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QUÉ PASA

What's Happening

A Publication of International Children's Care
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Testimony of a Rescued Life – Thanks to YOU!



Los Pinos became a place of new life and refuge for Heber López. Most importantly, it is where he met God. His academic success and character are a testament to the impact of your support! Thank you!

Editor's note: Following is an edited excerpt from a testimony by Heber López, one of ICC's young adult children in Guatemala. Thank you for what you continue to do to transform the lives of orphan and vulnerable children!

My name is Heber López. My life has been a journey full of challenges, but also of miracles and opportunities. From the moment I was born, everything seemed to go against what one would expect for a small child. When I was two years old, life gave me a blow that I could not forget: I was separated from my mother and my brother. The PGN (Attorney General's Office) came to my home and, for reasons I didn't understand at the time, took me to a different place. It was at that moment that my destiny changed, although I later understood that everything that happened was part of a larger

plan; a plan that, though painful, led me to where I am now.

Upon arriving at Los Pinos, I was not only separated from my family but started a new life. It was there where, little by little, I understood what perseverance and effort were. It was in that home that I learned many skills that would help me later in life. Over time, I found that these skills were not only useful but made me feel capable and in control of my own destiny.

Over the years, Los Pinos became more than a refuge, it became my school of life. The classrooms were my escape and, at the same time, my challenge. Studying was not easy, but every day I felt that I had one more reason to move forward.

I also met God. The way in which Los Pinos instilled principles in us was wonderful - that the love for God was from the heart and not out of obligation. Without a doubt, one of the best things that happened to me at Los Pinos was learning to walk with God.

As I progressed in my studies, life took me to Guatemala City, a place that seemed so distant and different from what I had known. The city represented a new

opportunity, and a new stage in my life.

Over time, I managed to enroll in university, and today, with a lot of effort, I am in my fourth year of Industrial Engineering.

I know that this achievement is not only mine, but also that of all the people who have supported me on this path, especially Los Pinos and my sponsors who never stopped believing in me. Thanks to their support and the love I always received at Los Pinos, I have managed to move forward, step by step, without giving up.

Heber continues to live at the Los Pinos City Center where he is provided with housing and food as he attends university. According to Anabela, City Center Director, Heber "is a very responsible, reliable, respectful young man. He likes to participate in church activities, and sometimes he is invited from other churches to preach."

To read more of Heber's testimony, visit ForHisKids.org/Hebers-Testimony or access the QR code by using your smartphone's camera.



Project Spotlight – L

The Impact of



In recognition of the 45th anniversary, the Los Pinos family gathered at the entrance of the children's village for worship in the early morning hours. Thank you for making it possible for these children to have hope for a better future!

LICC donors like you have provided for the loving care of orphan and vulnerable children for over four decades! Children who came to Los Pinos as babies or toddlers have grown up and have children of their own. Some are nearing the age of being grandparents!

The years have flown by as attested by the fact that last October the Los Pinos family celebrated their 45th anniversary!



Emelson and Flor grew up at Los Pinos. They are married now with children of their own. They are paying forward your support by working on behalf of the current children of Los Pinos

Hundreds of kids have been blessed to call Los Pinos home. And you have played a vital part in giving them this opportunity.

The most recent anniversary celebration started early in the morning as the Los Pinos family left their homes and walked around the campus singing songs. As the sun was rising, they gathered for a worship service at the entrance of the children's village. The staff and children sang songs, listened to a devotional, had prayer, and then enjoyed fireworks!

The day's celebration included games and special food such as snow cones, a delight to the children who had never experienced anything like it. In the evening, the Los Pinos family gathered at the school for a special dinner and social time.

Milestones like this remind all of us that God has been faithful through the years. And it's through the faithful and continu-

ing support of ICC family members like you that Los Pinos continues to provide care for orphan and vulnerable children. It is also a pathway of hope for the future through the educational program for community children who would not be able to attend school if it weren't for Los Pinos.

Speaking of milestones, the school year ends in Guatemala in the Fall before the holidays. That means promotions and graduations. Your support has enabled Los Pinos children to achieve success in their studies as they continue their journey towards independence. And as you read about Heber in his testimony on the front page, these children are following in his footsteps. They are challenged by their studies but are holding on to the dream that one day, they too, will be able to realize their dreams coming true. None of this would be possible without YOU! Thank you for your love, support and prayers as these children continue to grow and thrive.



For 45 years, ICC has been on a mission to care for children in Guatemala. Your gifts continue to support ICC parents as they provide the love and nurture that orphan and vulnerable children need

Los Pinos, Guatemala

Your Support



Your support is making a tremendous impact as well on the lives of community children. These 6th grade graduates have been given the opportunity to go to school. This is opening to them a world of possibilities. Thank you!



THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT, LOS PINOS CHILDREN ARE FINDING SUCCESS IN THEIR STUDIES AND ACHIEVING MILESTONES.

Christmas Hope Matching Challenge Blesses "His Kids!"



Once again, the compassion and generosity of ICC family members has been demonstrated. Your gifts combined with the matching challenge funds have provided a wonderful blessing to ICC children as over \$200,000 was raised. These funds will help provide children like Lucinda with the nurturing care needed to thrive and grow.

This month, please remember the children yet again. Costs continue to rise, and budgets must be increased this year. It takes more to provide the same level of care the children need. Please send a special gift today! Thank you!

Young People Experience the Joy of Giving

By Wendy Clark



Emily Will requested her family and friends donate money to build homes for orphans in the Congo rather than give her a birthday present.

Our wonderful donors often amaze and inspire us. Sometimes, these supporters are young people who want to make a difference in the lives of orphans, thinking about others rather than themselves.

One such donor, Emily Will, age 11, has a heart for others in need.

Earlier this year, Emily's parents sat down with her and her brother Peter to discuss ways to make birthdays less about themselves and more about gratitude and helping other people. Her parents were influenced by the advice from a much-published Christian author named Ellen White, who penned, *"Upon their birthdays, instead of calling their attention to themselves by giving them presents, teach them to come with an offering to God."**

They agreed to request that family and friends donate money to a



Emily and her brother, Peter, visit ICC Headquarters.

cause rather than buy presents for the kids or give them money to spend on themselves. Her parents suggested a few charity options.

Emily said, "I just read the book called *A Leap of Faith*, and I want to give the money to ICC."

A fifth-grade homeschool student, Emily has always loved reading. *A Leap of Faith*, by ICC co-founder Alcyon Fleck, is the origin story of ICC. It tells how God protected the Fleck family as they stepped out in faith to care for orphans in Guatemala during a time of brutal civil war.

Emily's parents agreed and contacted ICC to tour the headquarters building in Vancouver, Washington. At ICC, she learned about some of the more pressing needs at children's villages such as the need for additional homes for orphans at Patmos Children's Village in the DR Congo. She decided to direct her birthday money to this cause. Her father, Nicholas Will, remembers that she was happy to visit the ICC offices and proud to be part of a project helping the orphans.

Emily enjoyed celebrating her 11th birthday with a small group of family and friends. She was able to experience the joy and blessing of giving which comes from knowing, in Jesus' words, "If you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it unto me."

See next month's Que Pasa for a story about another amazing young donor.

*RH, December 23, 1884 par. 6



Emily's birthday party attendees donated funds to help build a new Congo home.

Your Retirement Plan: A Tax-Smart Way to Give

Linda* loves helping ICC orphans lead safe, wholesome, Jesus-centered lives through her regular support. Last year when she turned 70 ½, she learned she needed to take a "Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)" from her IRA to satisfy the IRS.

This presented a problem. She didn't need this additional income and taking it would mean paying much more in taxes for the year. Her advisor told her that she could donate it to a charity and this would eliminate the need to pay the taxes.

Since she was already planning to donate some funds to ICC, she decided this would be a win-win for both her and the orphans. To keep the donation tax free, she had her investment company mail a check directly to ICC.

Join Linda in adopting this financially tax-smart way of making a real difference in children's lives around the globe. For more information about donating your RMD in 2025, call Wendy Clark at ICC: 1-800-422-7729.

*Fictitious name representing those who donate RMDs.