



1500 Christmas Food Bags!

It's that time again. The school year is ending, we are about to start reinforcement sessions for kids of all ages and Christmas is just around the corner.

During the pandemic we replaced our New Year's Eve party and fund-raiser with a program designed to distribute baskets of food to families in and around San Miguel Dueñas. Christmas baskets are a traditional Guatemalan gift and we encourage the families we serve to "pass it forward," i.e., to take part as both recipients and donors. We provide the families with two baskets each, one for their own use and one to pass on to another family, preferably one in even greater need. The families take that so seriously that some have even returned the second basket because they did not know anyone in greater need.

Based on the reactions of both the donors and the families receiving the food baskets, we are continuing the tradition this year. In the pandemic years families were in special need because so many breadwinners were without jobs. This year the issue is inflation, which is eating into family incomes just as surely as did the loss of jobs.



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In past years the baskets themselves (not the contents) were donated, but this year those are not available. So, we are using bags which have just as much space for the food, each one containing:

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|--|--------------------------------|
| 3 pounds of beans | 2 pounds of rice |
| 2 pounds of incaparina (soy based drink) | 2 pounds of oatmeal |
| 1 pound of milk | 1 pound of coffee |
| 1 pound of salt | 1 bar for making hot chocolate |
| 1 tube of toothpaste | 4 toothbrushes |



Prices for the baskets are: \$35 (Q265) for one basket; \$33 (Q250) each for two; \$30 (Q225) each for four and \$28 (Q210) each for 5 or more baskets. When you donate the baskets you are participating in a rich and storied Guatemalan tradition while helping the children and families we serve throughout the year and supporting our educational programs. Last year we were able, through your donations, to distribute 1240 baskets. This year the goal is 1500 because the families need your help.







To donate Christmas baskets, go to the Open Windows website (www.openwinfound.org) and click on the Christmas Basket button on the front page. You can use PayPal directly or use it to charge the donation to your credit card. From the US you can also send a check to: Open Windows Foundation, c/o John Davis, 1268 E. McNair Dr., Tempe, AZ 85283. If you are in Guatemala, you can write a check to Asociación Ventanas Abiertas. ***Please make sure to indicate, either in the website or on your check, that the donation is for Christmas baskets.***

Otra vez buscamos donaciones para canastas navideñas. Con la inflación las familias en Dueñas y aldeas cercanas no pueden comprar comida suficiente. Canastas navideñas son una tradición en Guatemala y les brindamos a las familias la oportunidad tanto de recibir como de donar una canasta. Este año queremos distribuir 1500 canastas con su ayuda. Una canasta cuesta Q265, dos Q250 cada una, cuatro Q225 cada una y Q210 cada una para cinco canastas o más. Puede escribir un cheque a Asociación Ventanas Abiertas o usar PayPal en nuestro sitio web (www.openwinfound.org).

Are You a Regular Donor to Open Windows?

The generosity of our donors allows Open Windows to continue offering opportunities to Guatemalan children through the services funded by your gifts. The families served by our program rely on Open Windows and Open Windows relies on you. Your ongoing support can take a variety of forms:

-  A monthly donation to Open Windows set up through PayPal
-  A monthly donation set up through your local bank
-  Support for a scholarship student with donations made when school bills come due
-  A donation multiple times a year when it is convenient

Or you could, in addition to any donations you make now, leave a longer term gift to Open Windows, either by including the organization in your will or trust or by naming Open Windows as the beneficiary of a securities or bank account.

As a regular donor, you clearly value an investment in the future of children in Guatemala. You believe that individuals can make a difference in the life of another person. Help us continue to make that difference.

Upcoming Events	
Dates	What's Happening
November 2–December 2	Reinforcement sessions with exams for scholarships
November 7–11	DWC volunteers build a house and install eco-stoves
November 14-18	DWC/Rotary Club volunteers install eco-stoves
March 2023	OW Volunteers install eco-stoves; dates to be determined





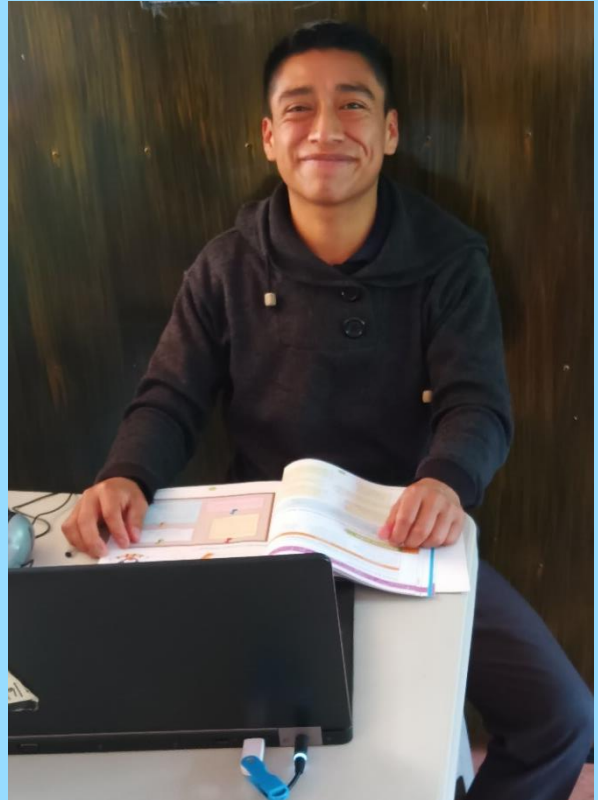
Open Windows' loss was the public schools' gain when Felisa Cún resigned to take a job for which she had been hoping for more than a year. We will miss her passion and her creativity.

Fortunately, we were able to find another young teacher just as passionate and eager to share his knowledge and skills with the next generation.

José Miguel Angel Pelén Merino is well-known at Open Windows. In 2013 he finished primary school and continued his education with the help of scholarships from Open Windows, graduating from San Carlos University in 2021 with a degree in Intercultural Primary Education. Most Guatemalan teachers do not have college degrees and certainly not from the top university in the country. Jose does because of support from Open Windows' donors.

José says he actually started his teaching career as a child, playing school with his friends and always playing the role of the teacher. His most recent teaching experience has been at the Instituto de Telesecundaria in a small village near San Miguel Duenas.

José will get his real initiation to Open Windows next month as the reinforcement sessions begin. There will be more children coming to the library and for longer periods, so it is our busiest time. A good introduction. Welcome, José!



Después de ocho años Felisa Cún salió de Ventanas Abiertas para hacerse profesora en una escuela pública y José Miguel Angel Pelén Merino llegó como el maestro más nuevo. José era becado de Ventanas Abiertas y se graduó de la Universidad de San Carlos en 2021 como Profesor de Educación Primaria Intercultural. Reciente fue docente en el Instituto de Telesecundaria en una aldea cercana a San Miguel Dueñas. Bienvenido, José!

Change a child's life today:

Send a tax-deductible check to:
Open Windows Foundation
c/o John Davis
1268 E. McNair Dr.
Tempe, AZ 85283

Find out more about Open Windows Learning Center:

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