



CAMINANDO

Por la Paz

*The year is off to a good start
at Caminando por la Paz:*

- Busy January
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- Keeping Everyone Safe
- Events in Our Lives
- Coffee Update
- Be Part of Our Mission

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

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*With sponsors to pave the way, these girls
could achieve their dreams of becoming a
doctor or nurse.*

Busy January

This sign was placed on the program door throughout most of January. It translates to:

“Opportunity for Scholarships”

and:

**¡Strive and fight for your dreams
and make them come true!**

With this sign, and by spreading the word in our neighborhood, we invite new and former students to participate in our educational programs.

As you may know, the school year in Guatemala runs from late January through early November. Therefore, our busiest time of the year is January. We have to complete many different tasks, such as selecting schools for our best tutoring students, paying

registrations, purchasing uniforms, arranging transport, buying books, and, most difficult of all, coordinating with students and parents concerning details of their scholarships.

We offer two educational programs for local children. They generally start with our tutoring program, which is open to neighborhood kids. This is their initial experience with us. We have local volunteers, former students, and parents who work together to provide our regularly scheduled tutoring sessions. From this program, we can select the most appropriate candidates for scholarships to local schools.

Payment of these scholarships comes in two forms; If there is a US sponsor available, the student has all school expenses paid. Unfortunately, we have not found sponsors for all the children who are ready to attend local schools. Those without US sponsors are supported a bit differently. To help as many as possible, utilizing our habit of “Caminando”—getting to know the people, we can judge the extent of their needs. Thus, some will receive full scholarships and others are given partial scholarships.

If you have an interest in sponsoring one of our students, please contact Judy Horstman, our scholarship coordinator!

judyhorstman@gmail.com



The Importance of Forensics in Child Protection

Karla Fabiola González Beltetón – Board President

I have always been fascinated by how a criminologist studies and analyzes physical evidence in the context of a crime. Now in the final semester of my Bachelor's Degree in the field of Criminology and Forensic Science, I have learned that it is not only fundamental to solving crimes but also has a significant impact on the protection of the most vulnerable group in our society: children.



Forensics plays a crucial role in the investigation of crimes affecting children, such as sexual abuse, exploitation, and human trafficking. These crimes, unfortunately, are more common than many imagine and have devastating consequences for victims and their families. My interest in this area focuses on forensics' ability to analyze and identify risk zones, which contributes to the development of prevention strategies that protect children.

Forensics focuses on investigating how and why children become victims and/or perpetrators. This analysis is not carried out in isolation; forensics



works in conjunction with other disciplines, such as psychology and sociology. This interdisciplinary collaboration is essential to better understanding the social and emotional context of minors who find themselves in environments where they may be exposed to crime or abuse.

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Understanding the psychological factors that can lead a child to become a victim or perpetrator, as well as the social dynamics that perpetuate these crimes, helps us to create more effective prevention programs and implement public policies to help eradicate these problems.

The role of forensics is not limited to the investigation of crimes; it also involves educating and raising awareness about the importance of child protection. By conducting talks and workshops, we can inform the community about how to identify signs of abuse and how to respond in risky situations. This preventive work is essential to creating a safer environment for children.



One field trip took Karla's class to the History Room of the National Civil Police.



Karla displays the certificate of completion from one of her many classes.

Pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Criminalistics and Forensic Science has taught me that this profession is a powerful tool for protecting the most vulnerable, especially children. I am excited about the future and my opportunity to contribute to a world where every child can grow up in a safe and secure environment.

During my studies, I have enjoyed the unconditional support of the Caminando por la Paz Association. I am grateful to them and to our generous sponsors, who have fueled my dream of graduating and contributing to the safety and well-being of our society. Together, we can move toward a more hopeful and safe future for all.

Keeping Everyone Safe

At our own
Caminando...



New railing
replaced rotting wood.

For an
elderly
neighbor...



A donor provided
funds and
Caminando did the
work to build new
steps to his home.



Our water system...



The water tank is
moved to the
roof to better
provide safe
water to all our
bathrooms.



At their schools... Disaster
Preparedness helps keep children safe.



Events in our Lives

Our spiritual journey ... This Lent, Caminando hosts one of the Stations of the Cross for two different local parishes.



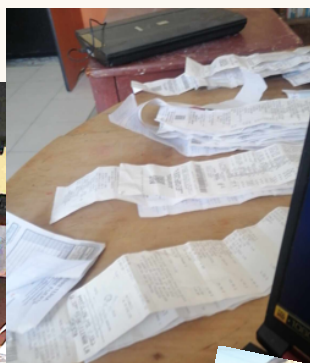
Administrative duties ... a video planning meeting and record keeping for Caminando projects.



March Birthdays:
Fredy & Violeta



Our soccer team... Each championship becomes more difficult for us since we don't have a direct sponsor to contribute to the team's expenses!!





Coffee Update

Ron Covey – Principal Manager

We just learned that our growers are now ready to bring the 2024/2025 crop to the processing plant in Santa Rosa, Honduras. Thus we continue to be able to provide extremely fresh premium coffee to all who purchase our great coffee products.

As you may recall from our update in the 4th Quarter 2024 E-News, the price of green (pre-roasted) coffee beans has increased greatly. The basic cause is reduced supply, as the crops throughout the coffee growing zone have been significantly reduced. Thus far, less coffee is available for roasting. All the causes of this decrease are as yet unknown, but we believe this turn of events is related to climate change and perhaps involves changes in the underground flow of water.

We originally adopted a wait-and-see attitude regarding the prospect that we will need to increase the price for our roasted coffee. We have not seen much of a price increase on grocery store shelves recently. However, when we monitor our production costs, a very different picture emerges. Initially, as noted in the last E-News, we saw an increase of well over 100% in the price of green coffee. Our importer-roaster now has also increased the service charges for import preparation, storage, roasting, and packaging, passing on increased shipping and labor costs.

As of today, we have not raised the price we charge; however, current trends suggest that we soon will have no alternative to a price increase. We remain hopeful that this unfortunate problem concerning the economics of our coffee project can come to a reasonable, equitable conclusion. Your comments are always welcome—use the contact page on our website or email us at rocovey@yahoo.com.

**You can purchase this excellent coffee
on our website:**

<https://www.fathertomfamilycoffee.org>



How can you be a part of our mission?

Caminando por la Paz



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Website

FatherTomsCaminando.org

Your prayers



are always helpful!

Help Educate
a Student!



Contact ~

judyhorstman@gmail.com

Try our coffee!

order at:

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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

Caminando por la Paz
501(c)(3) Information

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We need and appreciate your support!