

Beyond the Walls



Highlights of 2018

Introducing Chiquimula

Chiquimula [cheeky-moolah], located about 180 miles east of Guatemala City is a new focus for BTW partner Potter's House. It is very rural area, many of the residents of which, like our friends in the city, depend on a garbage dump for their livelihoods. Sadly, the people of Chiquimula have even fewer resources than the people who live in the city; their average income is \$5 per week.

With the help of volunteers like ours, Potter's House seeks to replicate the success it has had in the city out in this rural area. They have purchased land for a community center, and 2018 BTW volunteers worked on a wall around the property that must be completed before construction can start on the center—but there still a long way to go, as the wall is only 10% complete.

In addition to working on the wall, BTW volunteers ran a soccer clinic, rewarding each participant with soccer cleats, a shirt, and a ball.

At the right, you can see the children who benefited from the Chiquimula Pencil Box Project that we undertook at the end of 2017. Without the pencils,





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Chiquimula cont'd...

pens, markers, crayons, scissors, and glue that you contributed, these children would have had no school supplies at all.

At the left, you can see a structure that is unique to Chiquimula right now. Because the climate is much milder in that area, concrete homes are not necessary. What our volunteers will be building this year are "integrated hygiene combos" that stand alongside families' homes. Each family's combo is divided into three sections—a private toilet and shower, a large sink called a *pila* where all the family's washing is done, and an energy-efficient stove—providing much-needed privacy, sanitation, and nutrition.



Health Care

Although Guatemala has socialized medicine, there are many holes in the safety net through which impoverished families and their children fall. Untreated diabetes, hypertension, gastro-intestinal problems, dermatological issues, and respiratory illnesses are an ongoing part of life for the people we love and serve.

So when a medical clinic is announced, people start lining up early in the morning for a chance to see a doctor. They wait patiently for their turns and listen carefully as the doctors' orders are translated for them. In July, our docs in Chiquimula examined and diagnosed hundreds of patients in a huge, hot, stuffy building, giving out medications and supplies they had purchased and brought with them from the States.

Two weeks later, another BTW medical team traveled into the mountains west of the capital to care for people who had been living in refugee camps since their homes were destroyed when the Fuego volcano erupted in early June, killing about 200 of their friends and family members. The team was stunned by the conditions in which people had been living and very glad to be able to render the needed assistance.

In addition to the medical teams, two Beyond the Walls volunteers, Elizabeth Muchmore and Peter Potash, college students interested in medical careers, worked as summer interns at Potter's House where they got lots of hands-on experience and provided support for visiting doctors and the PHA staff.

For 2019, our hope is to be able to partner with a hospital in Chiquimula so our docs can render more comprehensive services, including, perhaps, even surgery.



Medical Clinic - \$800/Week

the life you change could be your own!

Loving Kids

Another sad fact of life in poverty is what Potter's House calls Poverty of Affection. Parents have to work so hard to feed their families that they have little time or energy left over to spend with their children. This often results in kids seeking inappropriate affection from people who may not have their best interests at heart, leading to gang membership, teenage pregnancy, and other unhealthy relationships.



Poverty of Affection is what inspires Beyond the Walls to offer activities for kids that allow our volunteers to lavish appropriate affection on children in settings that encourage the creation of healthy, long-term relationships.

The week-long craft camps we have been doing for more than a dozen years provide an opportunity for children to bond with volunteers who have time to focus on them and their activities for several hours a day, singing songs, listening to stories, and doing crafts the kids can take home.

In addition to the soccer clinic in Chiquimula, this year, for the first time, BTW partnered with Generation to Generation (G2G), a Guatemalan nonprofit that serves the rejected children of Guatemala, including those at risk because of where they live. Our soccer enthusiasts worked with Champions in Action (CiA), a partner of G2G, offering three weeks of soccer fun that included play, practice, mentoring, and follow-up by Champions in Action staff,

Each of the children in the program received a soccer ball, a jersey, and a pair of cleats, and CiA received equipment for their ongoing program. We plan to do this again in 2019, so if your young athlete has outgrown his or her soccer clothing or equipment, please consider donating it to Beyond the Walls. Contact Susie@beyond-the-walls.org to find out how.



Construction

As always, our teams built concrete-block homes for hard-working families who live in the dump community in Guatemala City. This year, we built nine homes and renovated two, providing clean, safe shelter for 11 families.

The families who receive new and renovated homes are chosen by community leaders and must meet certain criteria: they must rely on the dump for their livelihood, have children in school, attend classes on how to care for their new home, and agree to work alongside volunteers during construction.

Funds for the homes (\$6,000 each) we built this year were donated by RBC Wealth Management, Grace Anglican Church (Fleming Island, FL), Blacksburg (VA) Christian Fellowship, the Lewis M. Gabbe Foundation in memory of J. T. Vicci, and the Chicago Polish Community. Friends of Betty Kiser funded a home in her memory that was built by her family. And two houses were built in memory of Jack Timmerman and Calvin Verduga using funds raised at our annual Golf Classic.

In addition, our volunteers converted one corner of the education center we renovated in 2014 into two rooms—a computer lab for high school students in the Potter's House Education Program and a room that teachers can use to relax, prepare lessons, and hold meetings.



Homeless Families

When we look around the areas in which most of our donors and volunteers live, it's hard to imagine that homelessness exists amid such wealth and plenty. But it does, and it's especially difficult to deal with if you have a family.

Beyond the Walls partners with Family Promise of Morris County, NJ, to provide two to three weeks of emergency shelter for homeless families every year in Mendham. We call them Grace House Guests, and our volunteers set up their private rooms, cook their meals, play with their children, help their older kids with homework, and spend nights on premises to keep them safe.

Sometimes the relationships kindled when families are at Grace House turn into long-term friendships, giving volunteers the opportunity to become more involved in the lives of the families, even helping them to get established in permanent homes when they move out of the temporary shelter program.

Beyond the Walls also supports Our Promise, a daytime drop-in center for the homeless in Morristown, NJ, run by Family Promise. If you would like to volunteer to help with Grace House Guests or Our Promise, please contact Drew@beyond-the-walls.org.

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Memorial Golf Classic

The Beyond the Walls 2018 Annual Timmerman/Verduga Memorial Golf Classic was a great success, raising more than \$30,000 for BTW projects in memory of Jack Timmerman and Calvin Verduga, two Randolph High School student athletes with a heart for service who were killed in a tragic car accident. The Golf Classic is our primary fund-raiser, providing funding for projects our volunteers do at home and abroad. Not a penny is used to fund individual volunteers' trip expenses; every cent we raise directly benefits the people we serve.

This year, the Golf Classic will be held on **Monday, May 20**, at the beautiful Black Oak Golf Club in Long Valley, NJ. The \$225 registration fee covers golf and a BBQ lunch on the club's patio. To register, visit beyond-the-walls.org/events/golf-classic and click on Join Us.

To continue building on the success of this event we need not only golfers but sponsors and items for our online auction. Sponsorships range from \$4,000 for a platinum sponsorship to \$250 to sponsor a hole.

When it comes to auction items, we encourage you to be creative. Unique experiences are the most lucrative, but high-end merchandise—golf-related or not—is also very popular. Please take a moment to think about what you or your company can donate to make this year's auction the best ever. Contact Betsy@beyond-the-walls.org to learn more about sponsorships or auction donations.

We are honored to be part of the effort to keep the memory of Jack and Calvin alive and to help their families and friends turn tragedy into blessing for "the least of these" in our community, our nation, and our world. Thank you for being part of the growing BTW family!

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