

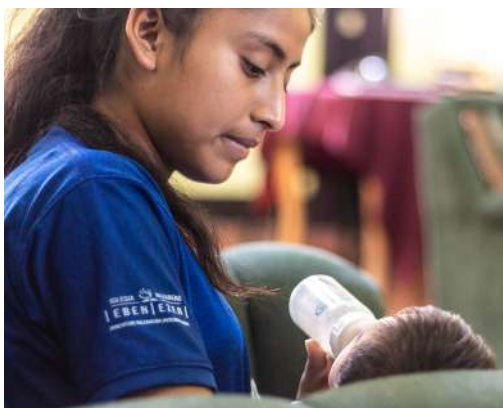
I want nothing to do with him

“I don’t want him. I want nothing to do with him!” Those were the Mom’s words the moment she saw her big-eyed newborn. The baby’s birth mother is a very needy, confused, mentally ill woman living on the streets of Guatemala. And to her, this baby was simply a hindrance.

The Vida Children’s Home received him at two days old, without a name, directly from the hospital where he was born. We named him Pedrito, and after bathing and dressing him, we prepared a bottle, and one of the nannies held little Pedrito in her arms until he fell asleep against the trauma of the day.

The chubby, messy-haired little munchkin has stolen the hearts of all those caring for him. What a blessing God has given us to be able to shower love and attention on this abandoned baby who has no place else to go.

And little Pedrito really has no one else. The Child Welfare Office made a surprise visit to the neighborhood where Pedrito’s mom had wandered the streets and where some relatives were renting homes. They were surprised to find that the entire family had completely disappeared. The neighbors had seen them all leave, but no one knew where they were going.



Thoroughly rejected by his relatives, Pedrito is finding a new sense of love and family among the babies and caregivers at Vida Children’s Home. We pray that here he will experience God’s love for the fatherless. Pedrito still likes to sleep, and he loves to rock in the baby swing. He senses that he is safe, and has become a very relaxed baby boy.

Thank you for championing the cause of abandoned babies like Pedrito. If you would like to become an Orphan

Care Champion to provide a loving home for little Pedrito and others like him, check out www.impactminusa.org/orphancare.

Note: We’re being careful with protecting the privacy of personal information and have special permission to print these photos of Pedrito.

There are a staggering number of orphaned and abandoned children in Guatemala.

If you’ve been on a team, you may have held and prayed for some of these abandoned children during your hospital visit in Guatemala. Many of you have shed tears over the lack of hope in their future.

The situation in Guatemala is complicated, as doors to international adoptions are not open, and there is not a strong culture of adoption or foster care in Guatemala itself. To add to this, many existing children’s homes and orphanages are overcrowded, understaffed, institutional, and unable to provide quality care for each child.

God has answered our prayers by calling Impact Ministries to a vision for Orphan Care. Through the Vida Children’s Home, Impact Ministries is providing a home and a family for children who desperately need to be loved.

Pray with us that the Vida Children’s Home will be a refuge for each of the vulnerable children who come into our care.



Dreams & Miracles

By Rita Peters

Whose dream was the Vida Children's Home? I can say with confidence it was God's dream, placed into the hearts of His children:

It was placed in my own heart as a little girl, as I dreamed of one day establishing a children's home. It's the first dream of serving God that I remember having!

It was placed in Edgar's heart. As a young teenager in our schools, he was asked what he wanted to be when he grew up. He said his dream was to become a rich farmer – so that he could run a home for children on his own land. He's now an agricultural engineer with Impact Ministries.

It was placed in Sheny's heart. Growing up in Guatemala, Sheny kept hearing about abandoned babies in the news, and she wanted to help. Her parents were always there to give her everything she needed, and she wanted to give abandoned babies even a little bit of the love her parents had given her.

It was placed in Julie's heart. She had always dreamed of being involved in a ministry with a children's home. When she became a missionary with Impact Ministries and later married one of the Guatemalan leaders, she thought perhaps she had to give up that part of her dream. But, God had a plan.

It was placed in Sandra's heart when she visited Impact Ministries in Guatemala for the first time and asked God to speak to her. That was when she asked me, "Rita, have any of your own personal dreams of ministry not yet come true?" This question reminded me of my very first dream.

These dreams – and many others – came together when Impact Ministries started the process of establishing the Vida Children's Home.

Then, the miracles began to happen! First, the land next to our ministry site became available, and people gave generously so that we could purchase this perfect piece of land. Then, Engineering Ministries International contacted us to inform us that a project had fallen through – were we ready for a team of engineers and architects to come and help us plan? We miraculously broke ground within sixth months and continued to watch the miracles unfold as our dreams took shape. We prayed through the construction process and continued praying through the pages of documents we submitted to apply for official authorization. Then finally, we celebrated the miracle of receiving our first baby just days after the Vida Children's Home was approved!

It's been a long road from dream to reality, but when we discern God's heart and God's will, all the pieces fall into place. And what a joy to now hold our babies and know that God's dream wasn't just for a home for abandoned babies, but very specifically for each one of these precious lives entrusted to our care.

Thank you to each one of you who has dreamed with us and has been a part of these unfolding miracles. And thank you for continuing to champion the cause of the little ones in our care.



Engineering team creating the master plan.



Ground-breaking of the Vida Children's Home!



Sandra holding one of the babies at the Children's Home.



Rita feeding one of the babies.

Become an Orphan Care Champion

Since the Vida Children's Home received official approval, God has been sending us precious, sweet babies. Each one has a heart-breaking and unbelievable story. Each one has experienced trauma at such a very young age.

The stories that brought them here are all different. They include the ugliness of mental illness, rape, poverty and abandonment. But each baby is beautiful, and each is so loved!



There's no mistaking God's heart for children, especially orphaned and abandoned children. "Take up the cause of the fatherless," God tells us in Isaiah 1. "Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed," He says in Psalm 82.

Will you take up the cause of the orphaned and abandoned children of Guatemala? By becoming an Orphan Care Champion, you can change the future for these precious little ones.

Your monthly donation provides abandoned babies like Pedrito with loving caregivers to nurture them, a safe place to call home, and everything they need for healthy development.

"I want to help children like these"

When Cristy, one of our Vida students, was just entering high school, she started to become aware of the many children on the streets of Tactic – the shoe-shine boy, the girl selling fruit in the market, the errand boy. Children left to fend for themselves. Someday, Cristy thought, I want to help children like these.

When Impact Ministries started talking about a home for orphaned and abandoned children, it grabbed Cristy's attention. She prayed, "Lord, I desire to be able to serve in a place like this, to be able to help and give love to the children who need it."

Cristy's passion for helping vulnerable children sustained her through long years of post-secondary studies to become a certified social worker. After she graduated, Rita asked her if she might be available to serve at the Vida Children's Home. Without hesitation, Cristy replied, "Yes, of course. For sure I want to serve and be part of this marvelous place!"

Today, Cristy Beb manages the Vida Children's Home. As the official Social Worker, she writes up reports about all aspects of each baby's care and accompanies them to their court hearings.

But more broadly, she manages the thousands of details that arise in the running of the children's home. She oversees the nannies. She leads devotionals for the care team and training workshops for all the staff. She monitors each child's diet, sleep schedule, and doctor's appointments.

And every day, Cristy gives love to our babies, just as she'd prayed so long ago.



Become an Orphan Care Champion!

Giving Opportunities Orphan Care Other: _____

\$25 \$100 \$500 Other \$ _____ One-time or Monthly

Please make checks payable to **Impact Ministries USA**.

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www.impactminusa.org/orphancare

News and Updates

Like much of the world, Guatemala shut down its borders, schools, businesses and public venues in response to COVID-19 in mid-March. Vida Schools and Churches were closed and several teams were canceled. We can't guess what the situation will look like when this newsletter reaches your hands, but we know many of you have been praying for us, and we thank you for your prayers.



◀ We were thrilled to welcome the Sewing Seeds team to Tactic earlier this year to train teachers, students and church members in the skill of professional sewing. These are steps towards the sewing program that will soon be available to Junior High Students at our Vida Chijacorral School, along with a sustainability project in the sewing industry!

Five of our Guatemalan leaders were able to complete the 2-week Perspectives Training Course in Guatemala City earlier this year. They came home with a clearer view of God's global purpose and a renewed passion for living God's plan. Thanks to donors from the US and to the Rio de Vida church for financial support.



◀ All six of our nannies as well as Cristy, our social worker, have been living full-time at the Vida Children's Home during the COVID-19 lockdown. Usually our nannies rotate 3-on 3-off on 48-hour shifts, but they've been graciously caring for our little ones 24-7. Please pray for the safety of our staff and children.

If these last few months have reminded us of anything, it's that prayer is vital in everything we do. While churches have been closed, Vida Church members have gathered individually in their own homes each Thursday at 7 pm to earnestly pray. We know our prayer partners around the world have been praying for Guatemala too. Join our prayer team: impactminusa.org/prayer



Serving in Guatemala

Contact Us

IN THE UNITED STATES

Impact Ministries USA

PO Box 550

Duvall, WA 98019-0550

Phone: (617) 855-5259

www.impactminusa.org

facebook.com/impactminusa

info@impactminusa.org

IN CANADA

Impact Ministries Canada

PO Box 975, Stn. Main

Kamloops, BC V2C 6H1

Phone: (250) 434-4350

Fax: (778) 470-1115

www.impactministries.ca

facebook.com/mylifeimpacted

canada@impactministries.ca

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