



September 2013

Two legacies. Two important projects for Guatemala.

When one legacy is joined by another, with a large dose of generosity and a successful fiesta mixed in, the result is another School of Miracles!

On July 31 we returned to San Antonio el Cornejo, where Noreen Rambacher dedicated the very first School of Miracles in January 2005. This time, we were greeted with many familiar smiles when we arrived to dedicate School #40, a "basico" that will serve grades 7 through 9.

Miracles in Action board member Pat Dorian (who has 2 adopted Guatemalan grandchildren) shared this, "In a community where most kids don't finish school, I was impressed that when asked for their commitment to completing their education, these students all rushed to the front with their hands raised."

Pat and the Naples Lakes community helped raise the funds to make the dream of this three-classroom middle school a reality. And thanks to a generous donation from the Craig Foundation, we also dedicated "Craig's Computer Center" in memory of Craig Osinski. The center holds 10 computers with several donated by Harry Heist of Fort Myers, FL.

Penny Reflects...

At the inauguration of this school, I brought photos from past visits to this village, and from the inauguration of School #1 (a primary school sponsored by my mom, Noreen Rambacher.) The stack of 100s of photos was distributed by the middle school teacher, Claudia, who is from this village. She recognized the faces of children who were 2-8 years old in 2005 and now are 10-16 years old. As she called out their names and they looked at their photo there were peals of laughter and delight. I just loved the experience and tried to recognize each of the faces from my photos from 2005. These kids are like my family, since I never had children of my own. I told the villagers this during the inauguration.



Students gather with Penny in front of the completed school, with a banner of "Welcome -- Bienvenidos!"



Penny is joined by the local mayor and representatives from the Naples Lakes Community to cut the ribbon at the dedication.



Students demonstrate their knowledge in their new computer lab.



We distributed photos from the 2005 grand opening of School #1, stoves installations, and other projects we have supported over the past 8 years.



Students were thrilled to see their photos from 8 years ago.



Two women who received stoves in 2005 holding a photo of themselves. They are still using their stoves, saving wood and reducing smoke inhalation.

Not rich. Just determined to build a school.

Our supporters find lots of creative ways to sponsor schools!

For the school mentioned above, Pat Dorian and others from the Naples Lakes Community invited their friends to a fundraising fiesta, held jewelry sales, collected items for a silent auction, and solicited individual donations. Within a few months, they raised enough money to build a small school. It's that easy. And it proves you don't have to be wealthy to leave a lasting legacy in Guatemala.

We are always touched when amazing people come together to make Miracles happen. [Ask how you can hold](#) a project fundraiser of your own to improve lives in one of the world's poorest countries.



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