

Blessed through her Sponsor

Whenever Sheny's mother used to walk past the Vida Chijacorral School, she always asked God that one day her little girl would have the opportunity to study there.



Sheny's mom and dad had never learned how to read and write, and they wanted things to be different for little Sheny.

When Sheny was old enough to start preschool, her mother's prayers were answered! There was a place for Sheny in the Vida Chijacorral class. The family felt so blessed that their daughter could begin her studies. And later that year, Sheny was sponsored.

Along with learning her numbers and letters, Sheny learned to pray and trust God through the devotionals held every morning at school. And when Sheny started first grade in 2020, everything was going very well for her family.

But then came Covid. As a result of the pandemic, Sheny's dad, like so many others, was suddenly left without a job. He went looking for work in the capital – a five-hour bus ride from his home – when the government took extreme measures, including limiting travel from one part of the country to another. Sheny's dad was stuck in Guatemala City. He couldn't find work, his money ran out, and he couldn't find a way to return home or even communicate with his wife.

Those were days of great anguish for the whole family – those back home worried that Sheny's father might have died or permanently disappeared. For over two weeks, the family heard nothing.

Sheny taught her little brothers to pray like she had learned at school, and together they began to pray every day for their father and for God's provision for their family – even Sheny could see that their food was running out.

Then Sheny's teacher and her principal visited the family with bags of groceries and gifts from her sponsor. With tears in her eyes, Sheny's mother explained how the

family had been praying, and how all this was an answer to their prayers. God has continued to bless Sheny's family through her sponsor.

God answered Sheny's prayers for her father too. He was finally able to find a bit of work in the capital, earning enough money to hire a taxi to drive him all the way back to Tactic – the only way to get home, since busses were not running. Sheny's dad has work now and is so happy to be home.

Sheny continues to trust God. She has learned that God is her refuge! Sheny dreams of being a teacher so that she can teach others what she has learned.

The principal of Sheny's school challenges us to be the instrument of God to motivate and support children like Sheny so that they can serve others with the gifts God has given them.

In January, it was Sheny's younger brother's turn to start preschool at Vida Chijacorral School. He was one of the many new students waiting for a sponsor this year. Who is God calling you to sponsor? Who is God calling you to share sponsorship with?



Sheny's prayers for food were answered through her sponsor



Along with learning to read and write, Sheny learned to pray and trust God

I have a big thank you in my heart for your love

Danica loves to talk about her sponsor children – especially her very first sponsor child, Wendy, who is now studying to be a lawyer, just as she dreamed of as a little girl.

Danica started sponsoring Wendy after Les Peters spoke at an Impact Event at her church. “Les spoke about potential, programs, and the tremendous void of spiritual education,” says Danica. “So many kids with no chance.” Her husband had been to Guatemala and had seen the need first hand. “It was an easy decision,” says Danica. “We knew who was running the program, we knew where the money was going, and we knew they weren’t taking a lot off for admin.” They received an information package about a girl named Wendy. Wendy’s profile said that she lived in Tactic with her mom, dad and sister, and that she wanted to be a lawyer when she grew up.



Wendy's Graduation



Danica recalls her first visit to Vida Chicoy School, where Wendy recognized her from the crowd. “I know you. You are my sponsor,” Wendy said excitedly. When Danica visited her home later that week, Wendy brought out the note that Danica had once written to her: “With a good education, you can become anything you want – even a lawyer. Follow your heart. Love God, and know you are loved.” Danica also heard from Wendy’s father about his struggles – he was abandoned as a child, with limited education and no understanding of God. He worked hard in construction, but wanted more options for his daughters. He was so proud of their skills and education.

Some years later, Danica visited Wendy’s home again. As well as preparing to graduate from high school, Wendy had been using her math and language skills to help her father with his construction business. Their home now had an addition, with gleaming white trim around the windows. Danica was so proud of Wendy and grateful for what God had done in the lives of her family.

Recently, Danica learned that Wendy is now in her second year of studying to be a lawyer. “Thank you very much. You are a very important person in my life,” Wendy wrote, “If it weren’t for your help, I wouldn’t have made it. I have a big thank you in my heart for your love and unconditional support. I still pray for you. You are a total blessing and God shows so much love for us through you.”

“I have seen the results of sponsorship,” says Danica. “That little amount every month made such a big impact on her life – and on mine.”

Sponsor a child like Wendy at [impactminusa.org/child](https://www.impactminusa.org/child)



Wendy's father wanted more for her



Danica is so proud of Wendy!

Sharing Sponsorship

This year, despite all the disruptions to education in Guatemala, we have over 200 new children in our Vida Schools! That means we have 200 children waiting for a sponsor.

Can you help us find sponsors for every one of our students? For the month of May, we’re asking you to share sponsorship! Here are some ideas:

- Share social media posts on your Facebook page or in your Instagram story about children still waiting for a sponsor.
- Find a child still waiting for a sponsor at [impactminusa.org/sponsorsoft](https://www.impactminusa.org/sponsorsoft) Pray for this child by name and share their story with friends and family members until they find a sponsor.
- Ask to share about sponsoring a child with your church or youth group.
- Bring up child sponsorship with a colleague at work.
- Think of just one friend or family member who might be interested in sponsoring a child. Share your experiences with Vida sponsorship with them and ask them to sponsor a child too.

Together, we can share the excitement of sponsoring a child — and make sure every Vida student has a sponsor to support them in their journey!

Sponsors leave traces in our hearts

“Having a sponsor is something very special and unforgettable,” says Vida Purulhá Grade 1 teacher Evelyn Cho. “They leave traces in our hearts.”



Evelyn should know – she began studying at an Impact Ministries school herself when she was about the same age as the students she’s now teaching, and she was sponsored for all those years. “My sponsor was a very special person in my life,” says Evelyn. “She always supported me with words of encouragement through the letters she sent to me, and her prayers for my family were a great help in my life.” When Evelyn and her family were going through tough times, she’d remind herself

that there was a person far away who had never even met her, but who was concerned about her and praying for her. “This encouraged me to keep striving every day, and it especially encouraged me to keep trusting the Lord.”

Today, Evelyn tells her own students how the Lord reflects His great love to us through our sponsors. She’s so happy when she hears that one of the children in her class has been sponsored, because she knows that “their life will be blessed by wonderful people.”

To our sponsors, Evelyn says: “When sponsoring a student, you become part of that child’s life. You give them hope and strength, knowing that another person cares about their life and is praying for them.”

Want to leave traces in the heart of a child like Evelyn? Sponsor a child for just \$40/month at impactminusa.org/child



Now Evelyn teaches Grade 1 in Vida Purulhá School



“My sponsor encouraged me to keep striving every day”

I want to leave traces in a child’s heart!

Sponsor a Child: \$40/month x _____ child(ren) Other \$ _____

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

First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last Name: _____

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In the event gifts exceed program requirements or a program is discontinued, funds are used where they are most needed to fulfill ministry purposes. Impact Ministries USA is recognized as a non-profit organization by the IRS under IRS Code: Section 501(c)(3); Tax ID #80-0678702. A copy of the latest financial report, state registration information and description of programs and activities may be found at impactminusa.org/state-documents

Recurring donations by Credit Card or E-check (ACH) can be made at:

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News and Updates

Join our Sharing Sponsorship campaign ▶ and help us find sponsors for children who are still waiting! Share our social media posts, talk to friends or family members, or print out a student profile from impactminusa.org/sponsorsoft to post on the bulletin board at church or work. How many children can we find sponsors for by the end of May?



◀ **We're pleased to announce that Chris & Rachel Brandenburg have joined the Impact Team!** The Brandenburgs have been to Guatemala 14 times in the past nine years. Chris is a physician and hopes to help expand Impact's medical ministry as the Medical Engagement Coordinator. Rachel will use her skills to foster new and existing church and donor partnerships as the Mission Engagement Coordinator.

Vision, Impact, Delight, and Adventure ▶ await you with our new VIDA School of Discipleship! We're excited to invite North Americans to 90 days of intentional mentorship and spiritual growth in Guatemala. Watch for more details coming soon or request information from schoolofdiscipleship@vida.gt



◀ **Our students are learning adaptability, as changing Covid alert levels affect how often they are able to attend class in person, and when they learn from home.** Through it all, our teachers are finding ways to pour God's love into the lives of their students – and student enrollment is at record highs!

Impact Ministries has begun offering ▶ a weekend study program for some of our older students who might otherwise leave school to start working. Students meet with teachers and attend devotionals on Saturdays, and study on a flexible schedule throughout the week. The Vida Extension Program provides more study options, including additional senior high programs.



Serving in Guatemala

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"Sharing Sponsorship"

