



Impact Report: 20 Years of Planting Seeds

At our recent Annual Gathering, Pura Vida celebrated 20 years of working in Guatemala. It was a time for both celebration and reflection. We have come a long way since starting from just an idea in 2003.

It's been interesting to see how our focus has sharpened over the years as we found our place in Guatemala. In 2024 we are planning to dig more deeply into the data to see what our work has accomplished, but for now here is a brief overview:

**Double your Impact:
Unrestricted
donations matched
through Dec. 31st.**

*Help us continue
planting seeds
in Guatemala.*

*Donate by check
using the enclosed
envelope, or online at
puravida.org/impact*



Education



Sebastiana in 2005



Sebastiana in 2017

Education:

- 875 students (519 girls, 356 boys) have taken part in our scholarship program.

Health and Nutrition:

- 7 surgical/dental/medical mission trips
- 20 years of milk distributions
- 2 years of Lemoa Nutrition Center

Health and Nutrition



Medical mission trips



Milk distributions



Nutrition Center

Construction:

- 13 adobe homes built
- 36 cinder block homes built
- Significant parts of the Methodist Camp in Lemoa
- Portions of the Hogar del Niño orphanage in Lemoa

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Home Construction



Adobe homes



Cinder block homes

School Construction



Cornstalk School - Before



Cornstalk School - After



John Wesley School - Before



John Wesley School - After

Pura Vida Ministries is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with programs in Guatemala.

The mission of Pura Vida is to facilitate the sharing of resources with communities in Guatemala in a meaningful, respectful, and long term way. Our primary focus is on providing educational opportunities for children in rural villages through scholarships, tutoring, and support of local schools. We encourage others to work with us as we give our time, knowledge, and resources to help poor rural communities attain a standard of living in which their children can thrive.

Board of Directors
(in chronological order)

Mark Ely
Richard Ely
Laura Richards
Jerry Bucholz, *Treasurer*
Ken Fong
Bill Mistretta, *President*
Janie Williams
Lynne Kendig, *Secretary*
Mary Sue Alexander
Charlie Bouchard

Staff and Key Volunteers
(in chronological order)

Mark Ely
Executive Director

Lesly Ely
Program Director

Laura Richards
Director of Sponsor/Donor Relations

Janie Williams
Student/Sponsor Liaison

Newsletter

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School Construction:

- The John Wesley School in Santa Cruz del Quiche
- 3 classrooms, 1 kitchen, and a wall at the Caserio Rosario School
- 2 classrooms at the San Jose Pacho school
- 8 chicken coops

Construction & Work Trips



Methodist camp dining



Working as a team

Work Trips:

- 7 English camps
- 14 churches/organizations on work trips
- Roughly 2,000 trip members working with us in Guatemala from 40 U.S. states

Respectfully Sharing Resources



Learning from each other



Meeting scholarship students & families

2,000 Participants on Work Trips



Sharing stories



2019 English camp



Youth team building - new skills

Join us in Guatemala 2024

We have a full roster of trips for the upcoming year. The emphasis of these trips is on developing and maintaining relationships with local communities and sharing our time and resources with our partners in Guatemala. Meaningful contact between cultures is beneficial to both sides, and is a highlight of these trips for most participants. Pura Vida allows the local indigenous communities to identify the needs — we simply come, work, share — and see projects through to the end.

Construction-focused trips unless otherwise noted

- **February 1 - 9, 2024:**
St. Luke's UMC Guatemala Work Trip
- **February 8 - 17, 2024:**
FUMC Loveland Work Trip
- **May 29 - June 8, 2024:**
Mountain View UMC Work Trip
- **June 7 - 16, 2024:**
Highlands UMC Guatemala Work Trip
- **July 4 - 13, 2024:**
Guatemala English Camp and Construction



Home building team gathers with family in 2023



Laura and Mike Richards celebrate the graduation of their scholarship student with the student's family.

See online: puravida.org/trips for more details or to sign up for a Guatemala work trip.

20th Anniversary Celebration & 2023 Annual Gathering Recap

Thanks to an overwhelming response, we surpassed our goal of \$30,000 for our annual fundraising event in October. One hundred guests, online and in person, bought event tickets, donated, and purchased silent auction items to raise just over \$35,000.



Sister Helen, our 2023 "Pure Life Award" recipient

Pura Vida's "Planting Seeds" event featured speakers Rev. Linda Marshall, Rev. Dr. Janet Forbes, and Lyle SmithGraybeal – all early and continuous Pura Vida supporters and leaders. The program was live-streamed from St. Luke's UMC, Highlands Ranch, Colorado.

Videos by Jose Fares and Ken Fong showcased two decades of work by Pura Vida volunteers in Guatemala.

The Gathering's Online Silent Auction (organized by Erin Gleason/Joyce Carnes/Janie Williams) raised \$8,000 with competitive bidding for enticing trips, tickets, textiles, jewelry, paintings and Guatemalan crafts, coffee and chocolate.

Brothers and long-time supporters Glenn and Jerry Hertzler teamed up to MC and keep the audience entertained and informed with interactive games and an original painting reveal.

Sister Helen was awarded the "Pure Life Award" prior to the event by Laura Richards and Mark Ely. Sister Helen, now 103 years old, has shepherded Pura Vida visitors in Lemoa for 20 years. A raise of hands proved many in attendance had tasted her homemade lemonade and cookies on Guatemala visits. Thank you, Sister Helen, for your care and support.

While renewing friendships and sharing Pura Vida stories with new friends, guests enjoyed delicious appetizers and 20th Anniversary cake prior to the program.

Rev. Michele Kaminsky, Senior Pastor of St. Luke's UMC, led the invocation. Thank you, St. Luke's UMC, for hosting Pura Vida's Gathering for the last four years.

Thank you, volunteers and donors for a successful gathering and silent auction! View videos at puravida.org/gathering

Creative Giving



IRAs a Tax-Free Way to support our work in Guatemala

If you are 70½ years or older, you can request your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) plan administrator to transfer a gift directly to Pura Vida without paying federal income tax on the withdrawal. It's an excellent way to support our programs.

Learn More: Our Legacy Giving Team is here to answer your questions. Visit our Legacy Giving web page or call (303) 215-0994 for more information. Our Tax ID Number is 33-1043116.

We hope you will consider making a tax-free gift today.

Employee Match Programs

Do you know that your employer might match your donations to Pura Vida? Many companies have generous matching programs to encourage and reward giving among their staff.

We have more than a few donors who routinely apply for matching donations from their company, which has expanded our capacity dramatically. These donations have become an increasingly important way to us to maintain our operations.

Check here to if your employer will match your donation: puravida.org/match

Even if your employer is not on that list, check with your HR department to see if they might match donations. We can certainly put the funds to good use in Guatemala.

What happens when you give \$1 to Pura Vida's Student Sponsorship Program?



Student and Sponsor Tracking

Letter Translation

Reliable Systems

Fundraising and Administration



Pura Vida Ministries
PO Box 631370
Highlands Ranch, CO 80163

Presorted
First-Class Mail
PAID
Denver, CO
Permit No. 2495

Double your impact!
Unrestricted donations
are matched through
December 31, 2023.



Help create a brighter future for children in Guatemala

Here are some ways you can help us maintain and expand our programs:

SPONSOR A STUDENT –

The average student in rural Guatemala drops out of school by the time they reach 3rd grade. Your sponsorship can help them get to high school and beyond. Make a dream come true – sponsor the education of a student in Guatemala. [pura vida.org/education]

TRAVEL TO GUATEMALA WITH US –

“Travel with a purpose” is a good way to describe what our international work trips are all about. Our emphasis is on developing and maintaining relationships with local communities and sharing our time and resources with our partners in Guatemala. Team experiences include building homes for families in need, teaching English to local students, and seeing first-hand the work we are doing in Guatemala. [pura vida.org/trips]



DONATE ONLINE –

Support our Un-sponsored Student Fund, which lets us keep more students in school while looking for sponsors. You can make a secure donation online at the link below. [pura vida.org/donate]

LEGACY GIVING –

Help sustain our work in Guatemala far into the future by making a contribution through your IRA RMDs, wills, securities, and life insurance. [pura vida.org/legacy]

ENDOWMENT CONTRIBUTIONS –

Do you want to make a really long-term investment? Our Legacy Endowment will one day give us flexibility to improve our programs and increase our level of support in Guatemala. Since this endowment is in the early stages of funding, we can really use your assistance in getting it up to speed. [pura vida.org/endowments]