

JIM AND KAY HINES

HESED LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL



KAY, NINOSKA, NINOSKA'S MOM & JIM

In January, the new school year began in Guatemala, with almost all of the classes now being conducted in person. Azucena and Mafer are students at the university for the first time and are very excited. On the other end we expect Joselin, Lisdenia, and possibly Yojana to graduate this year. As in the United States, Guatemala is still experiencing some Covid effects but the greatest issue is the great increase in the price of food and transportation. We again thank you for your generous and faithful support to these young ladies. Blessings to you and your family.

NINOSKA

Ninoska was the psychologist at Prince of Peace when we were there and we have continued a close relationship with her. We have encouraged many of our young ladies to see Ninoska because they all have a difficult story. (We pay her a very small amount which is even more than she asks for). We strongly encouraged Raquel and her husband to visit with Ninoska and they have begun to do so.

GUATEMALAN GIRLS LIFE PROJECT

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Lovingkindness and truth go before You.

Ps. 89:14

RAQUEL

Maria Raquel began the program in January 2022. She needed 1 year to finish high school, which she did. Last year she began the university with a major in education and a focus on literature and language. She has a significant hereditary hearing loss but has been able to compensate. Despite much turmoil in her personal life, she did complete her first year at the university with good grades. When we were there in November, we had an extended meeting with her and her husband. Through many tears, she revealed much about her childhood and how difficult it was. There were already 3 or 4 children in the family when her parents divorced and then had other children with other people. Her parents later remarried and everyone was living together but the parents never had a good relationship so there was constant turmoil and conflict in the home which led to Maria Raquel going to Prince of Peace. She was there from age 12-15 and then returned home but the turmoil and conflict continued.

Two years ago, Raquel's husband Julio lost his job and this forced them to move into the house with her father and other siblings. The situation became so bad they finally moved to a one-room apartment. Julio found new employment and they are looking for somewhere else to live. As I said despite all of this, she did well in school.



JIM, KAY & RAQUEL'S FAMILY

GABRIELA

Gabriela joined the program in January 2022. She was at Prince of Peace when she was 11 years old and stayed there for 2 years before her family moved to Costa Rica, where she still lives. At the beginning of her 2nd year in law school, the husband left the family. We had great concern about her ability to continue in school, but she was determined, and we had already paid for the semester. She began to work and moved to live with her mother, and has actually done well. It seems to be a stable home situation, and her grades were excellent, so she has now begun her 3rd year of law school.



GABRIELA, HER 2 SONS & HER SISTER

ADELA

Adela remains passionate about the study of cooking. Despite many obstacles, she pushes forward. Last year the family moved and she had to travel a great distance on the bus to go to school. Also, in September, she gave birth to her 2nd child, a little girl. So, with strong support from her husband's family, she completed the school year. She has now begun a 2-year program that is much closer to where she lives and it seems to better fit her needs. It should be a much better year for her.



ADELA

VILMA

We initially met Vilma in 2004 when we first visited Prince of Peace Home for Girls. She had just gotten married on the grounds of Prince of Peace. At that time she was the social worker at Prince of Peace, a position she continues to the present. Her husband, Rafael, is one of the finest Guatemalan men we have ever known. He has been very supportive of her work at Prince of Peace. They live, with their 3 sons, on the campus of Prince of Peace so it is a 24/7 responsibility.

They have become very dear friends to us and trusted counselors. When we are considering new girls for the program, she is a great resource for what their behavior is at this time and what their goals are.

Her story is a very special one. She came to live at Prince of Peace when she was 10 years old. She was being physically abused at home and the court sent her to Price of Peace for her protection.

Alfonso Sanchez, a North American had founded the home and she was one of the original girls. He became the father, "papi" she never had. She tells us that almost every night she would cry herself to sleep, asking God why she could not go home. Year after year she would tell "papi", I want to go home.

He finally gave in and said he would take her back to the judge who had placed her there. She put all of her stuff in a black plastic bag and they headed to court. The judge listened to her and then looked straight at her and said, "are you crazy?" Where do you want me to send you? You are at the best children's home in Guatemala City. The light bulb finally came on and she was content to be at Prince of Peace.

After finishing high school, she left Prince of Peace and on her own, without any help, she worked and went to school and obtained her Bachelor's degree and then a Master's Degree in Social Work.

She then returned to work at Prince of Peace. She and Rafael did not marry until they had finished all of their education. If you will consider her personal history of having been a girl at the home, you will know why she has such a heart for these girls and why they listen to her and trust her. There is an expression in Spanish, "Mira". It means look here, pay attention to what I am saying. When Vilma says "Mira", they listen, but as you can imagine, they do not always heed her counsel.

She is a great blessing to us and many others. For those of you who know Lana Sanders, she described Vilma and Rafael as "two of God's finest". We could not agree more.



JIM, KAY, VILMA & RAFAEL

EMELY

Emely Yessina Beteta began the program in January 2022. As we noted when she started the program, she is the only participant who was never a girl at Prince of Peace Home for Girls but her mother, Monica was and Monica married the son of Desi who has been the cook at Prince of Peace for over 35 years. When Desi first introduced her to us, she appeared to be a very responsible young lady with a strong relationship with God. Time has proven that impression to be most correct.



EMELY

CATTY

Catty completed all of her coursework and received her diploma in Industrial Psychology (Human Resources) in October 2021. In the summer of 2022, she began a position in Human Resources at a large evangelical church (Fraternidad Christiana de Guatemala). It was a true gift from God. She is in a safe place and is surrounded by people of very high professional standards influenced by a strong Christian faith. The first 6 months were challenging as she was learning many new things. Then January 2023 came and the pace greatly accelerated. It was the beginning of a new year for the church, the bookstore, and the school they operate. Her supervisor told her in March, if you can just hang on until May everything will be much better. Catty did hang on and by May it was much better. Having now some sense of comfort with her position and with the encouragement of her supervisor she made the decision and has begun a 2-year program to obtain her Master's degree in Human Resources. She will continue working but she and we are very excited for this opportunity for her.



LISDENIA, CATTY & JOSELIN

JOSELIN & LISDENIA

In August, Lisdenia will complete a one-year internship with the international accounting firm Ernst & Young. She anticipates being offered a full-time position at that time. In September we mentioned that Joselin had applied for a 6-month internship with Disney in Florida. It was a difficult process but she was accepted and went to Florida the last week of January. She is dealing with many challenges at work (people speak English very fast) and learning to share an apartment with 3 other girls. Please pray for her. She will return to Guatemala in July and we anticipate both girls will graduate from the university.

NEYDI



NEYDI'S FAMILY

Neydi Lizet began the program in January 2020. She is studying Criminal Justice which usually requires 4 years of college and 3-4 years of practice to become fully licensed. She completed the first two and one-half years and did very well, but she did not attend school in 2023 because of the birth of her son in November 2022. She did return to work in 2023 and is now attending full-time classes at the University. She and her husband seem to be doing well and she is excited to be back in school. We expect her to continue to do well.

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With your valuable contribution, you not only transform one life but also impact lives across generations.