



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

Find out what's happening at Caminando por la Paz this year:

- More on Immigration
- *Introducing our staff*
- The latest on scholar sponsorships
- *Yale students visit Caminando por la Paz*
- Coffee Update
- **Be part of our mission**



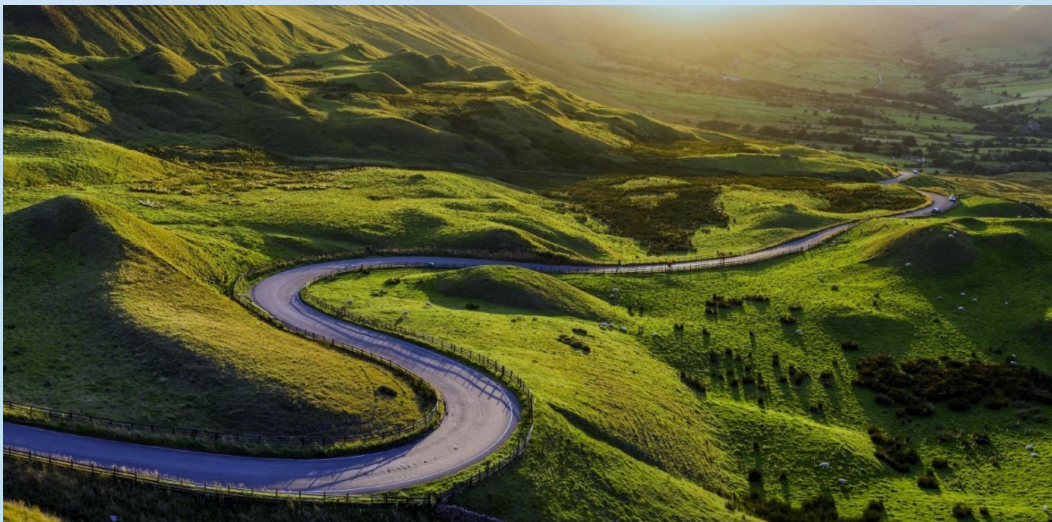
With new shoes from Shoes to the World, our students put their best foot forward.

Ron Covey ponders...

Another View of the Immigration Problem

My 14 years with Caminando Por La Paz have taught me many things. One of my strongest learnings occurred about ten years ago. One day I was walking about in our neighborhood and happened to run into one of our tutoring students. He told me that his father was in the United States. I asked him where or in what part of the States. He responded, “We don’t know; we have had no news for a long time.”

When people leave, often their thinking is that they will be able to help their families financially once they are in the States. Few, if any, realize how unrealistic this is. These people are generally uneducated and do not speak English. Thus, they rarely find real employment. They become part of the street-corner groups hoping to find a day’s work. For a while, they may find a way to send a bit of money home, but generally, over time they become discouraged and lose interest. The result of this is that there are many neighborhoods like ours where you find single mothers trying to raise children with little to no resources.



There is another problem for countries like Guatemala through which so many from countries farther from the US are passing. A while ago, I saw a frustrating interaction between a Guatemalan and a person from Venezuela trying to make money selling street food to continue her effort to immigrate. She was out of resources. The Venezuelan was angry with the Guatemalan simply because she did not choose to buy anything. Shortly after this, I visited a friend of over 25 years in Antigua, Guatemala. She told me that there is a growing resentment of those from Venezuela and other countries because they run out of resources and, in order to survive, resort to negative behavior. Soon these people see criminal activity as the only available resource to meet their basic needs.

This is but one small sample of the reality of worldwide immigration, but it makes me wonder if there might be a solution—can we revise our focus from protecting our borders to fostering positive social change in the countries where citizens feel the need to migrate?



RON COVEY

Ron has been supporting the program for over ten years. He came a couple months after Fr. Tom passed away, and we believe that he was sent by God at Fr. Tom's request. He has been doing an incredible job, not only taking care of the economic part but also advertising the program, updating the website, and communicating with the donors.

Introducing
our US
President ...

... our
Guatemala
President ...



KARLA GONZALEZ

Karla, part of the program for over eight years, has worked in cleaning and tutoring. Now, as Board president, she is demonstrating her leadership and administrative skills.



Leticia Vasquez

Leticia first worked as part of the scholar agreement that parents sign for their children to be tutored. Soon she decided to get more involved, helping with the cooking and other activities. Leticia, a very humble and helpful woman, really enjoys helping with the children.

... and
one of our
Cooks!

Meet more of our
workers in the
next E-News!

The Latest on Sponsorships

Judy Horstman – Scholarships Coordinator

To all past, present, and future sponsors: We have identified some scholarship students who are no longer part of the program, due to moving, graduating, or leaving the program for family reasons. The sponsors of these students will be notified and offered the opportunity to accept a new student.

We have already identified a few new students who would love to have a sponsor:

Darlyn – 7th grade

Leida – 4th grade

Madelyn – 2nd grade

Josue – 2nd grade

Ernesto – 11th grade, who hopes to go to university next year.

For just \$600 a year, or \$50 a month, you can help one of these students stay in school and find a career that will lead to lifelong success. Diego, formerly a sponsored student, graduated as a chef and started his own little restaurant. We *can* help make a difference!

Among several Board members, I plan to visit the Caminando por la Paz project in May, and hopefully will meet the students and learn more about them. After our trip, I will share with you more about how we can help them.



To become a sponsor, contact ~
judyhorstman@gmail.com

Yale Students Visit Us

On Sunday, March 10th, a group of students from Yale University visited us. Through a program co-sponsored by Maryknoll Society and the Catholic programs at the University, the students visit us as part of their week-long mission and cultural learning experience.



Their time with us was a special opportunity for the visitors, our students, and ourselves.

Upon arrival, we spent a few moments on introductions.

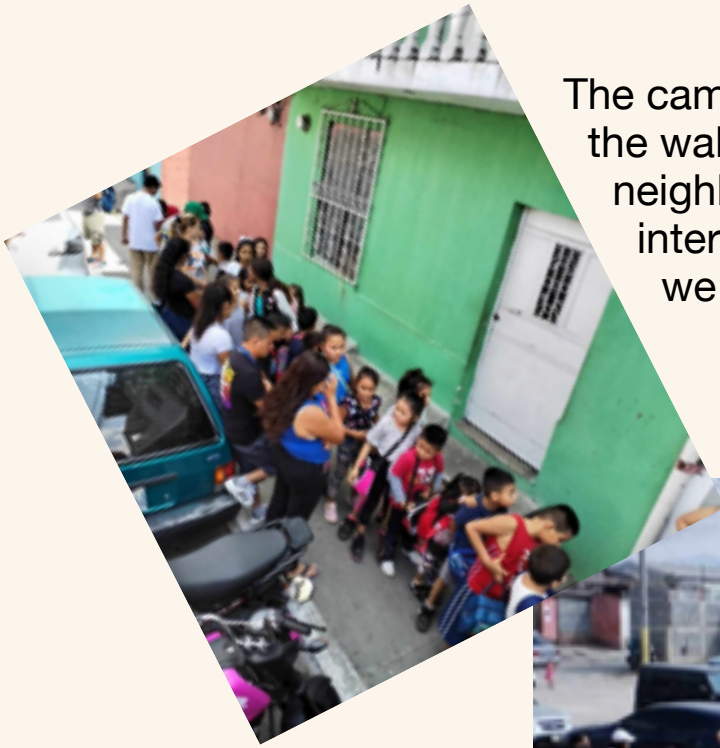


We then told them that we needed their help. Soon they were busy serving the freshly prepared mid-morning meal to a large group of our regular tutoring students.

Following the meal, the kids and visitors spent some time just interacting and getting to know each other.



This led to their time at the campo, the local playing field.



The campo is not far from the house, and the walk introduces visitors to the neighborhood and often allows interactions with the neighbors whom we serve.

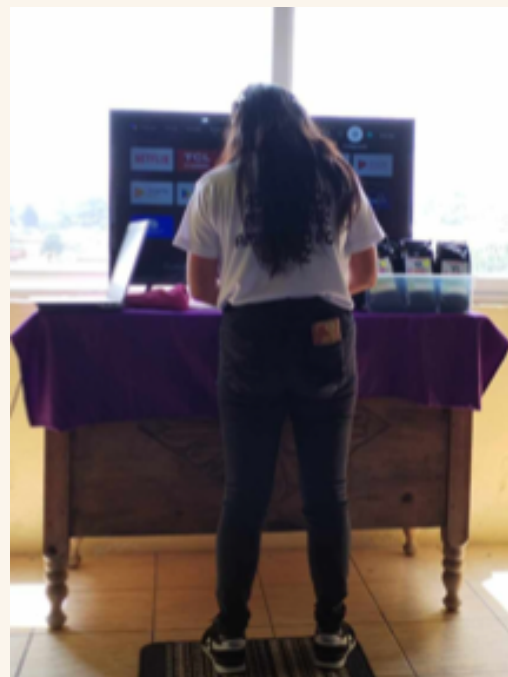
At the campo, the kids and their guests played games and had fun together.



When they returned to the program house, it was time for the kids to say goodbye to our visitors. If you had been here, you would have recognized that they all had experienced a special connection.



Back at Caminando, We shared more in-depth information. Our staff presented two basic informative presentations. The first was about the program; this was basically an elaboration of the information in our pamphlet, "Who Are We?"



For the second presentation, we moved from the library room to the chapel, where a second screen had been set up for the program concerning our Family Coffee Project. Again, the program is an elaboration of one of our pamphlets.

We then moved to an informal social hour during which we shared cups of Family Coffee and sweet bread.



We welcome visitors at any time. Like the Yale students, we receive various groups during the year. At times, individuals or couples come on their own. We try hard to meet all our visitors' needs. **Please know you are always welcome to visit us.**



Before their visit ended, we were able to bring them to Mass at our parish church. Following the service, sadly it was time for us to say goodbye to these wonderful students.



Coffee Update



Sales of our Family Coffee have increased during the past three months. This is wonderful, especially considering our hope that one day Family Coffee sales will be the financial backbone for our support of Caminando Por La Paz.

Our 2023/24 harvest is now at the processing plant in Santa Rosa, Copan, Honduras. After removing any bad coffee beans, the processors will pack it for shipment to Copan Trade, our roaster in Tom Ball, Texas.

Once the coffee has been processed and shipped, it will be ready for roasting. We always work to ensure that the coffee we sell is extremely fresh, so our roaster will roast the coffee for us in small batches, as needed. Depending on your information source, you may hear that coffee flavor is not lost, or perhaps slowly declines, after roasting. But with our custom roasting schedule, Family Coffee will always be much fresher than any brand in your local supermarket.



The roaster will roast, package, and label the beans for us. We keep a small supply ready to mail to those who order via our internet site, fathertomfamilycoffee.org. Some Maryknoll Affiliate groups purchase the coffee for resale. We also enjoy sales help from various parishes. Your own purchases, and your suggestions that your parish or community group adopt our brand, help make Family Coffee a reliable source of support for the youth of Caminando por la Paz.

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!



Contact ~

judyhorstman@gmail.com

SHARE

Tell your friends about us!

Donate!



Donate on our website:
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!