

# Hogar de Vida y Nutrición

## San Andres, Guatemala



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## Homes of Life Guatemala and Costa Rica

The Homes of Life have two locations, the **Home of Life and Nutrition** in Guatemala and the **Home of Life for the Children** in Costa Rica. The staff members from each home know each other and pray for each other. Many of them have visited the other home and had the opportunity to serve each other in whatever way they can. Both homes are dedicated to caring for children in need, but day-to-day life in each home is quite different.

In Costa Rica the kids are placed by the Government as orphans or having been removed their family home for some reason. The Home of Life provides a temporary home for them while their situation is investigated. Eventually they return to their family of origin or are placed for adoption. The children in the home in Costa Rica are typically 0-7 years of age.



In Guatemala, the kids range from 0-18 plus. They are placed in the home by the Government ([See Cata's Story](#)) or are brought to the home by their parents. Some come because of abuse or neglect, while others come because their parent(s) are unable to care for them. Others arrive malnourished and are able to return to their family when they are healthy again. Most are unable to return to their home and are not eligible for adoption, so they will stay in the home until they are 18.

Both Homes of Life are located in a beautiful compound. In Costa Rica there are 3 separate houses for the children and the "tias" who care for them. Each house acts like a family unit. The houses come together for special events, but much of the time they are separate families in

neighboring houses. This setup is appropriate since the children in Costa Rica are very young.

In Guatemala, the home is more like a traditional orphanage. There is one set of Directors who act as "parents" of the home with a few workers who come in during the day to help with the chores. This home lives as one big family. With a full range of ages, the older kids help a lot with the care of the younger children, making for a large "family" that runs very smoothly.

Though there are many differences between the homes in their setup and function, there is one common denominator that really stands out -

Jesus Christ. Both homes exist to serve the needs of orphans by providing a nurturing and safe place to learn about God's love for them in Christ. The children are shown the unconditional love of Jesus and are pointed to His saving work on the cross. Each child is cared for physically, emotionally, and spiritually and through this

comes healing. Praise the Lord for His work done in each of these precious lives.

Funding for the Homes in Central America comes mostly through the generous support of ministry partners like you. If you sense the Lord leading you to make a gift to the children, you can donate online ([www.homesoflife.org](http://www.homesoflife.org)) or by mail. If you'd like to do so on a monthly basis, consider the new Sponsorship Program. 100% of your support goes directly to the benefit of the children or to support Tim and Dena as you designate. The cost of administering and processing your gifts is covered by other means.

*"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me." ---Mark 9:37*

## Norman and Vicki Sutton Faith Missionaries Home of Life in Guatemala



When Norman and Vickie Sutton took their first mission trip to the Home of Life, Guatemala in 2000, they had no idea of what plans the Lord had for them, or that 10 years later they would be living there as full-time faith

missionaries. After many more trips to the home and much prayer, they headed to Costa Rica in August of 2009 for 8 months of language school and then to Guatemala in May 2010 to start their ministry at Hogar de Vida. They have two grown children, Heather and Ryan, who they left behind in the States. Heather is in her second year of medical school in Omaha, NE and Ryan is in his third year of college in Chicago studying Architecture.

After a time of getting acclimated to their new home and learning how they could best help Sebastian and Oralia, the Directors, Norman and Vickie have settled into life at the home. Their heart and mission, first and foremost, is to be a blessing and help to Sebastian and Oralia. They take care of the home on the Directors' day off and enable them to leave in the evenings when needed. Norman and Vickie also assist with caring for the kids and parenting as needed. They have grown to love each child in a deeper way than they thought possible and enjoy pouring themselves into their lives.



Norman has had plenty of opportunities to apply his carpentry and maintenance skills. He helped the home change from two smaller kitchens inside the home to one large outdoor kitchen where all the preparation,

cooking and eating is done in one place. In November 2010, a short-term team started construction of a new playground. Norman is working on completing this fun addition to the home. Between these big projects, he also constructed new tables, cabinets and beds. Amidst all of these activities, there are many opportunities for the older boys to help and learn.

Besides playing and various activities with the kids, Vickie has taken responsibility for coordination of the sponsorship program for Home of Life Guatemala.

She is also using her accounting and administrative skills to help out with the office duties.

The Suttons also find joy in coordinating and hosting short term teams who come to serve at the home. They find great blessing in seeing the Lord working and making changes in many lives.

Norman and Vickie are thankful for the Lord's direction and provision in their lives that brought them to serve full time at the Home of Life Guatemala. They have definitely been blessed.

### Cata's Story

Five years ago, 7 year old Cata was taken from her home due to unhealthy circumstances, and was placed at the Home of Life in Guatemala. When Cata first arrived she was sure she wouldn't like it here and wanted to leave. But soon, she found out it's a good place to be and didn't want to leave any more. She knew it was the Lord's will for her to live here. Within six months of Cata arriving, her two younger sisters came to live here as well. The three of them still live here in the home.

As a young girl, Cata's mom took her to church, and at age 6, Cata accepted Christ as her personal savior. She has grown to love and know the Lord more and more and knows that He is loving and kind and cares for her. Cata is now 12 years old and is a beautiful young lady.



Cata is in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and Math is her favorite subject. She wants to be an Accountant when she grows up. She also likes to draw and make crafts. Cata is quick to make friends both at school and with short-term missions team members who come to serve at the home. She likes having responsibility for things, especially helping out and playing with the preschool age children in the home. They love her as well. Cata has a sweet spirit, always quick to smile and loves to share with others. She is such a joy and blessing to have as part of the Home of Life family.

