

**Porch de Salomon**  
Panajachel, Guatemala

porchdesalomon.org

and on 

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**Tax-deductible Donations:**

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Or on-line

[www.porchdesalomon.org](http://www.porchdesalomon.org)

\*Short-term mission teams  
in Guatemala

\*Humanitarian relief for  
indigenous families and others

\*Solomon's Porch  
Café ministry

\*Live music outreach

\* Helping transform churches  
and individuals

# ⌘ PorchTalk

Volume 147

December 2017

## GOOD NEWS, GREAT JOY

*But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people." Luke 2:10 NIV*

November was a month of great impact for Porch de Salomon and those we serve. We are thankful for our short-term teams, volunteers, and faithful mission partners who helped us approach year's end in strong fashion.

Many of Guatemala's indigenous people have heard of the good news/joy-bringing Jesus, but have rarely experienced tangible help, brought in Jesus' name. That is where Porch comes in! Thanks be to God for positioning us here and for those who provide the resources and money to get it done. Amen.

(Right) Maria Socorro Yaxon (27) is a single-mother of three children (*one not shown*). Her ex-husband abandoned them, after infecting Maria with HIV. She earns less than \$40 a month, hand-washing clothes and weaving.

Her in-laws, who blame Maria, have given them three months to leave the small room (no electricity or water) they rent to her. Porch is honored to provide tangible good news: food, medical care, rent, and hope for a house of her own. Please pray for this humble family and our efforts.



Our friend Edwin's joy was infectious when he received another new, high quality, bed from Porch.

Cerebral palsy limits Edwin's ability to control his body, but his joy (as well as his mother's) is an inspiration to those who visit him.

Please let me know if you'd like to cover the \$550 cost of the bed. *Lloyd*

## FACILITY PROGRESS!

God willing, our café/hotel expansion will be completed in January (kitchen, restrooms, atrium, four more hotel rooms, office) -- in time for our first 2018 teams!

The humanitarian office remodel, meeting room, storage, client area, and parking area will be completed in April. We are less than \$20,000 away from funding it all, without debt. Good news and joy!

Please make a memorial or honorary donation to help finish this off! Contact me if you will. *Gracias! Lloyd*



**"For the lost, the least, and the last"**



## GOOD NEWS BRINGERS!



Our fabulous and fun November short-term teams included far-flung folks from Union CC (Colorado), Team Williams (CA, PA), and Christ the Shepherd Lutheran (GA). Some of these pilgrims advanced our facility expansion with honorary/memorial donations totaling \$19,000, God be praised!



New walking canes enabled this crippled teenager, who visited last month's clinic, to walk again. Joy on his face!



(Left): ingenuity and muscle combined to transport Cristina's 650# "pila" sink up a rocky, narrow, and steep path. (Below): Francie, a R.N., brought good news, smiles, and hope to the Union CC clinics.



Lindsey and Edgar delivered hearty lunches to the local jail inmates. Mirna had prepared them for 14 recovery ministry men who were traveling our way; they canceled at the last minute. Guess how many inmates were at our disgracefully bad jail---14! Jesus loves the imprisoned and those who bring them tangible good news.



### SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Your tax-deductible donations have high impact in Guatemala!

- \*One month's protein (eggs, beans, milk, more) for an indigenous family (\$60)
- \* One month's milk and medicine for a severely malnourished infant (\$60)
  - \* An *Ecofiltro/Utz Ja* clean water system for a family (\$90)
  - \*One month's in-patient alcohol/drug rehab for an addict (\$90)
- \* An *Ecoplancha* efficient woodstove for an indigenous family (\$195)

It's easy! Please use our donation address or link from page one.

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(At left): Rosa Tzay's violent, alcoholic husband left her and her children with nothing, including no food. Porch, through our indigenous social worker, Eugenia, is counseling her and stepped in with food, a water filter, and an *Ecoplancha* woodstove. Rosa now has hope and tangible help. Your donations funded this. Please pray for her, the children, and Porch de Salomon.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

by Lloyd

Porch de Salomon is a medium-sized non-profit which demonstrates God's love, expressed best through the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, to "the lost, the least, and the last" and others. We strive to do this through creative, "right risk-taking" service and outreach: from the streets and bars of Panajachel, to the incredibly poor shacks of the indigenous villages of Guatemala's Lake Atitlan Basin, to the air-conditioned, padded-pew comfort of our stateside partner churches.

Melanie and I continue in our 13th year of full-time service. We appreciate the sacrifices our volunteer Lindsey has made to be a part of the work (as well as our paid Guatemalan workers!) God has blessed Porch and our families by providing for these years of ministry through the generosity of our stateside partner churches and supporters. Thanks be to God--and you. Porch de Salomon's work is only possible through your generous financial support.

Every need we meet, as we deliver "good news," costs money. Our monthly ministry/outreach budget is \$22,500—while sizeable, it allows us to deliver efficient, high-impact, life-changing hope, help, and service. Please consider:

- 1) making a year-end, tax-deductible general support donation or;
- 2) funding one of the special needs featured in this newsletter or scholarships (*below*) or;
- 3) making a much-needed monthly/quarterly/annual pledge for 2018.

This will help us deliver more good news, and see great joy in the faces and lives of the recipients.

Thank you! See page one for donation instructions or contact me at [dlloydmonroe@gmail.com](mailto:dlloydmonroe@gmail.com) (or 850.688.2076) for more information. We welcome appreciated stock donations (tax-advantaged!) as well.

### *Please provide* NEW 2018 SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

In Guatemala, over 50% of indigenous teenagers have not completed third grade. On average, indigenous Guatemalan women have only 3.5 years of school. Grinding poverty is the predominant cause of this problem; families simply cannot afford school as they struggle to put food on the table each day.

Here are three new *beca* scholarship candidates (*from top*):

Dolores Ajuchan (8) is from Santiago Atitlan; she hopes to enter third grade in January. She is shy and sweet and was bullied in kindergarten. Her single mother placed her in a different school. The mother earns a living hand-washing clothes. After Dolores' younger brother developed epilepsy, his medical bills have made it impossible for the mother to continue paying for Dolores' school.

Irma Chopen (12) from Pixabaj, hopes to enter seventh grade. Her father was an alcoholic and her mother left him, taking Irma with her. Irma is a sweet girl who desires to help her family by becoming educated, eventually working as a professional.

Manuel Ajcalon (15) is from Pujujil Dos and plans to enter 9th grade. He loves music and dreams of becoming a music producer. He escorts his older sister in their mountainous one-hour walk (each way) to school, providing a measure of safety for her (she receives a Porch scholarship). They are both determined to finish school.

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Each year since 2006, Porch de Salomon has provided school scholarships through the generosity of our *beca* donors. In 2017, our donors funded 132 scholarships!

We are now inviting and accepting donations for the 2018 school year (which runs from January to October).

These annual scholarships cost \$240 each. Lindsey will match donors with a recipient! Please consider funding one or more of these life-changing gifts. Contact us directly with your "Yes" or your questions; [newberry.lindsey@gmail.com](mailto:newberry.lindsey@gmail.com) or call 850.688.2076. *Gracias!*



SAVE (and share!) THIS ISSUE... our next *PorchTalk* will be February's



We joyfully dedicated our seventh completed house of the year in *Buena Vista*. Tomas, Rosa, and their children were aglow and grateful! With both parents and two of the daughters being mentally challenged, our Eugenia and Jeydi commented that 11 year-old Vilma will need to be the "mother" of the family now (*Jeydi and Vilma are shown far right*).

We are thankful for generous donors who fund such houses and for our builders and teams who put their backs, hearts, and more into it. *Adelante juntos!*



Best wishes for a blessed and happy holiday season and a prosperous 2018 from our in-country Porch team!

Their jobs with Porch de Salomon/Hotel California/Solomon's Porch Café support the families of our 12 full-time Guatemalan staffers, as well as part-time workers, and our seven contract builders (most of whom are not shown).

Your donations and support make the work and witness of Porch de Salomon possible. *Gracias, y Feliz Navidad!*

*Porch de Salomon*  
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