



Photo from 2019 with Executive Director, Trae Holland, and graduating students from our Oportunidades program.

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

Despite the pandemic, we want to end the school year by doing something special for our students, who are moving on to the next level in a few short weeks. They have worked too hard and overcome so much!

With almost 40 students each graduating to colegio (elementary) and básico (middle school), as well as several others moving on from our Oportunidades and adult programs, we want to congratulate them and celebrate their successes.

On November 12 & 13, we will be hosting graduation celebrations, socially distanced, of course. The first will be for our younger students and the second will be for the older ones.

Each student, or parent in the case of our younger students, will get a diploma and a bag of goodies to take home to celebrate with. This year may have been a roller coaster ride but we can end on a high note, just like we started!

¡Felicitaciones en tu graduación!

Safe Passage/Camino Seguro

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IMPACT NEWSLETTER

Fall 2020 Challenges & Changes

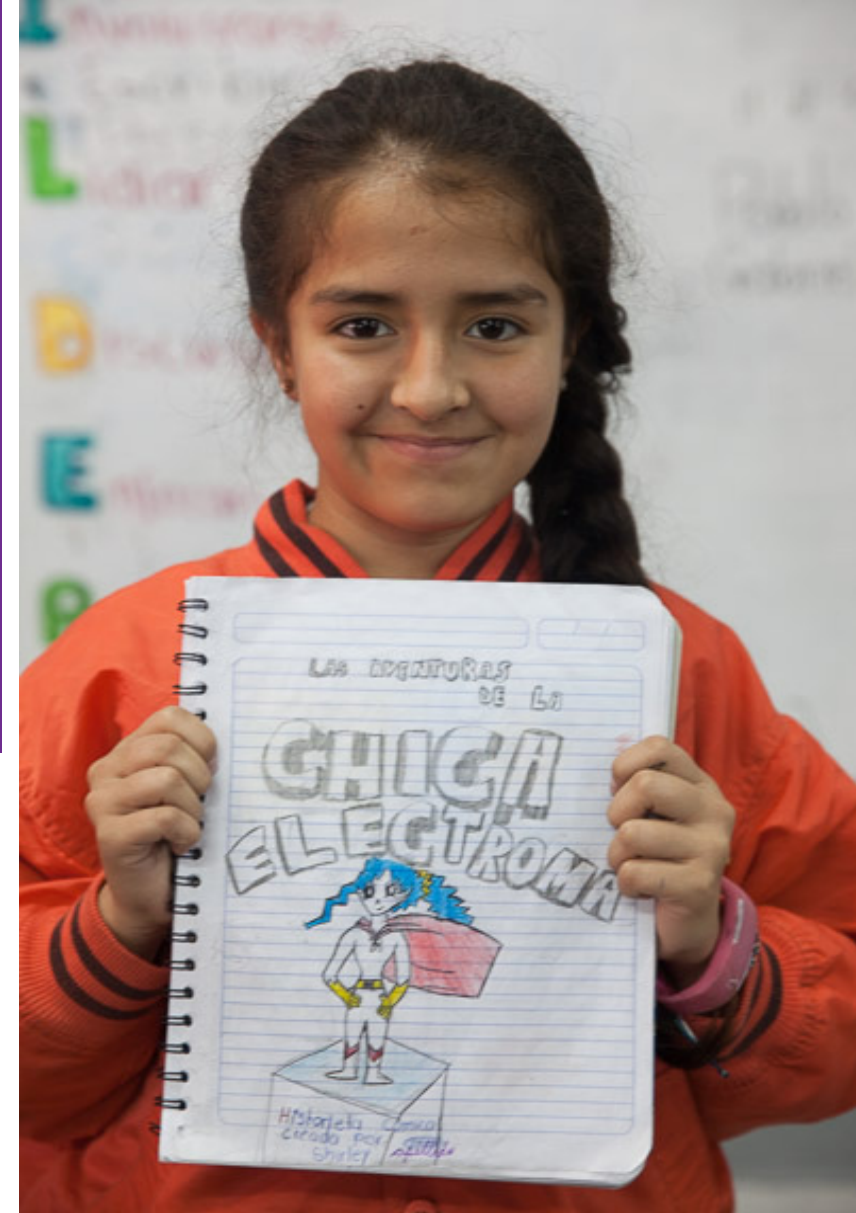
2020 has been a challenging year for so many of us.

For Safe Passage, it started out on a high note in January as we welcomed our very first, full-day eighth grade as part of our new básico (middle school) expansion. We were gearing up to celebrate our 20th Anniversary year, and even held a celebration at the school in early March.

With the arrival of COVID-19, plans drastically changed. In accordance with the Guatemalan government mandate, we shut down our school on March 13th. While we have hopes to reopen in the new year, we have had to adjust our learning model to best serve our students during the closure. There have been many changes. But throughout all of this, there are two constants:

1. We will continue to support our community within these new guidelines
2. We couldn't do this work without your support - **thank you.**

Please read on for updates from our programming in Guatemala City.



A NOTE FROM TRAE

Executive Director
and Head of School



To all members of the Safe Passage family, please accept my deepest gratitude to each of you for your combined gifts of time and passion. This organization continues to lean on you more than ever, as we together face what is in reality a “triple pandemic” with three intersecting crises: the viral threat to the health of our families and staff, a worsening economic reality both in the US and Guatemala, and the already prevailing danger and insecurity that our families know in their community. Yet, our success up to this point has also been based upon strong certainty and the years of trust built in partnership with supporters and stakeholders who have remained by our side. Both change and continuity are proving to be our allies throughout this time of challenge.

October 16th marked exactly seven months since we were last gathered on campus alongside our students.

The planning in the weeks preceding that fateful day, in areas from communications and telemedicine to food distribution systems and academics, all proved vital in helping us effectively navigate those initial weeks after the crisis began. And in all the months that followed, we remained diligent in seeking to improve our organization and solve so many unforeseen problems as they have arisen, whether they be financial, health related, student centered or logistical.

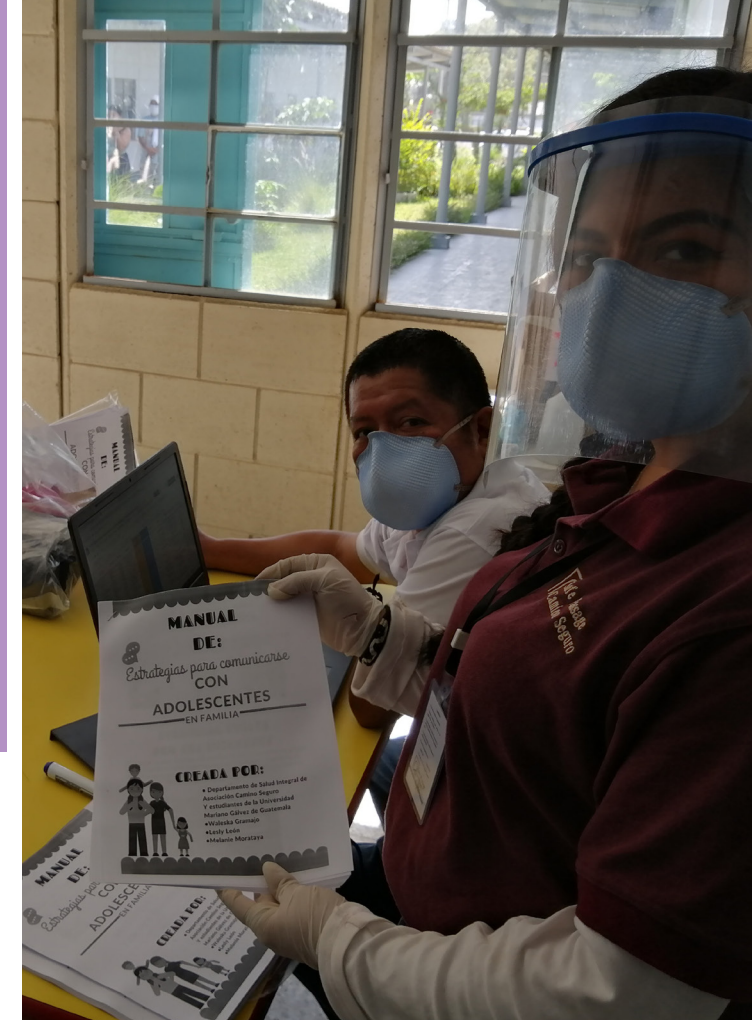
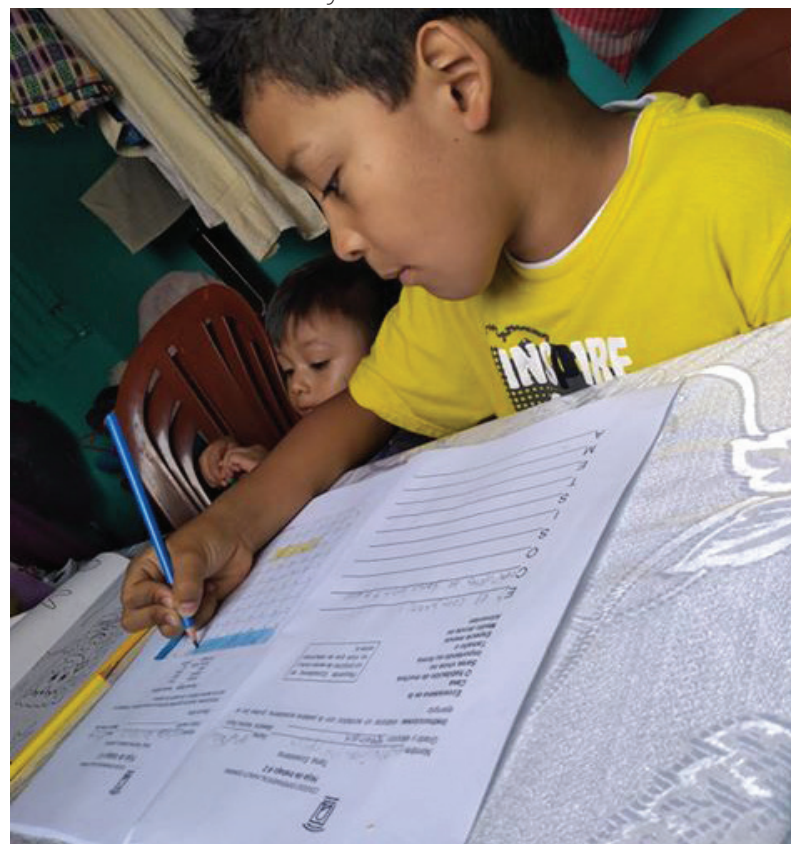
All of this would have been impossible without our amazing supporters and our incredible team on the ground. And as we move forward in the uncertain times ahead, we are all confident that the unique love and care that we share will be at the heart of our success.

Warmest,
Trae Holland

REMOTE LEARNING

Adapting to a
new reality

Learning looked a little different for our students this year, as with most children around the world. However, our students have no Zoom classes, or separate quiet spaces for homework time. With many tasked to take care of younger siblings and most not having any computer or internet access, it has been a challenge. We even have a subsection that do not have electricity.



Despite the difficulties, our teachers knew that each day without viable learning would only exacerbate the pre-existing disparities that their students faced. So, after the shutdown, they immediately went to work creating homework packets to distribute every couple of weeks, with over a dozen sent out so far.

We are happy to report that most of our students returned completed packets, and stayed on target, even with the many obstacles that they faced.

“When the pandemic forced us into lockdown, Safe Passage staff, Board, and supporters geared up to respond to the crisis and embrace new ways of working. I will forever be inspired by the images of our students crafting their homework expeditions in the dim light of their homes...”

- Susanna B. Place