



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

What's happening at
Caminando por la Paz:

- Scholarship team will meet to improve program.
- *Shoes for the World* coming
- Always time to celebrate!
- *Maryknoll group visits*
- *Father Tom's Family Coffee thanks donors*
- Visit our website:
fathertomscaminando.org



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

Ron Covey explains...

Two Upcoming Events

Our Scholarship Program Looks Forward

We were eagerly anticipating a mid-October visit from our Houston friends, but their trip has been delayed due to travel advisories about political unrest in Guatemala. Their visit is being rescheduled for early 2024. Among the visiting Houston Maryknoll Affiliates will be Judy Horstman, who is now the US lead person for our Scholarship Program. She and the Guatemalan directors will be meeting to plan how the Caminando Scholarship program can be revised and invigorated. When Judy meets with Karla and Isis, they will discuss:

- Keeping an up-to-date list of children currently being sponsored and their sponsors.
- Identifying children who qualify for new sponsorships.
- Developing a contract between the Scholarship Program and the sponsored child's family to make expectations clear, such as the child's required attendance at tutoring, and to define the ways that Caminando por la Paz will assist the student.
- Formalizing the process for communication between sponsors and the children they sponsor, including providing translations for sponsors who do not speak Spanish.

The Scholarship Program will also address how to account for the funds raised in the US and how to set up a realistic local program to ensure effective monitoring of the students.

We believe that working together, Judy, Karla, and Isis will be able to improve the scholarship program. We are redoubling our efforts to place local marginalized kids in local schools. Our neighbors' need is great, and scholarships can help fill that need.



These students are attending a tutoring session, which is held in our multipurpose space. Once a garage, it is now the classroom, and, if you visit with a group, you might also have lunch in this space. It is now, and will continue to be, a requirement for supported students to attend tutoring sessions where our volunteer teachers will help with their homework and assure compliance with the rules of the school they attend.

Shoes to the World

Working with ***Shoes to the World*** is truly is one of the best events we get to participate in. We advertise and organize in our neighborhood, and the Shoes to the World people bring a new pair of shoes for everyone we have enrolled. This is one of the very special times for those we serve.

Years ago, Maryknoll was contacted by ***Shoes to the World*** asking for help to distribute shoes in Guatemala through the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers. They passed the information to Fr. Spain, but he and Brother Marty felt they did not have the time to organize that effort and contacted me. I called Shoes to the World, and the rest is history.

We recently learned that we have been approved for another shoe distribution. If memory serves well, this will be our fourth distribution of shoes to about 100 people each time. The general plan is to distribute shoes appropriate for school. The shoes are distributed primarily to local students, many of whom attend local schools and/or our tutoring programs. This helps families who can barely cover the costs associated with getting their children to school.

The shoe distribution is available to us through our connection with ***Shoes to the World*** (<https://www.shoestotheworld.org>). We are careful to follow their guidelines and appreciate their requirement that the shoes be made in Guatemala, because they wish to extend the benefit to the local economy.

We put a lot of effort into carrying out the shoe distribution. Before the distribution, we will need to identify those who will receive shoes and obtain the correct size for each recipient. And when we arrange the process for handing out the shoes, we make it an upbeat, exciting event. All in all, it is a lot of work for our staff and volunteers but we all feel it is well worth our effort.



2016 Shoes to the World distribution

Always Time to Celebrate!

Birthday Parties!



Juliana, a tutoring student

Andrey, Karla's son, is 7



Anderson, in high school



We Celebrate our Tutors on The Day of the Teacher



Our football team



Maryknoll Mission Immersion Group Visits

On July 11th, the first post-COVID Maryknoll Immersion group, came to Guatemala. Although it was a smaller group than in the past, the program was similar to previous visits.



As we had done for pre-COVID groups, we met our visitors at the airport and drove them to their lodging. On the first day, a group that includes leadership from the Guatemala Maryknoll Affiliate Chapter welcomes our visitors at a gathering in which we normally participate.

The second day is when they visit us at Caminando por la Paz. This generally begins after their visit to the garage where Monsignor Gerardi was assassinated in 1998. Gerardi championed the rights of the indigenous and campaigned against the culture of violence in Guatemala.

When the immersion group came to Caminando por la Paz, after extending our welcome, we presented an overview of our history.

The day's activities included interaction with our students





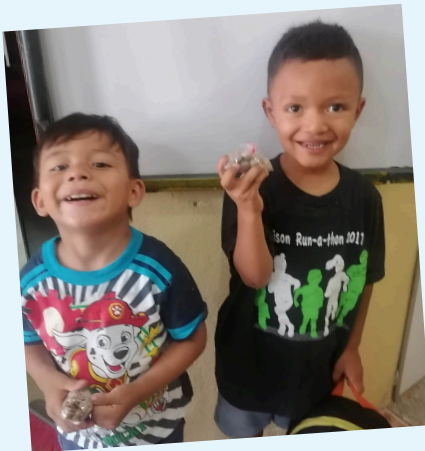
lunch,



a presentation covering our current activities and our educational and coffee sales projects, and, of course, the walk through our neighborhood. Reading feedback from past groups, we feel confident that the highlight of the visit is the walk. The chance opportunities to connect that occur when they encounter our neighbors provide our visitors insights and lasting memories.



The Immersion groups continue on their journey, visiting the sites of many other groups before returning to the US. Since we now have a minibuss, we are able to supply their transportation.



The students were excited to receive treats from the visitors.



If you'd like to visit, learn more about the possibilities for your mission visit by reading, "Do You Want to Visit our Mission?" under "Activities" on Fathertomscamiando.org.



Coffee—Moving Forward

The past three months have been exciting for us. This is the time of year that our green coffee beans are imported and stored ready for roasting. Our green coffee is stored at the roaster and then roasted as needed. We roast small batches at a time to ensure that you receive the freshest coffee.

Perhaps you will recall that five or six years ago we held a “Go-Fund-Me” effort and raised the money for our coffee growers to construct solar dryers for the coffee. At that time, solar dryers were a recent



addition to coffee production technology. Previously, the growers had spread the washed coffee beans on the ground to dry. A major problem at that time was that when rain came, the coffee had to be gathered up and then returned to the ground after the rain. The dryers solved that problem. However, at the time we did not yet know of the value of concrete flooring in the drying process.

To add the advantage concrete flooring offers, we recently initiated an effort to raise the funds the growers needed to construct concrete flooring in the dryers. We are happy to report that, as of this writing, the Go-Fund-Me has reached the \$2,000 goal, and the money is on its way to our producers In Honduras.

Our program and the coffee growers are extremely grateful to all the wonderful people who helped make this effort such a success.



How can you be a part of our mission?

Caminando por la Paz



Visit Our
Website

fathertomscaminando.org

Your prayers



are always
helpful!

Help Educate
a Student!



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judyhorstman@gmail.com

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Caminando por la Paz
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We greatly appreciate your support!