



Safe Passage

Tragedy, Courage, Commitment

*Providing Opportunities
Through The Dignity and
Power Of Education*



In Honor of Hanley Denning

You must be the change you want to see in the world."
-Mahatma Gandhi



Hanley believed education was the way to improve the lives of children and families in Guatemala and around the world.

She took bold steps; she was determined and fierce; she was respectful and compassionate; and she was full of grace. She inspired thousands of people from around the world to join her, and together make a difference.

With each child, hope for a better future grows; these are the seeds that Hanley planted.



Tragedy, Courage, and Commitment

Dear Friends of Safe Passage,

The year 2007 was an incredibly challenging and moving year. One not to be forgotten. In January, with the loss of **Safe Passage's dear founder and Executive Director Hanley Denning**, the staff in Guatemala and the US, the Board of Directors and all of you from around the world stepped forward to make certain the work of Safe Passage would continue. You helped us move from the tragedy of **Hanley's death through your courage and commitment.**

In July 2007, I was hired with the charge to lead Safe Passage into its new future. Getting to know everyone and the project as a whole has been a massive undertaking. I am amazed that ten months



have already flown by! While there have been challenging moments and difficult decisions to weigh, the work is motivating, inspiring and transformative. And, it is reflected each day in the beautiful smiles of our children.

2007 was also a tumultuous year for Guatemala. With the election, there was an increase in violence and gang participation; and inflation has nearly doubled the cost of food and other important materials. Safe Passage has dealt with these issues directly while improving our services to the children and their families.

Today, greater emphasis is being placed on building our social work program and expanding activities that empower the children, enhance aspirations and improve the family situations of the children. To implement these changes we created a new management structure, integrated our Social Development Department with our educational activities, and added new activities to the daily reinforcement program including the Peace program, daily English classes, theatre and special classes prepared by our support teams.

In just a few years, the program that Hanley founded has turned into a model and inspirational organization, whose work reaches far beyond Guatemala. Safe Passage will always miss Hanley and we will honor her legacy with deep care and strong commitment. With your trust and support, we will continue to become stronger each day, and our children will continue to reach their dreams. Thank you for making the lives of our children count and for being part of the change.

Barbara Nijhuis, Executive Director

2007 Highlights

Celebrations of Hanley's Life Work

Following **Hanley Denning's** tragic death in January 2007, her admirers and friends from around the world honored her with special tribute events, honorary degrees and quiet reflections. They rallied in support of **Safe Passage to ensure that her life's work would continue.** Safe Passage received over \$500,000 in memorial and tribute gifts from 2,200 donors and her family received hundreds of condolence letters. **Accounts of Hanley's life and work at Safe Passage were published in national magazines, and appeared on television and film.**

Program Continues With Renewed Passion

Safe Passage programs continued uninterrupted throughout 2007, despite the profound sadness over **Hanley's death and thanks to the dedicated effort of staff and volunteers.** In October 2007, Nancy Gudiel and Daniel Cotzajay became **Safe Passage's first two students to graduate from high school.** Nancy is extremely thankful for the help that Safe Passage has given her. She said, "In the future, when it is in my power to help the program, I will do so without hesitating. I would like to help other children like me."



Nancy Gudiel

New Executive Director Hired

Barbara Nijhuis, who founded and led a project serving children and families in rural Guatemala, was selected as **Safe Passage's second Executive Director** in July, 2007. Previously, she served as the Assistant to the CEO of a large Dutch corporation. The Board of Directors was greatly impressed with her willingness to commit fully to Safe Passage, her positive energy, sense of humor, enthusiasm, analytical abilities, and visionary leadership skills.



Barbara Nijhuis

Finances Improved

To stabilize the finances of Safe Passage and recognize **Hanley Denning for her life's work, the Hanley Denning Fund** was established. By the end of 2007, over \$3,000,000 had been pledged. The fund will serve both as a permanent endowment for Safe Passage and as a rainy day fund for financial emergencies.

HONORING OUR STAFF, OUR VOLUNTEERS, AND SUPPORT TEAMS

The unwavering commitment of Safe Passage's staff, long term volunteers and the many support teams that journeyed to Safe Passage, made it possible for our programs to prosper during 2007. Safe Passage is fortunate to have a wonderful staff of nearly 90 teachers, social workers and others helpers, mostly Guatemalans. They were assisted by over 50 long term volunteers representing a dozen nations. Another 39 service teams traveled to Guatemala to undertake special projects and help in many wonderful ways. Thank you all for your dedication and spirit.

Lacrosse—Safe Passage Style



Thanks to visits by several support teams, Safe Passage kids are leading the way in introducing the game of lacrosse into Guatemala. Beginning in 2005, with a visit by lacrosse enthusiast Bob Stuart and his son Ben of Cumberland, Maine, and Jane Gallagher and her son Jacob, seven support teams have visited Safe Passage with the purpose of teaching lacrosse to the children.

Bob has led several teams with high school and college players from Maine. In addition, three service teams from Millbrook Academy (NY), led by headmaster Drew Casertano and lacrosse coach Liz Dukoski have traveled to Safe Passage to teach lacrosse and bring equipment.

Volunteers and staff at Safe Passage are now spreading lacrosse fervor across Guatemala. In Guatemala City, Safe Passage children have been teaching the game to children in private schools. And, this August a number of volunteers are returning to lead Guatemala's first ever lacrosse festival.

According to Bob Stuart, these visits extend beyond teaching the sport of lacrosse. They are teaching life lessons both to the children of Safe Passage and the visiting high school athletes. Devy Hardy, who recently graduated from Millbrook Academy, said this about his two trips to Safe Passage. "Through this sport that both the children of the Guatemala City dump, and those of the Millbrook School have come to love, we have found a bond, and have discovered that invaluable lessons are often buried in the simplest games played with heart and sweat."

New Programs Define

When she was 18, Alcira Carolina Hernandez moved to Guatemala City and became a *guajero*, trying to support her three children by scavenging in the Guatemala City dump. At times her situation became so desperate she had to bring her children into the dump to search for something to eat. Carolina still recalls the day she met Hanley, who encouraged her to start sending her children to school, not to the dump. Her son, who is now 20, was one of the first children at Safe Passage and she currently has two daughters enrolled in Safe Passage.

In August 2006, Carolina joined the women's literacy class, because she realized that education was as important to her as her children. She continues to work in the dump, but four days a week attends literacy classes at Safe Passage, and she plans to receive a 6th grade diploma before the end of the year.

The Women's Literacy Project is one of several new initiatives started by Safe Passage's passionate volunteers. What these programs share is their focus on the children's values and aspirations, building literacy skills and engaging the children's families. Beginning in 2008, each of these programs has been integrated into Safe Passage's core activities.

The Peace Program

Started by Safe Passage's Social Development Department, the children spend 20 minutes each day participating in an activity designed to promote positive personal values. The topics, such as peace, respect and tolerance change every month, and the activities differ by age. Recently, parents attended a family day where they participated in activities with their children that demonstrated their respect for one another. The Peace Program curriculum was adopted from a UNESCO/UNICEF developed program that has seen great success in other developing countries. "The results have been exceptional," said Dorien Claessen, head of Safe Passage's Social Development Department. "The Peace Program has harnessed the creative enthusiasm of our children and is promoting positive values. The children have embraced it with a fantastic amount of energy."

English Language Training

In 2004, Jeremy Scott, a volunteer from Wyoming, started teaching English to the 4th and 5th grade boys. Today, all the students receive 30 minutes of English instruction daily. Ross Copeland, who currently heads the program explained that the English Program involves nine volunteer teachers from five different nations. "We know that the ability to speak English will help our students move into job markets never before available to them," he said. "In addition to teaching the children, we also offer an English training program for our classroom teachers, and we are introducing our preschool children at the Guarderia to English through dance and physical movement activities developed by Canadian volunteer Shannon Moyle."

Excellence At Safe Passage

Copeland gives credit to Dr. Patricia Ellis of Jacksonville, FL who serves as volunteer curriculum consultant; Bryant Hand, the owner of Oxford Language School in Guatemala, who makes available two teachers each afternoon; and the Newman Center Music Ministry in Seattle, WA, who ran a fundraiser for the English Program in October, raising over \$13,000 to provide books, CDs and teaching aids. "This is truly an international effort and we are happy to have the support," said Copeland.

Women's Literacy Project

Educators have long understood that education and literacy are closely linked to general family values. If the parents cannot read, there is a far greater chance that their children will not be literate or succeed in school. As early as 2002, Susan Attermeier, a North Carolina volunteer, worked with Hanley to organize the **Women's Literacy Project, an opportunity for mothers of Safe Passage children to learn to read and write.** During the last few years under the leadership of Corrine Bergmann (CA), and beginning last month, under the direction of Liz Love (ME), the program has grown to 50 mothers a month attending classes.

Students can earn a sixth grade equivalency certificate that includes not only literacy but mathematics, communications and health components. In 2007, six of the mothers completed a four month course with Junior Achievement that taught them business practices and helped them develop plans for their own small businesses. In January of 2008, the program moved to a new space and has added a jewelry making class and computer training to **their offerings.** As Liz Love noted, "I believe there is something powerful about an individual who, despite their desperate circumstances, can find the motivation and optimism to pursue a **long term goal for a better future.**"



Left to right, Fabiolo, 52, and Etelvina, 74, complete work assignments at the Women's Literacy Project. Photo by Corinne Bergmann (CA).

Ross Copeland



Ross made a one month commitment to volunteer at Safe Passage as he was on his way to Ecuador to teach English in early 2007. Dawn Cannon, another long-term volunteer convinced Ross to stay for a year. Later that year, Ross

replaced Dawn as Director with the assumption he would be leaving in the spring of 2008.

"I never looked for anyone else to take over. Each week I saw the progress we were making and the **positive changes,**" he said. "I realized that I needed to be a part of this on a long-term basis. **I am now here indefinitely at this point.**"

Ross, 26, holds a BS degree in Education from Henderson State University (AR).

Rosalinda Noemí Fuentes Godínez



In January 2006, Rosy began working as a physics and mathematic tutor at Safe Passage. Just recently she was promoted to be the **organization's first Educational Coordinator.** In her new role she will be responsible for tracking the educational **progress of Safe Passage's** children and working with the teachers on their

individual development.

She said that she has found her work at Safe Passage gratifying because she was raised by a mother who sold tortillas for a living and she understands, first hand, poverty and hunger.

"I have a special understanding of the children of Camino Seguro and I feel a unique connection with them," she said. "I have the responsibility to go to each school where our children are enrolled and to develop strong ties between these schools and Safe Passage."

DID YOU KNOW?

- In 2007, Safe Passage served 104,000 wholesome meals to our children. Proper nutrition is an important health goal, and a recent evaluation indicated all the children meet height and weight standards for their age.
- Thirty-nine support teams with 546 volunteers performed a week of service at Safe Passage during 2007.
- The first two children graduated from high school in 2007. Another four are scheduled to graduate this year. One hundred children are attending high school as our population becomes slightly older.
- Each month the health clinic, supported by a grant from Bayer Pharmaceuticals, receives 600 visits from our children and their families. The most common ailments are asthma, skin infections, intestinal illness, allergies and ear infections.
- In 2007, Safe Passage distributed 3,600 food bags to families. These food bags, which contain rice, beans, soap, oil and cereals, are given for good attendance.
- Last year, fifty long term volunteers provided invaluable service at Safe Passage working as teacher assistants, English teachers, literacy instructors, librarians, volunteer hosts and many other important roles.



Treasurer's Report

To Our Safe Passage Community of Friends and Supporters:

Last year was an exemplary year, as Board and staff pitched in to secure **Hanley's legacy through strategic programmatic and management changes. And,** donors stepped up to provide the operational and endowment funds necessary to ensure financial sustainability of the organization. A number of key decisions taken in 2007 are resulting in a much stronger financial management capacity of Safe Passage. I wanted to briefly mention three areas where we have made significant changes.

Once Barbara Nijhuis was on board as Executive Director, she led the staff in an extensive zero-based budgeting and operational review exercise. The core mission of Safe Passage was re-evaluated and programs conceptually rebuilt from the ground up, with a careful analysis of the effort – personnel, materials, management and budgetary support – needed to run the essential activities of our program for the toddlers, school children and families of the community we serve. As a result, the 2008 program and budget presented at the end of 2007 were more focused, leaner, and more professionally managed. This exercise reaffirmed our commitment to programs that were achieving success, strengthened areas where we were weak, and phased out programs where we had either not succeeded in helping our children or which we considered secondary to the core mission.

We instituted several major changes in our accounting and financial management system which is progressing to full implementation in 2008. We **moved from a “modified cash basis” to an “accrual-based” accounting system in 2007**, resulting in a more acceptable representation of our financial operations. The 2008 budget was prepared with a cost-center based budget and reporting system in line with a reorganization of the management structure of the organization. We also committed to the implementation of a new accounting software system and are currently completing our transition to the new chart of accounts and operating system. In tandem, the Financial Director in Guatemala and the Financial Administrator in the Maine office are working with the Board and our auditors to develop a new financial policies and procedure manual.

Working closely with the Development Committee, the Finance Committee arranged secure investments for the remarkable fundraising proceeds of the Hanley Denning Fund Campaign. Investment policies for both a Permanent Endowment and a Board-Designated Fund were approved for the long-term shepherding and growth of these two funds, which will undergird the security and growth of our operations.

As Treasurer, I speak for other Finance Committee members, with their strong depth and breadth in financial management, in saying how pleased we are with recent bold institutional changes, including the financial management of the organization. These are essential for the day-to-day operations and for the future planning and fundraising of Safe Passage.

Susanna Place, Treasurer

2007 Financial Highlights

Income and Expenses (Cash)

Income

Contributions	\$ 1,474,031
Sponsorships	\$ 518,209
Other Income (net)	\$ 15,876
Hanley Denning Fund Gifts	<u>\$ 1,947,633</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 3,955,749

Expenses

Programs and Operations	\$ 1,936,614
Transferred to the Denning Fund	<u>\$ 1,947,633</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 3,884,247

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2007

Cash on hand	\$ 211,112
Hanley Denning Fund	\$ 1,872,033
Property and Equipment	\$ 1,016,595
Pledge Receivables	\$ 473,625
Other Receivables	\$ 111,846
Current Liabilities	<u>\$ (85,067)</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 3,600,144

Copies of the audit, conducted by the firm of MacDonald Page & Co., and covering the 2007 Fiscal Year, are available by contacting Safe Passage at info@safepassage.org.

Hanley Denning Fund

Safe Passage has announced the establishment of the Hanley Denning Fund with over \$3,000,000 in gifts from her admirers and friends. According to Fund Co-Chair, Charles Gendron, "We wanted to honor Hanley for her inspirational work and we wanted to ensure that her life work will continue into the future by creating a stable financial situation." In addition to Gendron, the campaign was co-chaired by former Maine First Lady, Mary Herman, and Michael Denning, Hanley's father.

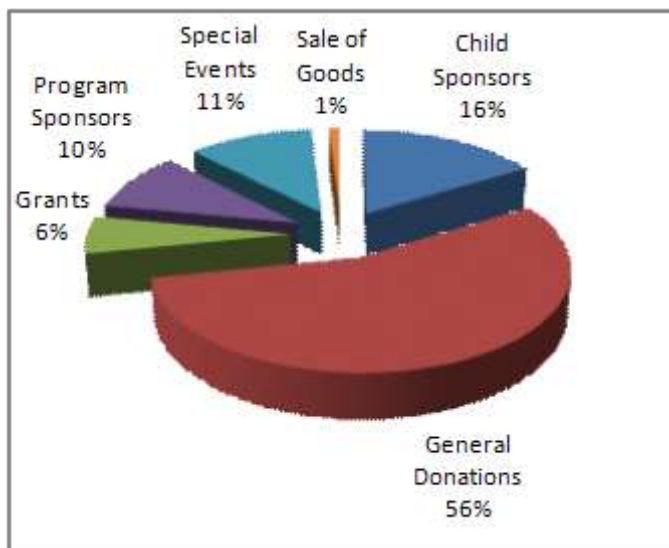
Of the \$3,000,000 raised to date for the Fund, \$500,000 came from 1,600 memorial gifts made shortly after Denning died in an automobile accident. "Safe Passage grew rapidly in the years before Hanley's death," said Sharon Workman, President of the Board of Directors. "On several occasions, due to cash flow issues, we almost had to close the doors, and only because of Hanley's persistence and the gifts of a few angels, were we able to continue."

"This Fund serves two important functions," Workman continued. "First, it is a rainy day fund to protect the organization against unforeseen circumstances and cash flow issues. It also will serve as an endowment generating \$100,000 or more annually for Safe Passage." Safe Passage continues to accept gifts to the Hanley Denning Fund.

Hanley Denning Fund Co-Chairs (L-R) Charles Gendron, Mary Herman, Michael Denning



SOURCES OF OPERATIONAL INCOME 2007



Important Financial Measurements for 2007

- Administrative overhead as a percent of total operating expenses— 12.8%
- Fundraising expenses as a percent of total raised in 2007— 6.2%

A Child Sponsor Reflections

"Throughout my life I have donated to many charities. In most instances, I have never known if my donations had any impact on the people they were meant for. Now, as a Safe Passage sponsor of Carlos Rolando Mucur Palacios, all that has changed.

Carlos and I exchanged cards and letters for about two years before I decided to be a part of a Safe Passage Support Team trip to Guatemala to meet him. That meeting changed my life. Carlos is a wonderful young man, and an attentive student who now has hope of a better future. Carlos and I have a personal relationship and he knows that a real person, outside of his family and outside of his country, cares about him personally.



Carlos and Mary

Through Safe Passage he is provided an excellent educational reinforcement program (including English as a Second Language), an opportunity to play soccer (which he loves!) nutritional meals and the support and guidance he needs to stay out of the rampant gang environment in Guatemala City.

I have seen the impact my sponsorship has had on Carlos' life (and all of the other lucky, sponsored children that are part of Safe Passage). I am looking forward to being a part of his life as a sponsor and friend for as many years as he needs me."

-Mary Kavanaugh, Traverse City, MI



A preschool student at the Fran Walter Doonan Early Childhood Education Center finds a quiet moment in the new playground. Photo by Page St. Germain (ME).

Safe Passage's 2007

The Gift That Multiplied With Others Giving

When the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation voted the funds to build Safe Passage's Fran Walter Doonan Early Childhood Education Center ("the Guarderia"), our Board could not have imagined the outpouring of gifts from other donors that would serve to build upon our gift of bricks-and-mortar to create a holistic learning center for Safe Passage's youngest children.

While the walls of the new building were still going up, Richard and Susan Schmaltz (Westmeath, On, Canada) former long-term volunteers at Safe Passage had already begun extensive plans to fill the rooms with a curriculum, furniture and tools that would allow the young children to "grow in a place of beauty and to be everything that they are meant to be." Thus, while Richard set about to raise the money and volunteers to build top notch furniture and learning stations for the new building, Susan trained Safe Passage teachers and Early Childhood Director, Margarita Campos, in the new curriculum. Susan is staying involved as Safe Passage's Early Childhood Program Advisor.

Then, Sandra de Gonzalez visited the almost-finished preschool and recognized that even the best curriculum is of limited value if the children are not eating properly. For the past two years she has paid a nutritionist to oversee menu planning and made sure the toddlers were receiving the right food.

Meanwhile, Professor Daniel Winterbottom at the University of Washington brought his students down to blueprint and to construct the community garden and playground envisioned in the original Walter Foundation gift. And none of these donations – including the Walter Foundation's own – would have been possible without Juan Mini's original gift of the land.

As an indication of their continued commitment, Sandra de Gonzalez and Juan Mini both recently joined the Safe Passage Board of Directors.

The biggest "thank you" a benefactor can receive is to see other donors offer their own talents and services to build on a charitable project. In this sense, the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation is delighted that our gift, which made possible the preschool building, has been enhanced and multiplied a thousand-fold by so many other Safe Passage "angels."

Martha Peak Helman
Otto and Fran Walter Foundation
Boothbay Harbor, ME

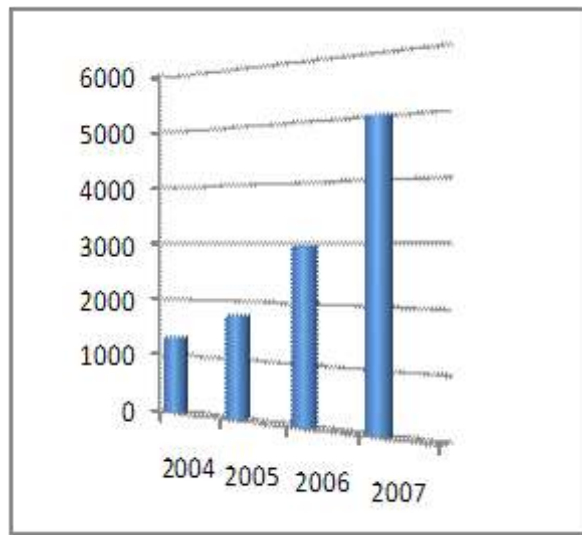
Philanthropy Report

Thank you! Gracias!

- Thanks to our staff of teachers, social workers, administrators, and so many others. Your hard work, and caring for the children really matters.
- Thanks to the 546 who journeyed to Safe Passage as part of a support team in 2007.
- Thanks to each and every of our 5,000 plus donors. Without you there would be no Safe Passage.
- Thanks to our wonderful long-term volunteers who committed to a month, six months, a year to work at Safe Passage in 2007. You are the greatest!
- Thanks to our diligent and resourceful Board who rose to the occasion after Hanley's tragic death and kept the organization on a productive path.
- Thank you Mike Glad and Leslie Iwerks for your wonderful film, *Recycled Life*, and your film tribute to Hanley. You also donated 1,000 DVDs to Safe Passage. We especially thank you for showing the world why Safe Passage is such an important organization.
- Thanks to the 727 Child Sponsors, 46 Classroom Partners and Partners and 196 Program Partners, who have taken a very **personal interest in guiding and encouraging Safe Passage's** children and programs.
- Thanks to the 36 donors who gave over \$2,500,000 to help us **establish the Hanley Denning Fund and secure Safe Passage's** finances for years to come.
- Thanks to the many service clubs, churches, schools and other organizations who provide funds and in-kind support.
- Thanks to our Friends Groups and all the volunteers from around the world who undertook projects and special events on behalf of Safe Passage.
- A special thanks to the Denning family for sharing Hanley with so many people during her short life; and for your continued commitment to Safe Passage.



NUMBER OF DONORS
2004 TO 2007



Safe Passage Income
2004 – 2007



Rachel Meyn—Director of Development



Rachel Meyn, who from 2001 to 2003 was a full time volunteer for Safe Passage in Guatemala, was recently named to head the organization's US office, located in Yarmouth, ME. In that capacity, she serves as

the organization's Director of Development.

Most recently, the California native had been serving as Outreach Coordinator. Rachel can be reached at rachel@safepassage.org

Friends Groups

In London, England they held a huge ball, complete with gowns, limos, a red carpet and paparazzi, all to benefit Safe Passage.

In Portland, Maine, they honored Hanley Denning by holding a tribute evening to a sold out auditorium (over 1,900 people), with a screening of the Academy Award nominated film, *Recycled Life*, and a special tribute film produced by Mike Glad and directed by Leslie Iwerks.

In Traverse City, Michigan, 350 friends gathered in a virtual visit to the Guatemala City dump for an evening of food, music and fund raising.

In Chapel Hill, North Carolina, the local friends group held their 4th Annual Benefit Concert with music, an auction and salsa dancing.

Around the world, friends groups have sprung up to support Safe Passage and to share experiences among their members. Most send support teams to Safe Passage, many have encouraged local people to volunteer and all have raised funds to help support Safe Passage. Currently, there are ten formal friends groups, five in the United State and five in Europe with several more in the formation stage. In addition there are hundreds of clubs, organizations and school groups that have undertaken service projects on **Safe Passage's behalf**.

Each month, leaders from Safe Passage friends groups hold a Skype conference call where they share ideas, celebrations and best practices.

"We welcome everyone who is interested in supporting Safe Passage and networking with others that have a similar interest," noted **Sharon Workman, President of the Safe Passage Board of Directors** and a leader with the Great Lakes Friends of Safe Passage.

If you are interested in joining a Safe Passage Friends Group or would like to begin one in your area, please contact Safe Passage at outreach@safepassage.org.



Children's artwork is auctioned off at the 2nd annual Fiesta held in Traverse City, Michigan last summer.



The Casco Bay Friends Group, in conjunction with Kodak, held a photography contest and prepared a 2008 calendar from 12 of the best submissions. This photograph submitted by Emily Tepikian, a 2007 volunteer from New York City, was included in the calendar.

Safe Passage Friends Groups

United States

- Boothbay Harbor, ME, Lincoln County (ME) Friends of Safe Passage, Chip Griffin, chip@griffinlawoffices.com
- Durham, NC area, Safe Passage North Carolina Friends, Arnie Katz, ncfriendsofsafepassage@gmail.com
- Portland, ME area, Casco Bay Friends Group, John Erickson, jerickso@maine.rr.com
- Traverse City, MI, Great Lakes Friends of Safe Passage, Sharon Workman, wworkman@centurytel.net
- Boston, MA, Jacob Carter, jacobc422@yahoo.com

Europe

- Denmark, Marie Sandvad and Julie Oxenvad, densikrevej@hotmail.com
- Paris, France, Jason Moyer-Lee, ascaminoseguro@gmail.com
- Germany, Melanie Wielens, caminoseguro@web.de
- Netherlands, Arend Hulshof, caminoseguronederland@hotmail.com
- United Kingdom, Edel Boyle, edel_boyle@yahoo.co.uk

"I knew the first time I went to Safe Passage and saw the filth of the garbage dump and knowing that entire families scavenged for their livelihood, that I would support Safe Passage for the long term. Two years ago, a mother told me that Safe Passage had allowed her children to dream, something she was unable to give them. She knew that because of Safe Passage, her children could be anything they wanted. She felt blessed. I wanted to be part of supporting that change for this community. It has brought my family such joy to know that we have helped and continue to help children and families who would otherwise be forgotten."

Betsey Andersen, Chair, Safe Passage Development Committee

How You Can Help

You can help Safe Passage continue its work with the children of the Guatemala City dump through a gift of your time or a donation. Here are a few ways to give. For additional information visit the Safe Passage website at www.safepassage.org.

- Sponsor a child for \$50 a month; or become a sole sponsor for \$200 a month. Contact: sponsorship@safepassage.org
- Become a program sponsor—amounts vary. For example you can become a classroom partner for \$100 month.
- Make a donation—either visit our website or send a check to the address below. We appreciate gifts of all sizes.
- Sign up as a long term volunteer. Check our website for openings and contact information.
- Organize a support team and travel to Safe Passage in Guatemala. There are still openings for this fall and for 2009. Contact: teams@safepassage.org
- Become active in your local Friends Group or, if there is not a local group, help organize one. Contact Safe Passage for more information.
- Make a capital gift or a gift to the Hanley Denning Fund and help build our endowment.
- Invite someone you know to become involved.

Visit our website at www.safepassage.org

Donations can be sent to:
Key Bank Gift Processing
PO Box 712849
Cincinnati, OH 45271-2849

Safe Passage Board of Directors

Betsey Andersen, Falmouth, ME

Jordon Denning, Freeport, ME

Margaret Downing, Yarmouth, ME

Charles Gendron, Yarmouth, ME

Sandra de Gonzalez, Guatemala City,
Guatemala

Carl Griffin III, Boothbay Harbor, ME

Liz Incze, Cumberland Foreside, ME

Arnie Katz, Durham, NC

Juan Mini, Guatemala City, Guatemala

Barbara Nijhuis, Antigua, Guatemala,
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Susanna Place, Milton, MA,
Treasurer

Paul Sutherland, Traverse City, MI

Deborah Walters, Troy, ME
Board Vice Chair

Sharon Workman, Cedar, MI
Board Chair

Thanks to the following staff and volunteers for their ideas for this report, for writing and editing these articles, and for the many wonderful photographs: Betsey Andersen, Rachel Meyn, Emily Wolfe, Karen Gonzales, Betsy Upham, John Gundersdorf, Karen Bolmer, Barbara Davis, Jane Gallagher, Liz Love, Ross Copeland, Gabriela Morales, Sascha van Belzen and many others. Elizabeth Price has a photograph on the inside cover. The cover photograph was taken by Ellen Smith-Erb (ME) and the photograph of the children in the dump on the back cover was taken by Joe Delconzo (NJ), as well as several of the photos on the inside cover. Richard Vieira provided technical assistance on the layout of the publication.

Printed on recycled paper

Turning Dreams Into Reality

Safe Passage Student Stories

Luis Solis Pereira



Luis has hardly missed a day of school since he first walked through Safe Passage's doors. He reflects "I always try to be a good student,

behave myself, and demonstrate to Safe Passage my interest to improve every day." He has quietly made his way passing each grade and excelling in his courses. Currently, Luis is attending the ninth grade at Colegio Cristiano Guatemalteco, a private high school. When recently asked how his studies were, he remarked, "My studies are going well. You know, I need to keep my grades high if I'm going to be a pilot."

Paola Horney



Paola, now 13 years old, has been with the program since the day Hanley opened the doors of the little church at

the edge of the dump. Paola has grown to become an articulate, and strong young woman. In Paola's words "the project is the best thing in my life because it is like a second home for me. I spend most of my time there." Paola is currently in the sixth grade. She dreams of continuing her studies and to one day specialize in tourism. And her biggest dream is "to be able to help [my] family."

Cristian Chiche



Years ago, Cristian begged his mother to **promise they'd** never sleep on the street again. Together,

Cristian, his three siblings and his mother are making that promise **come true.** "The project is helping my mother too. Today, she is attending the **women's literacy class.** I feel very proud of being part of Safe Passage because I **learn a lot here.**" Last winter, Cristian boldly stated that he hoped to be a future president of Guatemala. In April, 2007, Safe Passage received First Ladies Wendy Berger of Guatemala and Laura Bush of the US for a visit. Cristian sat at the head of the table next to them as one of the student representatives of Safe Passage.



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Children walk past the Guatemala City dump on their way to Safe Passage.
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