

Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala

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and on 

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Tax-deductible donations to:

Porch de Salomon

P.O. Box 10509

Tallahassee FL, 32302-2509

Or on-line at

www.porchdesalomon.org

*Short-term service/mission teams in Guatemala

*Humanitarian relief for indigenous families and others

*Café Hotel California/Solomon's Porch ministry

*Live music outreach

* Helping transform churches and individuals

PorchTalk

Volume 195

June 2022

GETTING BETTER

It's getting better all the time. *Lennon/McCartney, June 1967*

Regarding life together.... Just love one another!...Keep it up; get better and better at it. *1 Thessalonians 4: 9-10 (MSJ)*

Noe writes: We dedicated Rosita Coj's new home; she was very emotional and happy. She thanked and blessed everyone who was involved in building the house. She remembered how receiving the *Ecoplancha* woodstove last year changed her life.

Rosita was also very appreciative of the chicken/egg micro-business. She said "I will raise the chickens well so that I can raise my children better."

Rosita's house was our 144th completion.

Porch de Salomon thanks our house and micro-business donors. Also, we thank our mission partners and donors whose faithful and generous donations undergird most all our efforts. You keep us "in the field." You have helped us make things better for thousands of Guatemalans since 2005.

Muchas gracias!



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

GETTING BETTER: Houses and Micro-businesses

Porch de Salomon just launched two house-building projects. A better, quality house is an inter-generational life-changer in Guatemala's Western Highlands.

#1: Miriam and Blanca are stepsisters who live in very humble conditions in Las Minas, San Jose Chacaya. Miriam has successfully pursued her education, persevering in the face of mental illness.

Their small *tienda* (store) provides a meager income for them. The house project includes a room for that store. \$500 of the \$1000 needed to make the store better and more sustainable has already been donated by a Faith PC team member family. We welcome your donation to cover all or part of the other half.



Miriam and Blanca's sleeping space



#2: Our own indigenous social worker, Eugenia Chiroy, has faithfully vetted Porch house and humanitarian relief projects for seven years. Now she, her husband Carlos, and son Edras will themselves receive a good house.

They have lived in a three-meter x three-meter bedroom in her parents' house (where 19 other folks live) since they married. Adelante Eugenia, Carlos, y todos!



DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER

Mirna comments on the Wercshlers' stint as volunteers, which just ended: We have had many volunteers over the years, but Lydia and Jascha were very special, very professional but above all, very polite, sweet and kind, cooperative and empathetic. I hope they had a good experience with Porch. On behalf of all of us, we thank them for their service.

Our four months volunteering with Porch was an adventure that will stay with us for the rest of our lives. We experienced the beauty and richness of Guatemala's landscapes, people, food, and culture.

We were particularly impacted by the deep faith of many Guatemalan families. The willingness to help one's neighbor and have a giving spirit was evident in many we met. However, the reality of their medical, relational, or physical challenges was hard to view. There were situations of great injustice that we had to contend with and learn about. In these cases it was best to step back and observe while Porch's staff stepped up. It was often in these situations that the most difficult and important lessons landed.

We learned so much about relief and development and how small actions and investments of time may work wonders. We learned about sustainability, and a lot about dignity, worth, and grace. *Lydia and Jascha Werschler (Ottawa, Canada)*



A HARD STORY IS GETTING BETTER

Hilda writes: In our Sequoyah Hills PC medical trip to La Boca Costa we met María Coj, a 15 year-old girl with a massive tumor in her right leg. She also suffered from severe, chronic malnutrition. Unfortunately, her family's ignorance and fear that she might lose her leg delayed them seeking medical help. Porch's intervention, with help from our Sequoyah Hills PC medical team and our Guatemalan doctor, convinced them to hospitalize her.

We explained to Maria that she might lose her leg, but it would save her life and end her pain. In tears she asked us to help her continue living, even without a leg. Her leg was amputated last month.

We visited Maria at the hospital. She thanked us and told us that she didn't feel pain anymore. She was painting and smiling. We felt better. We took her to see Lake Atitlan; it was her and her mother's first trip there.

Porch has spent \$750 for her wheelchair, medicine, tests, and Ensure to help her recover from malnutrition. We will spend at least \$150 per month to help Maria gain weight and for her wound to heal. The Monroes and McGahas agree that Porch will strive to educate her, clothe her, and help her achieve a better quality of life.

Maria's sad situation really touched our office staff. We thank God that he put us in the right place, at the right time, to help save her life.



Team Sequoyah Hills PC became Porch's first medical/dental team to venture into the remote, underserved *Boca Costa* region since the pandemic began. For many patients, this was their first medical or dental care ever. Bravo y gracias!



Special thanks to our leadership team: Mirna, Noe, and Hilda as well as our volunteer medical liaison Jayne for their medicine purchases, planning, and guidance. Many, many logistics and details were involved; the team, translators, and guides slept and ate there.



Pascuala (nine) has been provided for by Porch de Salomon since she was one year old. She could not blink her eyes when we first met her; hard and dry eyelids prevented that. Smart and vibrant, she does not let her harlequin ichthyosis (fish skin malady) get her down.

We spend \$375 on Pascuala's caretaker, housing, food, and schooling each month. Donated Aquaphor lotion is essential; we have a good stock on hand at the moment (thank you McGahas and friends!)

We invite you to help fund Pascuala's care and her future with a donation in the amount of your choice.

Porch helps hundreds of people and children get better each month.
Below: Asusely (19) and son Jairon (six months) are happy with formula we provide each month. Her husband, Bucy, earns \$4 per day as a waiter, when there is work. Jairon was born prematurely but is getting better.



Emanuel Update

Our medical liaison Jayne reports: I'm still waiting to hear from the Diamond-Blackfan Foundation's doctor about her conversation with the Guatemalan hematologist.

Porch welcomes prayers, ideas, and donations. See our April edition for more details:

<https://porchdesalomon.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/April-2022-PorchTalk.pdf>

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