### Porch de Salomon

Panajachel, Guatemala porchdesalomon.org

and on facebook

Greg & Rachael McGaha Executive Directors porchgregory@gmail.com porchrae@gmail.com 678.558.3232

Mirna Recinos Aceituno Facility/Hotel/Finance mirnarecinos2003@gmail.com 011.502.7762.0793

Relief Co-Directors: **Noe Benjamin Perez** noebenjaminperez@gmail.com 011.502.5945.1313 Hilda Mux Son Hilda.son03@gmail.com 011.502.4214.8501

**Calvin Stephens** Treasurer treasurerpds@gmail.com 904.321.7258

**Rex Ware** Asst. Treasurer rexware@floridasalestax.com 850.933.0344

Jayne Mittan, P.A. Medical Liaison jaynemittan@gmail.com 850.212.6593

Llovd & Melanie Monroe Founders/Directors dlloydmonroe@gmail.com 850,688,2076

Tax-deductible donations to: Porch de Salomon P.O. Box 15267 Fernandina Beach, FL 32035-3105 Or online 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 \*Self-sustainable micro-businesses \*Helping transform churches and individuals

# PorchTalk

Volume 225

## THE POWER OF EMPATHY

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." — Galatians 6:2 (NIV)

"Empathy is seeing with the eyes of another, listening with the ears of another, and feeling with the heart of another." — Alfred Adler



# Tres Hermanos "For the lost, the least, and the last"

### **Sparks Hope and Resilience**

Porch de Salomon started construction on a new home in Solola for Antonia and her 12-year-old daughter, Crisla. The two have been without a stable home, often moving between relatives' floors or living in a small, cold shack with rainwater running through the floor. Crisla tearfully shared how difficult it is to live this way and expressed her longing for a place to call theirs. Grateful and emotional, Antonia said she had been crying out to God for a safe home and believed God was answering her prayers. Antonia used her limited funds to share snacks with everyone at the groundbreaking.



Porch begins a new project in San Bartolo, Sololá. Three siblings—Osman (19), Amelia (15), and Rosa (13)—have faced incredible challenges since their mother passed away from cirrhosis four years ago, a consequence of her battle with alcoholism. Their father, Alfredo, works far away in Alta Verapaz, visiting only once a year and providing financial support when he can. The siblings lean on one another for strength as they navigate a journey marked by loss, absence, and the difficulties of growing up without sufficient support. Despite their challenging past, they continue to hope for better days ahead.



# Soothes Emotional Wounds

Construction is officially underway for Osman (19), Amelia (15), and Rosa's (13) new home, which will provide some hope and stability after their mother's passing. Our team from Canada, Collective Togetherness, is making this dream a reality through funding and hard work. Also, the Community Bible team from Stockbridge, GA, is helping the siblings find joy in the simple moments like haircuts, shopping, and fiestas, embracing the little milestones that bring them closer to a fresh start. Their combined efforts allow this little family to build a brighter future in a safe, stable home, offering them the foundation to heal and move forward with renewed strength.



"Being a part of building a home for this family in Guatemala was a truly transformative experience. Seeing them actively participate in creating the space that will soon be theirs was incredibly moving. Despite the tough circumstances they've faced, they were full of smiles all week, welcoming us with open hearts and trusting us to build them a new home. It was a powerful reminder of resilience, community, and the impact we can make when we work together. I'm excited to see their faces when they get the keys to their new home!" — Alex Briere (photo credit, above)

# **Nurtures Compassion and Care**

Porch is honored to have partnered with Sequoyah Hills Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, TN to bring essential healthcare to rural Guatemala. A dedicated team of doctors, dentists, nurses, and pharmacists provided much-needed medical, dental, and eye care to indigenous communities facing significant healthcare barriers. Their compassion and generosity have made a profound impact, offering hope and healing to those in need. Special thanks to local dentist Dr. Angel Polanco for volunteering his time and expertise, further strengthening the team's efforts to bring care and support to these underserved communities.

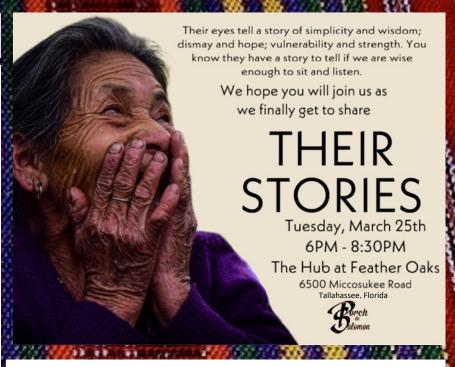


During this impactful week, a total of 445 individuals were served through general medicine, 240 received glasses to improve their vision, and 160 people were provided with dental care. These services made a significant difference in the lives of many, helping to meet crucial healthcare needs in the community.

# Helps Us See the World Through Others' Eyes

Porch is thrilled to announce the release of "Their Stories" – a unique book project dedicated to supporting Golden Years, a senior center Porch helps support that provides community, meals, activities, and more to the elders of San José Chacayá and surrounding areas.

If you are in the Tallahassee area, join
Elaine Cappellino and Nancy
Upthegrove for a celebration as they
officially launch this beautiful collection
of stories shared by individuals whose
lives have a story to tell if we are wise
enough to listen. This book is more than
just a collection of stories – it's a
fundraising effort to support the
incredible programs that provide hope,
care, and community through Porch.
Enjoy an evening of connection with
other Porch supporters, swap stories,
and make a difference in the lives of
those in need.



Thanks, Elaine Cappellino and Nancy Upthegrove, for bringing this beautiful book to life and inspiring many with "Their Stories".

Books will be available for purchase on-site, so be sure to grab your copy!

Online purchase opportunity coming soon!

Porch de Salomon
P.O. BOX 15267
Fernandina Beach, FL 32035-3105
www.porchdesalomon.org
and on

facebook.com/porchdesalomon/

NON-PROFIT STANDARD
POSTAGE & FEES
PAID
TALLAHASSEE FL
Permit # 654

