



San Lucas, Guatemala

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A'KALA Family Foundation

P.O. Box 52

Cologne, MN 55322

Dear A'KALA family and friends,

Six weeks from now, a group of us will be in San Lucas! I can not wait to be back to see our A'KALA family, to hear the clapping of the ladies as they make tortillas, to smell of the fires from each little house, the sun set behind the volcanoes, and just be there! It's been over two years since we have visited San Lucas and the heart aches for what is misses.

We are scheduling our winter 2023 trip to San Lucas for late January or early February. If you want to join us, please let us know.

During covid, our friends in Guatemala and our A'KALA board of directors did an amazing job of keeping all of the ministries going. Our school for the mentally and physically challenged stayed open, many new houses were built, we delivered food to those in need, we hosted our regular food distributions, and helped many families in unique situations. This was all possible thanks to you, our benefactors! God bless you for helping miracles happen during the toughest of times!

One of the people I want to visit with is a little boy who has 12 toes. I want to ensure that he is enrolled in school and using the new shoes we had made for him. We will be purchasing new shoes for all of the children in the A'KALA foundation. Its humbling to see the kids put on new shoes that actually fit their feet. The smiles on their faces say it all!

We are currently building a house for a mother with 7 children. Her husband was horribly abusive to her and the children, so she left him to have a better life for her children. She heard about the ministry that A'KALA does and asked us for help.

We are hoping to buy land to build houses for the families who come to us in the moments of need. We would like to build 3 or 4 houses to form an A'KALA community where the families can grow up together, share resources, and celebrate life together. If you would like donate to the land project, please call me, so we can discuss it.

In July we will begin a new opportunity for the women and girls of the San Lucas area to support their families. They will be designing dish towels with various artistic art work sown on each towel. This will enable the women to work at home, and to share their creative gifts and talents with others as they earn money. This is all part of our dignity for women ministry, that we are establishing. For many years the women made woven tapestries, but the market for those has really slowed down over the years. We will have dishtowels available this fall, and in time for Christmas gifts.

Please be assured of my prayers for you, especially from San Lucas. Thank you for everything you do for the people of San Lucas!

Yours in Christ,

Father Brian Oestreich

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As Fr. Brian stated in his article, we are so excited to be going to Guatemala after two years of being away. A'KALA family foundation had received it's 501c3 non-profit status just before going to Guatemala on our first mission trip in January 2020. Then the pandemic hit the world and all travel stopped. That did not stop A'KALA. In fact, we knew we needed to step up our communications in order to continue our goals of serving the poorest of the poor children in San Lucas and the surrounding areas.

We quickly realized that families had higher needs due to the pandemic. Much was lost during this time and as a third world country, they are slower to return to normal.

- There was a loss of family members,
- Many lost jobs and income,
- Children had a loss of education because they could not attend schools.
- Costs are increasing in Guatemala, just like it is here. It is much more difficult to pay for food, clothing and education.

Through all of this, A'KALA supported over 100 families with food and supplies each month. Our staff were able to purchase lumber and build homes for those families with the highest needs. Other needs were filled, as students spent time at internet cafes to complete school work, students learned how to plant gardens and grow their own food.

We are anxious to visit San Lucas to see how things have changed, visit our sponsor families and the families for which homes were built. We plan to visit the small school where students who cannot attend regular schools due to physical or other disabilities, have the opportunity to learn and grow.

We thank God for all our benefactors and sponsors for their contributions to A'KALA Family Foundation. We have sponsors for 16 children and families in San Lucas and are so thankful for those people who have committed to helping these families every year. God Bless You!!!

If you are interested in helping A'KALA Family Foundation and our work in San Lucas, you can donate by sending money to A'KALA Family Foundation, PO Box 52, Cologne, MN 55322.

We have more children needing sponsorships. If you are feeling called to sponsor one of these children or families, please contact a board member and we will help you find a child in need.

Julie Cink -



On Wednesday, May 25th the San Lucas area was flooded by down pours. Homes, streets, and buildings were flooded! If you can please help us rebuild the houses that were destroyed by this storm we would be most grateful. Thank you for considering this.



Thank you so much for sponsoring a child through A'KALA Family Foundation! We are so excited to be on this journey with you. By sponsoring a child for one year, you provide them and their family with food and education opportunities. This includes monthly food distributions as well as costs for school tuition and supplies (such as uniforms, backpacks, etc.). See our website (www.akalaff.org) for more information on what your sponsorship covers

Here are some details regarding a sponsorship:

- * A donation of \$480 will sponsor a child for a year. You can choose to either pay this amount month to month or one time a year. We accept PayPal (via the website) and check payments. Please fill out the payment information below indicating how you would like to remit your payment and send either via mail in the enclosed envelope or by email (take a picture of the application or scan) to j.cink@akalaff.org.
- * Yearly payments are due on January 31. If you want a A'KALA sponsorship, please let us know!
- * Monthly payments of \$40 are payable via PayPal or check and are due on the first of each month.
- * We encourage continued communication between sponsors and the children/families. All correspondence from either party (letters, pictures, etc.) will be translated and shared via email. Our staff in Guatemala will ensure that these items are printed and given to the family.
- * If you have specific requests for gifts or donations (for birthdays, special events, etc.) please reach out to a board member and we will help make it happen.

Thank you again for partnering with us, and please contact us if you have any questions!

Indication of Payment

☐

Monthly payment of \$40.00-- due on 1st of the month

☐

Via check

☐

Via PayPal - you will receive invoices from PayPal

☐

Yearly payment of \$480.00 (If your sponsorship begins in the middle of the year, please pro-rate your yearly payment in your remittance- i.e. if your sponsorship begins in March, please remit the first year payment of 10 months x\$40 or \$400)

☐

Via check

☐

Via PayPal - you will receive invoices from PayPal

****Make checks payable to A'KALA Family Foundation (PO Box 52, Cologne, MN 55322)****

Prayer for the People of San Lucas

Loving God, you gave us the gift of life to serve You and Your children. We ask You, dear Lord, to help and bless the people of San Lucas, Guatemala!

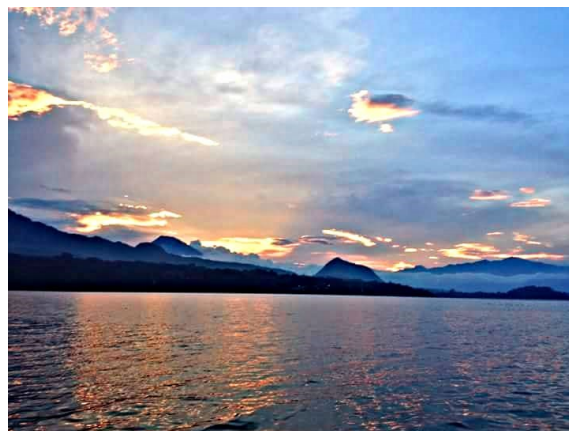
Please grant them happiness and good health, love and safety, prosperity and justice.

May they know of Your love for them through our prayers and support, and may their faith in You grow every day. May they help us, O Lord, see You through their unconditional love and acceptance. May we see You in their eyes, hearts, and homes.

We pray this with Saint Luke, Blessed Stanley Rother, Father Greg Schaffer, and all the holy innocent souls of the people of San Lucas.

A'KALA Family Foundation Mission Statement

A'KALA is a Christian charity committed to embracing hope for children and families by providing and sustaining basic life needs, including food, pure water, clothing, housing, health care, education, and employment skills, principally in San Lucas, Tolimán, Guatemala.



Support A'KALA Family Foundation while you shop!

AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to A'KALA Family Foundation. Simply shop at smile.amazon.com and choose "Akala Family Foundation" (no apostrophe) in the listing when you log in. Shop as you normally do and A'KALA Family Foundation will receive the benefits. What a great way to get your holiday shopping done and support your favorite charity in the process!



Our school has been given computers to help the children learn! We are so grateful for the gift of these used laptops and the knowledge of the world that our students can now experience. The students are so intrigued when they use the computers. Otto said, "it's a gift from God"!

Foundation Board of Directors and Contact information:

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