

Nuestros Niños News

Issue: #30

October 30, 2013

Dear Friends,

We are busy with craft shows right now and hope to see many of you at one of them this year! We are also working on a way to give back to our own community through the Fantasy of Trees event.

Read on to also see about a date change to one of our trips in 2014 and how we witness the changes in our children as they serve.

Much more below....

2014 Trips



It is time! It is never too early to begin thinking about our next trips and for the summer trip it is time to start committing! :)

Please note the dates for the Summer 2014 trip have changed to July 5-13, 2014. The first deposit of \$150 is due on December 1, 2013. The remaining deposits of \$300 each are due on March 1 and May 1, 2014.


[Make A Donation](#)
[Like us on Facebook](#)
[View our videos on YouTube](#)
[Visit our blog](#)

Quick Links

[Website](#)

**SERVICE. COMPASSION.
HOPE.**

Nuestros Niños is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Nuestros Niños translates to "Our Children" - representing the children that we help, along with our children with whom we hope to instill a sense of service.

In This Issue

[2014 Service Trips](#)
[Open House](#)
[HoLa Festival](#)
[Host an Open House](#)
[Facebook](#)


Contact Info

Angela Grussing
865-599-4347

For the Thanksgiving Week 2014 trip (November 22-30, 2014), the first deposit of \$150 is due by March 15, 2014. The remaining deposits of \$300 each are due on June 15 and August 15, 2014.

Airfare is additional cost.

If you would like more info, please e-mail Angela at angela@nuestrosninoscharity.org.

angela@nuestrosninoscharity.org

**P.O. Box 30656
Knoxville, TN 37930**

East Tennessee Children's Hospital - Fantasy of Trees



Many of us are from East Tennessee and are familiar with East Tennessee Children's Hospital's Fantasy of Trees. As a group from Nuestros Niños we would love the chance to sponsor and donate a tree while also supporting our service work.

We want to bring awareness to our organization while giving back to our community. As some of you have seen my "Guatemalan" Christmas tree, we think it would be wonderful to donate a festive Guatemalan tree. We hope to decorate a 2-3' tree with many varied Guatemalan ornaments:

- Plump Ornaments (Santas, Angels, Variety of Animals)
- Thin Santa
- Felted Ornaments (Santa, Snowman, Angels, & Animals)
- Beaded Ornaments
- Beaded Round "Hot Air Balloon" Ornaments
- Hacky Sacks
- Small Pine Needle Baskets
- Cloth Ornaments (Stocking, Mitten, Christmas

Tree)

- Clay Angels
- Clay Birds
- And So On...

We envision using one of the clay angels as a tree topper, colorful lights, garland (belts, etc.), and a table runner for a tree skirt. If we have enough donations we would add some gifts under the tree, possibly including a Guatemalan Christmas Stocking, Stuffed Animal, Colorful Nativity, etc.

If you want to make a donation toward the tree as a gift "In Honor Of" we will be happy to provide a picture of the final tree and a "Gift in Honor Card."

To sponsor an ornament or other tree decor please specify the amount of the donation by November 9th (preferably before :)).

We hope you will be as excited by this opportunity as we are! As I always say, "The Guatemalan Handicrafts can truly be GIVING GIFTS."

We will decorate the tree at my house during the Open House on November 14 and welcome anyone interested in helping us assemble it. We would love to see you!

Even if you are not in the East TN area, we hope you will consider donating to this dual cause!

Thanks Christi Rice for the idea!

Anyone able to help, please contact me at 865-599-4347 or angela@nuestrosninoscharity.org.



Service Opportunity



Thank you to the Donahue, Humphries, and Brooks families for helping us prep the items for shipping!

We still have about 8 bags if anyone is able to volunteer some time to help!

Anyone able to help, please contact me at 865-599-4347

or angela@nuestrosninoscharity.org.



Kids Serving...



Nuestros Niños has a three part mission statement with one part being, "To provide both adults and children the opportunity to serve others in a meaningful way with a special emphasis on instilling a sense of service in

children."

Over the years we have had many children join us on our service trips to Guatemala. It is interesting to watch them as they experience the week. I have had the chance to watch my three kids on three trips now.

I will always remember Josie during the first trip in 2008 just playing with the kids. It didn't matter that they had holes in their clothes, no food at home, and definitely no toys. They were just kids - and though there were differences - there were also similarities. It didn't matter that they didn't speak the same language. They both worked hard in school, smiled, and liked to play with friends.



This summer Josie found some boys whose shoes were falling apart. She came to us and asked if we could get them some shoes from the ones we had brought. She had the opportunity to help them put on new shoes and see if they fit.





On the July trip this summer, I watched Trevor in two different circumstances as he seemed to "get it." The first was where we were feeding the elderly in San Jorge La Laguna. There was a little boy, Adolfo, sitting in the corner by the entrance. Trevor noticed him right away and was concerned because he didn't have any food. He gathered a plate of food and took it to him. The next day when we returned to the elderly feeding center, Trevor again noticed him and right away made him a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. As we took the picture of the two boys together, you can see the tears in Trevor's eyes - and there were many tears in the eyes of the volunteers and Mayan Families' employees.

Trevor had the chance to see him several times and gave him hugs as he left him on the last day. We are very thankful that a family from our group also decided to sponsor him so he can now go to school.







The second time that I watched Trevor "get it," he was very calm and serious. He had asked for money for a water filter for his birthday rather than gifts for himself. Thankfully, the family received a water filter through another source, but the 9 children didn't have a bed to sleep on. Trevor agreed that it would be good to use the money to buy a full size bed, mattress, and blanket.



We didn't know he would have the opportunity to help give the family the bed, but it worked out so he could. He helped carry the pieces from the truck to the house. Then he worked with the father and oldest son to put the bed together. I can't explain it fully, but it was an awesome experience to see your normally very active child be calm and truly give of himself.



Allison, our youngest is eight years old. She first returned to Guatemala when she was three years old.

On that trip, she was with us, but in her own world. I can still remember her and Jonah playing together with several balls and sucking on lollipops in the village of Chuchuca. On this trip she was very much involved.

She helped us measure out food for the food bags and food baskets. She picked up chickens and placed them in the families' baskets...something she was scared to do last time...but embraced this time. I will always remember her hauling away dirt from the home construction site - in a plastic bucket on her head - just like the locals carry items on their heads in Guatemala.





Each child processes it differently...and we don't ever try to "push" the poverty in their face as we want them to see Guatemala and her people for all they are - multifaceted. But when they "get it" it is very powerful, and I believe will be with them forever...

Mayan Families New Website



Mayan Families based in Panajachel on Lake Atitlan is our host organization when we are in Guatemala. They are a dedicated group of people that make a major difference in their community and many surrounding

ones.

They operate seven preschools, facilitate the school sponsorship of 2,500 children, and meet numerous needs in their community (i.e., food, medical, clothing, elderly, sewing project, carpentry project, micro loans, and many more).

In addition, they are wonderful hosts to many groups and individuals who want to make a difference in this world by volunteering their time.

They have recently rolled out a new [website](#). Take a look at it if you get a chance to learn more about the organization we work with in Guatemala.

Fleece Blankets



As it starts to get cooler here in the States it is time to start thinking about making more fleece blankets for the children of Guatemala. We have people lined up to make them, now we just need sponsorships (\$15 each) to cover the cost of the material.

You may ask, "What do I get in return?" Well, when we return from Guatemala we bring a picture of the child receiving the sponsored blanket and some information about their living situation. But most importantly you get a warm heart from doing something kind today - and putting a smile on a little face - and keeping a young child warm!



A short story...We were busy passing out blankets, food bags, and toys to the preschoolers in San Antonio Palopo this past summer. When it came time for one little boy - we noticed he was holding both sides of his shorts up with his hands. The shorts had to have been 2-3 sizes too big for him, but they were what he had.

It came to decision time...would he keep holding his shorts up or would he reach out for the blanket. As those little hands reached out for the soft blanket, down came his pants. It made us all smile in the moment, but it also showed us how much he wanted that bright colored fleece blanket that would help to keep him warm at night. In reality, he may have taken it home to sleep on on the floor if they didn't have a bed.



So, I hope you will consider donating \$15 to sponsor a blanket. To date we have made and donated 295 blankets to the preschoolers we come into contact with. If you want to make a blanket, we can provide the dimensions. E-mail [Angela](#).



Donations can be sent to P.O. Box 30656, Knoxville, TN 37930 or sent in thru PayPal by going to www.nuestroshijoscharity.org.

Upcoming Craft Shows & Open Houses



Thank you to Linda, Belinda, and Tracy for hosting us this past weekend at the two shows in North Carolina. They were very beneficial and we met many wonderful

people!

Here are our upcoming shows...we would love to see you at one of them!

- November 2nd (9am-3pm) - Middlebrook United Methodist Church
- November 8th, 9th, and 10th (Fri-Sun) - Corvette Christmas Fair at the Expo Center on Clinton Hwy
 - Friday: 2pm-8pm
 - Saturday: 10am - 8pm
 - Sunday: 12 - 5pm
- **November 14 (6-8pm) - 3305 Lands End Lane, Knoxville, TN 37931**
- November 17 (2-4pm) Cincinnati, OH

- November 22nd (5-8pm) - Amherst Fall Festival (only for Amherst families)
- November 24th (2-4pm) - Palm Coast, FL
- December 5th (All Day) - Amherst Elementary (for Staff only)
- December 6th (All Day) - HGTV (for HGTV employees)
- **December 7th (12-5pm) - 3305 Lands End Lane, Knoxville, TN 37931**
- December 8th (Time: TBD) - Powell Presbyterian Church

Want to Help? Host an Open House!

Selling the Guatemalan Handicrafts is one of our main ways of raising funds for our trips. By buying the products it gives the individuals who made them a way to provide an income for their family. Then when we sell the items we are able to raise funds for our service work. It is a "win, win" and I call the purchases "giving gifts."

If you are willing to host an Open House at your home, place of worship, etc. - I am willing to bring it and set it up. Please consider helping Nuestros Niños in this way! Contact Angela at angela@nuestrosninosharity.org.

Come Like Us On Facebook!



We are working hard to keep everyone updated about all that Nuestros Niños has going on!

Click below to "Like" Nuestros Niños on

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NuestrosNinosCharity.

"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."
-Albert Schweitzer

Have a wonderful day!

Angela Grussing

[Forward this email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to angela@nuestrosninoscharity.org by angela@nuestrosninoscharity.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Nuestros Niños | P.O. Box 30656 | Knoxville | TN | 37931