

# MISSION FIESTA NEWS

Volume IX Issue 3

Summer 2010

## Editor's Notes

Mission Fiesta recently returned from our mission trip to Guatemala and the trip could easily be summed-up with one word – GREAT! Because of the volcanic eruption of Pacaya in Guatemala City the week before we were to leave, we weren't sure we would be able to travel as planned because the airport was closed for several days. However, the airport reopened on June 2 and we departed, as scheduled, on June 3. We were blessed with safe travel, although Marina and her crew had a long trip to Guatemala because their plane needed attention, but they did arrive safely—just a day later than expected. Also, as you probably know, Guatemala was hit hard by Tropical Storm Agatha just two days after Pacaya erupted! While we did see a small amount of residue from the volcanic eruption, the areas we visited were more affected by Agatha and we saw mudslides, landslides, remnants of houses that were leveled, roads that were covered with mud and other debris, and still other roads that were partially washed away. Please pray for the people of Guatemala as they work to rebound from these natural disasters. The people there may have been hit hard, but their spirits and work ethics are strong and their focus is on cleaning-up and moving on. At several of the fiestas, our team received heartfelt thanks for giving the children something to smile about in the aftermath of the eruption and the storm.

While we were in Guatemala, our team was able to feel God's presence in finding that all of our needs were satisfied, from the "biggest" things (we all remained healthy and safe) down to the tiniest details (finding a parking place where we needed it to be). We also could feel the prayer support from many people "back home" as we followed our daily schedule. We appreciate your support more than you realize and we know that there is strength in the prayers of God's faithful people. The excitement of the children and their happy faces made all the planning and work well-worth the efforts put forth by our team. God is good...all the time!

## Mission Statement

Mission Fiesta is dedicated to helping organizations that provide services to the poor and needy as well as those who work with them. In keeping with our vision, "Celebrating Life," we hope to help everyone realize that they are special in God's sight

## Comments & Suggestions

If you have suggestions or comments regarding our newsletter,  
please send them to:

[news@mfiesta.info](mailto:news@mfiesta.info)

or

Dan Ross, newsletter  
P.O. Box 435  
Lucasville, OH 45648

## Fiesta Locations -- 2010

Casa Shalom \*  
New Life #  
Transitions #  
El Buen Pastor +  
Colegio Cristiano Kairos +  
Casa Aleluia \*  
(older children)  
New Life and Peace ^  
Asociacion Salvando Vida \*  
Casa Aleluia \*  
(baby dorm)  
Agua Viva \*  
Nuestro Pequenos Hermanos \*  
Rehoboth Home for Children \*  
Castillo \*  
Amor del Nino \*  
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\* indicates children's homes

+ indicates schools

# indicates multi-handicapped schools

^ indicates Sunday School

**Mission Fiesta, Inc.**  
**Items List**  
**Guatemala 2010**

Burgers -- 1,501  
Pizza -- 144 large  
Cakes -- 76  
Cookies -- 546  
Ice Cream -- 1,581  
Chips -- 2,064  
Candy bars -- 775  
Juice boxes -- 630  
3-liter drinks -- 49  
drinks (cans) -- 384  
soccer balls -- 41  
basketballs -- 24  
playground balls -- 32  
paper goods -- \$200.00

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children -- 1,700  
missionaries -- 25  
Guatemalan workers -- 262  
Paid tuition for two university students  
Brought 5 suitcases of 'goodies' for  
missionaries and workers

**Missionary Feedback**

I am so glad that everything went so well for you all during your visit. I was sad that I was in Antigua with a team this year and missed you all. Thank you for all that you do to provide a wonderful day of celebration for the children. May God overtake you with His blessings today and always!

Jennifer Spatara  
Agua Viva

I am so glad that you enjoyed your time at Casa Shalom. I wish we would have been here to meet you, but maybe next year (barring any more natural disasters!). We appreciate so much your ministry to our kids, and we hope to have you return to Casa Shalom next year.

Jessica Hanson  
Casa Shalom

Mission Fiesta, we always look forward to seeing you--it is like bringing us fresh water in the desert.

Love,  
Chici Barbella  
Rehoboth Home for Children

Thanks so much. It is always special for the children when you come. I'm sorry that I couldn't spend more time with you that day. I know though that you understand how important it is to make our school known to others.

Thank you so much for the money donations for me, Amy, the staff & the kids. It is needed and appreciated. See you next year! GOD BLESS MI SSION FIESTA!

Judy Kerschner  
New Life School

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**A Word from our Director**  
**“A SWEET REMINDER”**

As many of you know, I first traveled to Guatemala to visit a sponsored child with Compassion International. Then I returned for language/culture study, to work at a home for children and eventually Mission Fiesta was born. While working at the home, I encountered many people doing many necessary things. I found myself (along with those who traveled with me) using my hands, arms and my lap quite often. I used my hands to do art projects with the children, used my lap as a chair to hold children, and used my arms for everyone who needed a hug. This was what seemed necessary for me to do.

I enjoy my work with Mission Fiesta, sharing God's joy with many children and adults. However; I miss the work I did while staying at the children's home. The connection you get from daily interaction. This year with Mission Fiesta, there seemed to be opportunity after opportunity for me to use my hands, arms and lap. It was a sweet reminder of what I needed to be doing, allowing God to use my hands, arms and lap to meet another person's needs. I have found that when using my hands, arms and lap that it is almost impossible to have a closed heart. I say almost impossible because someone will tell me that it is possible for them, but then who would want to sit on their lap or get a hug from them?

Some times when we have the fiesta at the home where I worked, I will see an adult who was previously a child at this home. They always smile and come to greet me. Of course they have out-grown my lap and a handshake will not do. They want a hug. They want to know that my heart is still open to them.

I want to close with the following which I have paraphrased and give credit to Francis of Assisi. ***Share the good news of Christ with all you meet, even if you have to use words.***

May you be blessed to know what you need to do and then take advantage of every opportunity to do it.

Gary Baker, MF Director

## **Facts About Guatemala** **“A Look at Antigua, Guatemala”**

When our Mission Fiesta team visits Guatemala, we fly into Guatemala City, but soon head for *Hotel El Carmen* in Antigua, Guatemala. Antigua was the first capital of Guatemala and is a beautiful little town, recently named the “safest city in Central America.”

Antigua Guatemala, in the Department of Sacatepéquez, may be the most outstanding and best-preserved colonial city in Spanish America. Tourists visit Antigua, Guatemala every year from around the world to enjoy its natural beauty and historic monuments. The Spanish Colonial style permeates every part of the town: its houses, churches, squares, parks and ruins, also its traditions and folklore as well. Antigua is a city of charm and color where you can see and buy an overwhelming variety of attractive, handmade products that honor the traditions of generations of artisans.

Antigua's temperate climate and friendly inhabitants welcome visitors. The city has all the required services: sophisticated hotels, cafes and restaurants (with traditional or international menus), banks, stores, Internet cafés, travel agencies, Spanish-language schools and art galleries, all of the highest quality. The streets are cobblestone, the buildings are well-kept, and the city has a view of three volcanoes--Agua, Acatenango, and Fuego, which occasionally displays small pressure eruptions. Visitors and locals alike enjoy the landscaped Central Park, actually named Plaza Mayor, where you will find a beautiful fountain called *La Fuente de las Sirenas* built in 1739 by Diego de Porres surrounded by festive gardens.

Antigua is also noted for its crafts: terracotta, ceramics, wrought iron, silver and jade jewelry, wooden sculptures, carved colonial-style furniture, a great variety of traditional costumes and weavings, figured stone, brass, jarcia, traditional toys and much more. In short, Antigua is a wonderful place to visit!

## **Family Fun Page** **Frozen Banana Treats**

Slice bananas in half crosswise so that each banana makes 2 pops and insert wooden popsicle sticks. Dip the bananas in melted chocolate, and roll in toppings such as nuts or sprinkles. Place on a tray lined with wax paper in your freezer for about 2 hours.