



Computer Matching Grant

How do you make sure your donations have an impact? How about having them matched dollar for dollar and earmarked for a direct route out of poverty?

The surest way out of poverty in Guatemala is a professional level job, and those jobs demand proficiency with standard computer programs. That is why Open Windows provides training in computer skills every week to more than 200 children and youth. We start them while they are in pre-school so that by the time they leave even the primary grades they have a solid foundation in the programs of Microsoft Office and are ready for more advanced training.

Our computer classes began in 2003 with a generous donation of machines from Rotary Club, followed by donations from others. Like everything else, though, computers age and we now



need to replace a third of them to be able to continue teaching all of those 200 students.

Two of our long-time donors are helping by offering to match all donations up to \$6,000 for new computers. That means \$12,000, enough to keep our computer lab running at full capacity.

So, that is how you ensure your donations have an impact: double the amount going to Open Windows and give our kids what they need for jobs that take them out of poverty.

En Ventanas Abiertas se dan clases de computación a más de 200 estudiantes en el laboratorio de cómputo, donde muchas de las computadoras ya deben reemplazarse. Dos donantes están ofreciendo doblar cada donación para máquinas nuevas hasta \$6,000. Puedes doblar el impacto de tus donaciones y apoyar la preparación de los estudiantes para puestos profesionales que los saquen de la pobreza.

Go to openwinfound.org to make a matched donation.



Building a New Classroom

Just before the pandemic struck, we had a plan to convert what was essentially an open-air garage into three new classrooms. We managed to get two of the rooms built, but with the reduction in donations during the pandemic, we decided to wait for the one on the second

floor. Now the wait is over.



Developing World Connections has committed to providing both the funds and the volunteers to complete the classroom this year. It will take three groups to get the job done, but part of the work is now done.

The first group of volunteers arrived in February and consisted of 11 girls and two teachers from Balmoral Hall School in Winnipeg, Canada. That was too many people for a relatively small space, so while some of the girls were building the walls of the classroom, others were painting parts of the learning center and some were digging into drains that had gotten partially clogged over the years. Still others went to a different part of town to help with the building of a sterile room in a family's house. That room is now providing a place where a young woman can receive dialysis treatments at home rather than having to go periodically to a hospital in Guatemala City with all the cost and inconvenience that implies.



A second group of volunteers (from a brewery in Canada) will arrive in June to continue the work on the classroom. By the end of the year, we will finally have what we planned on four years ago – not a moment too soon.

Este año tres grupos de voluntarios de Developing World Connections construyen un aula que habíamos querido construir cuando empezó la pandemia. El primer grupo, 11 chicas y dos maestras de Balmoral Hall School en Winnipeg, Canadá, llegó en febrero. Otro grupo llegará en junio y al final del año tendremos lo que habíamos planeado hace cuatro años.



Upcoming Events	
Dates	What's Happening
May 6 – 9	Doctors & nurses from Power of a Nickel examine OW students
May 13	OW celebrates Mothers' Day
June 3 – 7	DWC volunteers continue building a new classroom
June 14	OW celebrates Fathers' Day
June 24 – 28	Volunteer dentists provide services to OW students
July 08 – 12	Students take follow-up assessments in math and language
November 04	Reinforcement sessions begin
October 14	Students take final assessments in math and language
November 25 – 29	DWC's Light Up Guatemala volunteers install eco-stoves

Volunteer Medical Staff

For many years Open Windows enjoyed the benefits of the volunteer services of Dr. Don, a retired pediatrician who came to Guatemala periodically to serve our students, as well as other groups. He conducted wellness checks, provided minor treatments and made referrals, as needed.

As Dr. Don's visits necessarily became less frequent and shorter, we began to search for someone who could continue the work he had begun. This time we found not a single practitioner but rather a whole team of medical professionals.



Power of a Nickel (<https://powerofanickel.org/>) is a non-profit organization founded by Dr. Stan Grogg, an osteopathic pediatrician, and his wife, Barbara, who is a nurse practitioner. When they retired from their jobs at Oklahoma State University, they were not yet ready to retire from health care more broadly. So, they began to provide medical services in countries around the world, this year including Cuba, India, Peru, Uganda and Vietnam, as well as Guatemala.

Like Dr. Don, they establish long-term relationships with local non-profit organizations, so this year's visit will hopefully be just the beginning of their services to the children at Open Windows. From May 6th to 9th they will have seven staff working with our students, including at least two doctors, a nurse practitioner, a helper from the organization's board and a medical student.

Enhancing the health of our students is one means of helping them learn more effectively, so we are grateful to Power of a Nickel for including us in this year's efforts. We look forward to a long and fruitful partnership.

En mayo vienen médicos y enfermeras de la organización estadounidense Power of a Nickel (El Poder de Cinco Centavos). Los voluntarios profesionales realizarán exámenes médicos, brindarán tratamientos básicos y harán referencias a médicos locales. Le agradecemos Power of a Nickel por su ayuda y esperamos una buena relación a través de muchos años.



Scholarship Student Workshop

On Monday of Holy Week Open Windows focused its attention on its scholarship students with a workshop devoted to awareness and leadership. The first half of the day got the students to think about how well they are able to observe their environment and to understand themselves in the present moment within that environment. It was an enriching exercise where they shared personal experiences and learned to recognize the importance of being present and attentive to their surroundings.



Working in groups, the students then turned their attention to leadership, identifying people they knew who act as leaders, some positively and some negatively, and the characteristics those individuals exhibit. Each group presented its conclusions about the people they had identified, describing their skills in communication, decision making and motivation.

Games reinforced what the students were learning and allowed them to practice their skills in both awareness of their surroundings and leadership. Through the film *The Boy Who Tamed the Wind* they were introduced to the notions that “where there is a will, there is a way,” and that with leadership you can get others involved in solving problems more effectively than with one person alone.



Overall, it was a day devoted to self-development, teamwork and fun. It was one step in helping our students become increasingly capable and self-confident.

Al principio de la Semana Santa Ventanas Abiertas les dio un taller a sus becados. Los temas fueron "Yo observador" y "Liderazgo". Trabajando en grupos los estudiantes examinaron su capacidad de prestar atención a su entorno e identificaron las características de líderes conocidos. El fin fue el autodesarrollo y esperamos que esta experiencia les proporcione herramientas valiosas para su crecimiento individual y su contribución a la sociedad en el futuro.

A New Home for Three Generations

Building houses and installing eco-stoves may not seem like they are directly connected to education. But they are. If children are to learn effectively, they have to be healthy and they have to have a place to study. So, Open Windows enhances its direct work on education with construction work, conducted and paid for by volunteers. As a result, one by one, families in San Miguel Dueñas with few resources are getting new, safer and healthier homes. The latest addition comes thanks to the donations and work of five volunteers, most of them veterans of Open Windows from past years.

Three generations are benefitting this time: Francisca, her daughters Patricia and María, Patricia's children Ludwin and Romelí (who is in sixth grade and attends Open Windows) and



María's son Fernando. The house consists of two adjacent rooms made of cinder block with concrete floors and gives each family a privacy they have not had up until now.



En marzo cinco voluntarios vinieron a Guatemala para construir una casa para una familia de tres generaciones. Hay dos salones de bloques y pisos de concreto. La casa le brindará un hogar más seguro y más sano, y eso contribuirá al aprendizaje de los niños de la familia.

Change a child's life today:

Send a tax-deductible check to:
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c/o John Davis
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