



“My goal is to become a doctor and help children. And after university, I want to travel.”

- NAYARIT, 17

Nayarit and her twin sister Abi are both students in our *Oportunidades* program. She's been studying with Safe Passage for the past four years.

Nayarit spends half her day at her high school, then comes to Safe Passage for tutoring and homework support. When asked about the difference between her school and Safe Passage, Nayarit answers: "We receive a lot more educational materials here than at my

other school. Safe Passage also offers homework assistance, psychological help, and a health clinic. My other school is a lot larger and offers less resources." Her favorite thing about coming to Safe Passage is learning English.

In a family where her father graduated from 6th grade and her mother from the 7th grade, Nayarit has bigger dreams for herself. She wants to continue her education by going to university to become a doctor. After graduating, she'd love to travel, with Paris and Brazil high on her list of must-see destinations.

Thanks to your support, students like Nayarit have access to not only an excellent education, but hands-on tutoring, social services, healthcare, and nutritious meals.

Because of you, our students have the encouragement, resources, and support to dream big for their future. **Thank you.**



Photo Credit: Michele Stapleton

## IMPACT NEWSLETTER

### Fall 2019: Growth and Opportunities

What an exciting year for Safe Passage! In January 2019, we welcomed our first class of 7th-grade students in the very first full-day *básico* (middle school). Now only a few months from the school year's end, we're looking ahead to 2020 and the celebration of our 20th Anniversary. We are so proud of our students, who are using opportunities for success thanks to our community: our local and international friends, our partnerships, and your individual support.

**Thank you for making all of this possible!**

Safe Passage and our students could not be successful without YOU!



**97%**  
of our 6th graders continued  
to 7th grade, while the national  
Guatemalan 7th grade  
enrollment rate is only  
**43%**

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)

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# TEACHER TRAINING

## Partnerships and Collaboration

Dr. Heidi von Dohlen first learned about Safe Passage four years ago through the Black Mountain Rotary Club in North Carolina. Since then, she's led two professional development teams at Safe Passage, including this past summer.

### Introduce yourself and your team.

I am an Assistant Professor and Program Director in Educational Leadership at Western Case University. My team consisted of three social workers and three instructional experts.

### Who did you train?

We provided training to 45 Safe Passage staff including teachers, psychologists, social workers, and administrators.

### What type of training did you provide?

We focused on Trauma-Responsive Practices. With Executive Director Trae Holland, Principal Patricia Barneond, and Director of Integral Health Services Pablo Callejas, we established these following goals:

- Increase collaboration among teachers, psychologists, social workers, and administrators
- Understand how working together through multidisciplinary teams, we can best support students living through trauma.

- Provide training on trauma-responsive practices including individual and classroom strategies for differentiation, student choice, resiliency, and self-care
- Provide training on digital learning tools for use in the classroom.

### Tell us about the training you led last year?

Because Safe Passage was growing to include middle school grade levels, our work in the Summer of 2018 was with the new middle school teachers on instructional practices, norm-setting, team-building, and project-based learning. Throughout that week, our team was able to observe what passionate, skilled teachers Safe Passage was able to recruit and retain.

### Explain your partnership with the staff at Safe Passage.

Two leading team members from the 2018 team served again on the 2019 team. We're able to go deeper into our work with Safe Passage because of the relationships we've established with the professionals there. We've established trust in our partnership. When bright, motivated, passionate educators come together to work in a trusting partnership, there's no better professional reward. That's what we get when we go to work at Safe Passage.

We also learned what an amazing school leader Patricia Barneond is. I've been in education for 29 years [and] Patricia is among the best school leaders I have ever worked with - and she's leading a school that few leaders could. Trae Holland and I share a similar philosophy and ideology of how to educate children experiencing trauma, distributing informal leadership throughout the organization. I am always energized to work with high-level, passionate leaders like Trae.

### Is there anything else you'd like Safe Passage supporters to know?

Time, effort, and financial resources given to Safe Passage has a real, high-quality pay-off. Know that what you're able to give - regardless of the form (time, effort, money) - is a win-win for amazing children and families living in circumstances we just don't see (and can't imagine until you do see it) here in the U.S.



# TELUS PARTNERSHIP

## Creating a Future for Our Graduates



Executive Director Trae Holland (far left), Próximo Paso Coordinator Jayro Barahona (center), TELUS employee Rosy Flores (far right) with scholarship recipients (from left) Karla Sajche, Brendy Dieguez, Emely Zacarias, Pablo Ayapan, and Samuel Tocay

5 Safe Passage graduates were offered a chance for a brighter future when international telecommunications company TELUS awarded them scholarships in August.

The scholarship program is called HOPE: Helping Our People through Education. HOPE is a 10 month-long life-changing program for students throughout Central America. Our students will be strengthening their English and other job skills while receiving a stipend from TELUS. At the end of the program, they will be offered roles within the company, enabling them to successfully support themselves in a job with dignity in the formal, technical sector.

These 5 exceptional students were chosen from our Próximo Paso (Next Step) program. Próximo Paso guides Safe Passage graduates through the often daunting post-graduation world. Some of the initiatives of Próximo Paso include placing students in internships for real-world experience, assisting students with university applications, and helping students prepare for job interviews.

An important aspect of this program is building relationships with local Guatemalan partners including nonprofit organizations and private companies. We're grateful for our partnership with TELUS; with them, our students' futures are a little brighter.

Learn more about *Próximo Paso* by visiting [www.safepassage.org/next-step](http://www.safepassage.org/next-step)