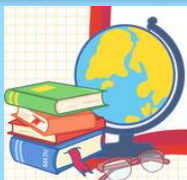


**Open
Windows
Foundation****Asociación Ventanas Abiertas**

Reinforcement Sessions

Next month, November, the most serious part of the Open Windows year begins. This is the time when the schools have closed for the year and we begin conducting our reinforcement sessions. Instead of just helping children with their homework, our teachers will be conducting classes on the material the students should have learned during the school year. We want to make sure that they are ready for the coming year.

Reflecting the importance of these classes, far more students come to the library each day for the reinforcement sessions than during the school year. There are so many children that scholarship students come to help the teachers ensure that every child has a chance to profit from these end-of-the-year classes.

Perhaps the most important classes are the ones aimed at the sixth graders and the middle school students. At the end of the reinforcement sessions, these students have the opportunity to take exams which will determine who is



What are you doing in March?

At Open Windows we will be building a house for a family during the first two weeks of March. If you can spend a week or two helping us, we would love to have you. For more information send an email to: dennis.zeller@outlook.com.

offered a scholarship for further study. Getting a scholarship to middle school can be a life-changing event for a Guatemalan youth. The single most important determinant of a child's chances to avoid poverty as an adult is whether he or she gets an education beyond the primary years. Only half do so, which pretty much accounts for the 59 percent poverty rate in the country.



En noviembre empieza la parte más importante del año académico en Ventanas Abiertas. Las escuelas estarán cerradas y les damos a los niños sesiones de reforzamiento. Intentamos asegurarnos que los estudiantes han aprendido lo que debieron y que estarán listos para el próximo año. Al final del reforzamiento los estudiantes mayores toman exámenes para aplicar a una beca para poder continuar sus estudios en básico, diversificado y universidad.

5 days + 14 volunteers = 90 new eco-stoves



That's the formula Developing World Connections is using for this year's Light Up Guatemala campaign which takes place this month. Team leader Doug is a veteran of the DWC campaign, but this is his first return visit since 2019, just prior to the onset of the pandemic. Most of the stoves are being installed in Alotenango, a town near Dueñas which is much larger and much poorer.



Due to the sharp reduction in firewood needed for the eco-stoves compared to the open fires the families normally use, every stove represents an increase in disposable income for the family who receives it, either in actual money spent on firewood or in the time saved collecting wood. And that does not even count the reduction in medical bills the families experience because they are no longer living in homes filled with smoke. We are grateful to DWC for the ongoing commitment the organization and its volunteers have shown. When this effort concludes, we will have installed a total of 1,285 stoves, most of them thanks to Developing World Connections and the volunteers who keep coming back.

Este mes habrá 90 estufas ecológicas más en la comunidad de Alotenango gracias a los voluntarios de la organización canadiense Developing World Connections. Hace muchos años DWC ha mandado a voluntarios como parte de su campaña Light Up Guatemala. El resultado es que hemos entregado 1,285 estufas a través de los años. Muchas gracias a DWC y sus voluntarios.



Upcoming Events	
Dates	What's Happening
October 16 - 20	Light Up Guatemala – DWC Installs 90 Eco-stoves
October 24- 27	Final Competency Tests in Reading and Math
October 31	Meeting with Parents of Scholarship Applicants
Nov. 2 – Dec. 13	Reinforcement Classes
Feb. 19 – 23, 2024	Balmoral High School Volunteers Build a Classroom
March 4 – 15, 2024	Open Windows Volunteers Build a House



Guatemala has the sixth highest rate of malnutrition in the world and the highest in the Western Hemisphere. Among children the problem is even worse; nearly half of all children under five are chronically malnourished, more than in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

During the pandemic Open Windows asked our supporters to donate for baskets of food to be given to families in need at Christmas and to allow those families to give baskets to families worse off than themselves. You came through in a big way. Unfortunately, the end of the pandemic did not bring the end of hunger. Weather and prices are contributing to the problem.

For several years drought has stunted Guatemalan food production. This year, three months into the rainy season the country had gotten less than 25 percent of the normal rainfall. When the rain does come during these conditions, it does so with force, causing mudslides and destroying crops.

While general inflation has eased somewhat, food prices are rising nearly 50 percent faster than other commodities and one of the two important staples, black beans, is experiencing a 10 percent increase in wholesale prices. Even without the lockdowns that robbed many workers of their jobs, nearly half of the families in Guatemala cannot afford the cost of the basic food basket.

So, once again we are asking our supporters to make the holidays a bit happier for Guatemalan families. A basket of food includes: beans, rice, oatmeal, milk, a typical Guatemalan corn drink, a chocolate bar for making cocoa and toothpaste and brushes. No turkeys or hams, but at least enough to eat. A donation of \$35 (Q265) buys one bag; two bags are \$33 (Q250) each and four are \$30 (Q225) each.

Guatemala tiene más malnutrición que todo el mundo menos cinco países. Los niños de menos de cinco años tienen una probabilidad de malnutrición más alto que los niños en África, Asia, América Latina y el Caribe. Por eso pedimos otra vez donaciones para que podamos entregar bolsas de comida a familias para que ellas pueden tener comida suficiente durante la feria de Navidad y Nuevo Año. Estómagos llenos hacen estudiantes mejores.





New Faces at Open Windows



In July two new employees joined the staff at Open Windows. The first was Wilson Merén, the new computer teacher. He is currently studying psychology at the University of San Carlos in Guatemala City. Prior to enrolling at the university, Wilson taught computer classes for a year and a half to a wide range of ages at the Academy of English and Computation in Antigua. Himself a beneficiary of Open Windows' scholarship program (2012-2015), he is bringing new energy to the computer classes and getting the students excited about learning the skills they will need in the future.

The same month Humberto Beltrán Chajón, also a product of our scholarship program (2015-2020), began work as an assistant to our Director, Nilda Girón. Like many non-profit organizations, Open Windows has always suffered from a lack of administrative depth. Now, with new functions like the public school teacher workshops, the demands on the Director's time have escalated to the point that we needed someone to take over some of the more technical tasks. Humberto arrives having graduated high school with a specialization in business administration. He will have a lot to learn over the next several months, including English, which he is learning so he can help with the volunteers from the United States and Canada.



En julio Ventanas Abiertas contrató a dos empleados nuevos. Wilson Merén es el nuevo maestro de computación. Estudia psicología en la universidad y viene con experiencia de uno año y medio durante el que enseñó a adultos y niños. Humberto Beltrán es el ayudante de la Directora, Nilda Girón. Con el apoyo de él, la directora tendrá más tiempo para supervisar a los maestros y colaborar con otras organizaciones. Estamos especialmente contentos, ya que ambos de los nuevos empleados son becados previos de Ventanas Abiertas.

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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