedback.

The primary focus of Caminando por la Paz is to educate children in one of the most marginalized sections of Guatemala City. I am a retired junior high math and science teacher, and now spend much of my time subbing at three Catholic schools. I believe education is the surest path out of poverty. It is therefore my hope that we can grow the Sponsorship Program and thereby give more children the opportunity to escape a life of poverty.

However, I want the Sponsorship Program to be more than just a charity; I want it to be a true mission experience. I believe the key to Mission is being present. Being present is not easy when the sponsor and the sponsored child are thousands of miles apart. However, I believe there are opportunities to be present, for instance, through the exchange of letters and photos. Sponsors should also have the opportunity, if they want, to visit their sponsored child and the project.

The cost of sponsoring a child is \$600 a year, which is meant to cover the cost of educating a child, including school registration, monthly fees, school supplies, uniforms, and transportation. It can be paid in one annual payment, in four quarterly payments of \$150 each, or in monthly payments of \$50 each.

So let me know what you think; I'm all ears. I am particularly interested in hearing from existing sponsors and from readers who are interested in becoming a sponsor. My email address is [judyhorstman@gmail.com](mailto:judyhorstman@gmail.com).



## Our Tutoring Program



The guys' team

## Game Day!



Follow the Leader

## New shoes for school



Musical Chairs



Who will win?

## "What I did on Easter" contest winners

## Bread for our students



# We Have Much to Celebrate!



Tutors work together  
on new materials



Mother's Day

and enjoy  
lunch together



Father's Day



Leti's  
birthday



Maryknoll Affiliate Reunion

## Visit Our Mission and More!

In recent years, several activities have been developed and have become routine for visitors to Caminando por la Paz. We meet visitors at the airport upon arrival in Guatemala, transport them to the program home in Zona 18, and Introduce the program: what we do and our history.



**Short Visits.** Groups with their own leaders who are visiting several programs in a limited time frame usually make short visits. There may be time for several activities at the program house: lunch, a neighborhood walk, a meeting with our students, and a recap session with our staff.

**Longer Visits:** The first question usually is, what shall we do? People often want to *accomplish* something during their visit. Our suggestion is to talk with our staff when you are here and pick whatever seems best for you. Sometimes the answer is to just be present with our people. They truly love and appreciate your being with them.

During visits of more than a day, many activities are possible:

- A welcome presentation by the Guatemalan Maryknoll Affiliate Chapter.
- A day at Caminando por la Paz, learning about the culture and history of the area, and a visit to one of the schools in which we have placed our kids.
- One or two days in Antigua, a colonial historic city about two hours from the capital.
- Travel to missions in other parts of the country, such as Sr. Dee's AIDS hospice program in northern Guatemala.
- In Guatemala City, several museums and other landmarks offer opportunities to uncover local history.
- Visits to a nearby coffee farm can be arranged.
- Our program is ready to assist visitors who wish to visit special places not listed included here. We stand ready to provide the means to accomplish such visits. At times we help people staying after their group has returned to the US.

**If you want to stay a couple more days:** As you know, we sell Father Tom's Family Coffee to raise money to support our educational programs. We can arrange a two- to three-day visit to the coffee finca and beneficio in Honduras that supply our coffee beans.

Whatever amount of time you have, we look forward to your visit!

**Read in more detail about these mission visit possibilities on our website, [Fathertomscamiando.org](http://Fathertomscamiando.org), in the article, "Do You Want to Visit our Mission?"**

## Pricing Coffee



We work closely with our coffee growers in Honduras. They notify us when they begin the harvest, mid-November or later, and we confer with Copan Trade, our roaster in Tom Ball, Texas. From their records of our previous sales, they help us decide how much coffee we will need to purchase for the coming season. We then arrange with the producers to buy that amount.

We generally pay our producers five cents a pound above the standard market price. However, the price in Honduras during the last three years has fluctuated and has become difficult to determine. Currently, growers are demanding a price above the international market, having become very aware of their coffee's increasingly favorable position in the world market.

We currently benefit from our relationship with Copan Trade, who advise us as we negotiate with the growers. As part of our direct trade agreement, we pay the growers directly for the coffee they bring to the beneficio.

The beneficio processes the coffee, making it export ready. To determine its price, upon arrival it is graded, and our coffee has consistently been graded premium and nearly specialty. If our coffee becomes specialty grade because we have helped the grower improve his product, it would cause an interesting problem: it would then demand a much higher price.

After the beneficio processes the raw coffee, it is shipped in large burlap bags to the roaster in Texas, where it is stored until roasted. We are billed at this point by the beneficio for their processing and shipping charges.

As we need more coffee to sell, we simply call the roaster to have coffee roasted. Currently we have regular roast, French roast, dark roast and decaf, available in either whole bean or ground format.

Once the coffee is roasted and bagged with our Family Coffee label, we pick up the coffee at the roaster, ready to sell. Our sales outlets are our internet site—[FatherTomsFamilyCoffee.org](http://FatherTomsFamilyCoffee.org), various local churches and conferences, and the trunk of my car. Several friends, Maryknoll Affiliate chapters, and other organizations purchase our coffee for resale, which helps to grow our market share.



As always, the challenge is to generate more revenue than what has been paid to the grower, the beneficio, and the roaster. Only then do we accomplish our primary goal, to help support Caminando por la Paz.

# How can you be a part of our mission?

## Visit Our New Website

Ron Covey and Paula Schaffner  
(Caminando's editor) have recently  
designed and launched our new website:

[FatherTomsCaminando.org](http://FatherTomsCaminando.org)

**Help Educate  
a Student!**



~ **Contact ~**

[judyhorstman@gmail.com](mailto:judyhorstman@gmail.com)

## Your prayers



**are always  
helpful!**

# SHARE

**Tell your friends about us!**

# Donate!



**Donate** on our new website:  
[FatherTomsCaminando.org](http://FatherTomsCaminando.org)

Or send a tax-deductible  
check to:

**Caminando por la Paz  
PO Box 1583  
New Caney, TX 77357**

# We greatly appreciate your support!