

Friendship Without Borders / Amistad Sin Fronteras

Will you help sponsor our mission trip this summer?

A group of volunteers will be making a mission outreach to the people of Guatemala.

We call our group "**The Friendship Without Borders Mission Team**". The mission trip takes us to Los Hogares Santa María de Guadalupe (Guadalupe Homes), an orphanage in the small village of Santa Apolonia, Guatemala. Founded in 1985 by the School Sisters of Saint Francis, **Guadalupe Homes** is home to approximately 100 orphaned and abandoned children, from tiny infants to teenagers. They live together as large families, with 12 to 16 children in each of the 6 cabin-style houses. In each house, two or three women care for the children as substitute mothers.

The orphanage is highly dependent upon volunteers and benefactors for its continued ministry. Recently they have asked for our assistance in construction, painting, general maintenance and upkeep, and in providing medical services for the children. It is our team's desire to respond to their invitation to help them.

Why Guatemala?

Guatemala, the poorest country in Central America, is a small Central American country about 3/4 the size of Wisconsin, with approximately twice as large a population. Less than half of the 11 million people can read or write. Under-employment, reaching as high as 40%, is a major national problem. Inflation is typically over 12% while family income grows at a much smaller pace. The average family income is only about US \$1,200 per year --- about 1/20th the US standard. Because of squalid health conditions, infant mortality is six-times that of the US. Six out of 100 children will die needlessly as infants, of diseases that were conquered by modern medicine decades ago. Another ten of that one hundred will not live to see their 15th birthday.

Why Guatemala? Because the poorest of the poor live there. It is where the need is the greatest, and we are called to serve God's children there.

Why go there? Why not just send them money?

The objectives of our mission journey are two-fold. The first is to follow the gospel examples of Jesus and to demonstrate our care and Christian love in a real and concrete way by providing the work of our own hands. We will also provide the materials --- the paint and the wood, the nails and cement, and the medical supplies which are so desperately needed. Our second objective is to be enriched and awakened by the experience of living and working alongside the poorest of God's poor. During our days working alongside the Guatemalan people, we will live together, eat together, pray together, learn from them and they from us. Upon our return home, we will share the stories that we have heard. We will tell all that we have learned and experienced to you, our sponsors, and to all others who care to listen.

We invite you to help send forth our mission team by making a donation. Please see the sponsorship form on the other side of this page.