

Hogar de Vida y Nutrición

San Andres, Guatemala



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Dear Friends, Family and Ministry Partners,

I used to think that any family over 4 children was a large family and always wondered how the parents kept everything under control.

Now I live in community with a family of 30 kids and I see a family that runs smoothly like a well-oiled machine. How is that possible? Only through



children who are loved and well nurtured, who then pass this love and nurturing on to the younger children. Of course, these children are normal children and “build character” in each other as well, but overall they love and care for each other.

Toddler Luisito is crying because he didn't get his way on something. In swoops one of the older boys to pick him up and distract him with something else to do. It is such a blessing to see the teenage boys play and care for the younger boys. They take them by their side and let them hang out while they do their chores. Luisito and Venancio, both 3 years old, are thrilled when they get to help herd the

cows from the ravine to the front gate on their way to pasture. They stand at a safe distance and throw in their little voices to get the cows moving.



Every morning there are 9 children under age 8 who need help bathing, dressing, and fixing hair to get ready for school and the day. The older girls are a great help in this area. They lay out clothes for them to wear and help style the girls' hair. It isn't unusual to see one of the older boys help dress one of the little boys as well.

One of the children in the home is a sweet 7-month-old little girl, Alicia. Alicia is never lacking love and attention. She can often be found in the arms of one of the older kids. When not in someone's arms, she can be found in her walker or playpen with someone talking and entertaining her.



This loving, caring, well-functioning home doesn't happen by accident. It's from the hard work of the Directors Sebastian and Oralia that this home runs so well and is characterized by love. Each child has its place in this home and this creates a loving, peaceful (most of the time) environment.

Overall, Guatemala is a very nurturing society. It is such a blessing to see this nurturing taught to the children through example and then to see them demonstrate this same nurturing towards the younger children. Despite the broken homes the children have come from, can you imagine what great parents these teens will become because they've learned to value children and how to care for them.

Vickie Sutton, Full-time Missionary
Hogar de Vida, Guatemala



Carrie's Story

My name is Carrie Brown. I am a recent graduate of Grove City College in Western Pennsylvania. Grove City has been sending a short-term missions team to Hogar de Vida in Guatemala for several years. I have had the great privilege and honor of going the past three years. This year I was one of three leaders that led a team of 22 students "to serve" the children and staff of Hogar de Vida. I want to emphasize my use of quotes because it is never the case that "we" are the ones serving. We have the intention to "serve," but this is not the case the whole time. Instead, the people of Hogar de Vida have served us, the Grove City team, and every other team that comes to Guatemala. The people have such a huge impact in the lives of team members, and have a special place in our hearts. Each year I've gone to Guatemala I have had different experiences. The first year, Dena hosted the team. She is such a source of wisdom, and I thank God for the desire He put in Tim and Dena's hearts to start the homes in Guatemala and Costa Rica. The ministry has truly changed the lives of many people including my own. My second year was different because Dena and Tim were in the United States and were unable to host our team. With 26 team members, we had the biggest Grove City team ever. It was a year of challenges but God's work was still done while we learned so much about ourselves and the power of God's will in our lives. This past year Brad Pietryga, Luke Tomaselli and I led the team, and we had the opportunity to be hosted by Norm and Vickie Sutton. They were and are a great blessing to us. The neatest thing this



year was to see how much the home has been transformed physically and spiritually with Norm and Vickie being there.

When people ask why I go to Guatemala, there is no hesitation in my answer: "The people!" I am so blessed with the relationships I have formed with the kids and staff. Each time the bus pulls up to the home after a long day of traveling from Guatemala City, I feel I have returned home. The children, team and staff are an extension of my family. The number one thing the team discusses is how loving the kids are to the team as the love of Christ pours out of them. To quote a good friend, when you are with these children, "You see the face of God." The kids and staff give unconditional love the entire time you are with them, even when you leave. This is reflected in the love that the staff has for the children and the emphasis on family, a very captivating aspect of the home. I sit here writing this and cannot stop thinking about when I will be able to return to my second home and the family that I have found in Guatemala.

I have been blessed with great experiences through my time in Guatemala. My favorite experience every year is the last night when all of the kids, staff and team sit in a huge circle and talk about our experiences during the week. The kids are always so thankful for having us there to play and love on them. (Usually thanking us for having an Easter Egg Hunt) It is also a great time for the team to share how the kids and staff have impacted them. Everyone is able to hear how each person in the home and team has been affected by each other. Even though we cannot communicate in the same language, Christ's love shines through. My life is changed as I am reminded of the simple ways I can share Christ's love and the Gospel to the people around me.

Carrie Brown
Grove City College