



## **Casa de Mi Padre, Santa Cruz del Quiché, Guatemala Mission Trip Information Packet**

### **A Word from the Director Emeritus/Mission Group Coordinator**

Thank you for requesting more information on a possible mission trip to Guatemala and the ministry of Casa de Mi Padre. We hope this information packet answers many of your questions and provides you with all the necessary information you will need for your church or group to make a decision about coming to Guatemala on a mission to help with the construction of the new Casa de Mi Padre. In this packet you will find the following information:

1. General information on the country of Guatemala
2. Information about Casa de Mi Padre
3. What your team will be doing
4. Cost breakdown of the entire trip
5. Other Logistical Information
6. Contact Information
7. Required forms to print for each participant

After reviewing this information, please feel free to ask any questions this packet did not answer. You can address your questions to the following email: [crshane2010@gmail.com](mailto:crshane2010@gmail.com).

May God bless you as your review this information and make a decision for your team.

Sincerely,

Shane Sanderson  
Mission Group Coordinator  
Founder and Director Emeritus  
Casa De Mi Padre  
Santa Cruz del Quiché, Guatamala

# 1. Guatemala General Information



Officially the **Republic of Guatemala** is a country in Central America bordered by Mexico to the north and west, the Pacific Ocean to the southwest, Belize to the northeast, the Caribbean to the east, Honduras to the east and El Salvador to the southeast. It spans an area of 108,890 km<sup>2</sup> (42,043 sqmi) and has an estimated population of 15,806,675, making it the most populous state in Central America. A representative democracy, its capital and largest city is **Nueva Guatemala de la Asunción**, also known as Guatemala City.

What is today Guatemala was for centuries part of the Mayan civilization that extended across Mesoamerica. Most of the country was conquered by the Spanish in the 16th century, becoming part of the colony of New Spain (present-day Mexico). Guatemala attained its independence in 1821 as part of the Federal Republic of Central America, which dissolved in 1841.

From the mid to late 19th century, Guatemala endured the chronic instability and civil strife that was endemic to the region. Early in the 20th century, it was ruled by a series of dictators, who had the support of the United Fruit Company and the United States government. In 1944, one such authoritarian leader, Jorge Ubico, was overthrown by a pro-democratic military coup, initiating the ten-year Guatemalan Revolution that led to sweeping social and economic reforms. The revolution was ended by a U.S.-engineered military coup in 1954.

From 1960 to 1996, Guatemala underwent a bloody civil war fought between the U.S.-backed government and leftist rebels, which included a genocide of the Mayan population. Since the war ended, Guatemala has witnessed both economic growth and successful democratic elections, though it continues to struggle with high rates of poverty, crime, and instability. In the most recent election, held in 2011, Otto Pérez Molina of the Patriotic Party won the presidency.

Guatemala's abundance of biologically significant and unique ecosystems, many of which are endemic, contributes to Mesoamerica's designation as a biodiversity hotspot. The country is also known for its rich culture, characterized by a fusion of Spanish and Indigenous influences.

# 2. About the Ministry of Casa de Mi Padre

Casa De Mi Padre (My Father's House) children's home, is located in the city of Santa Cruz del Quiché, Guatemala in Central America. The home is approximately 90 miles northwest of the capital city. Although the country is ecologically beautiful, poverty is particularly widespread throughout the countryside and large inner-city areas. Illiteracy, infant mortality, and malnutrition are among the highest in the region, while life expectancy is the lowest. The Quiche people are an indigenous group who have limited education and resources. The population of the city of Santa Cruz is between 35 and 45 thousand people. The opportunity for ministry is vast and the need for orphan care in Santa Cruz del Quiche and the surrounding region is real. Casa De Mi Padre has been established to meet this need.

Our ministry is to provide refuge and shelter for needy children coming from poverty, shattered homes, abandonment, or who are orphaned through death. Child Rescue meets the physical needs of children in order to have the opportunity to meet their spiritual needs. Child Rescue has established Casa De Mi Padre children's home where children receive hope, stability, food, clothing, shelter, family, schooling, solid Biblical instruction, and living examples of God's love.



In 2010, Shane Sanderson first came to Guatemala with a vision of helping to save kids in this very poor third world country. Through God's amazing blessing we opened our doors in early July 2011 and received our first child in late July of that same year. We went from having no children to having 16 within 2 months and we have never looked back. We currently house 23 children and are operating at capacity in our current girls' home and boys' home. We have begun the process of the construction of a brand new home for our children that began with the purchase of vacant property on the opposite side of town from our location. We are making good progress on our construction process, and we pray that it will be finished in the next year or two. Upon completion, we will have a facility that is actually owned by Child Rescue and will have the possibility to house children in smaller, family style homes with about 8 kids per house. We will also have a large, commons building with dining space big enough for all of us plus mission groups; this building will also have office space and the director's living quarters.

# 3. What Will Our Mission Be?

## What Will We Be Doing?

The program for your trip depends on the time of year you come and the type of gifts and talents of your team. These are determined by communicating with your leadership of your group and coming up with the type of ministry that would fit your group and a schedule that works for everyone.

## Types of Ministry Opportunities Available

1. **Time at the House:** Spending time with the kids at Casa De Mi Padre is always a favorite. These times can include scheduled games or programs or include simple hang out time with the kids.
2. **Street Evangelism:** We offer evangelism opportunities reaching out to the people of Quiche through group evangelism in the city parks. Our kids lead the way sharing the gospel and praying with people while the group members assist by praying and handing out gospel tracks or Bibles. The group needs to provide the hand out *literature* in Spanish. The ministry has Bibles for distribution. We also have a night available for a visit to the national hospital emergency area to pray for the sick, share a simple gospel message, pass our gospel literature, and distribute refreshments to those present.
3. **Visual Evangelism:** Groups can also go to various villages in the late afternoon and share the Jesus Film in the native language of Quiche. These outreaches work best when they are combined with some type of morning ministry to help promote the evening outreach. At the end of the movie a clear gospel invitation to receive Christ needs to be included. This can be done by the group member in conjunction with an area pastor when one is available.
4. **School Evangelism:** Groups can visit public or private schools and share the gospel or teach some kind of biblical subject. However, the group needs to create an exciting children or youth program that will give the group a platform to entertain and interest the kids in order to present the gospel. An invitation to receive Christ can be given in many of the schools. The type of program will depend on the gifts and talent of each group and the leadership.
5. **Work Projects at Casa De Mi Padre:** We always have small work projects at the house as well as painting that needs to be done. We will keep you busy, just ask.
6. **Construction on the site of the New Casa De Mi Padre:** This is a special opportunity to build the future home for the kids of Casa de Mi Padre! We fondly call this huge endeavor "David's Dream." The next few pages give more details for construction groups.

*\*\* If nobody in your group will be helping with our construction project, SKIP to Section 4: Cost Breakdown of the Entire Trip.*

# Why build? “David’s Dream”

The reasons for building a new house for our children are varied. Since we first opened our doors, Casa de Mi Padre has operated in a rented house originally intended for a Guatemalan family. While we have made it work for us since the beginning, there have been increasing signs of the possibility that we could lose the home we have been renting. If that were to happen, we would be without a home for our children. They have already lost their homes once and we do not want that to happen again.

In January of 2016, God provided the money for us to close on three different pieces of property that just happened to be adjacent to each other. These properties are now one single piece of land located on the outskirts of the northwest corner of Santa Cruz del Quiché. This property is the perfect size for the vision God has given to us for the home we are going to be building.

We are calling the entire project “David’s Dream”. When Carlos David was one of our youngest children, God placed a deep desire and drive in our hearts to build a house for him and indeed all of the kids in our home that they will never have to worry about having taken away. When all of our kids came to us, they lost two main things above many other things, and those two things were their families and their homes. We have done everything in our power and through the power of Jesus to provide a family atmosphere for our kids in which they could grow and be nourished, not just physically, but also emotionally and spiritually. We all eat at the same table just like a family, go everywhere in the same vehicle just like a family, and live under the same roof, just like a family.



God has given us a vision of building a house and home that can never again be taken away from our kids. This vision is now becoming a reality as we have acquired that land and have already begun construction. Now that we are well into the initial construction phase, we are ready for teams to come and contribute their time and effort to helping make the new Casa de Mi Padre a reality.

# Construction Missions: Why are you coming and what you will be doing.



## **ARTIST RENDERING OF THE FRONT OF THE NEW CASA DE MI PADRE**

We are actively recruiting teams from around the country to come and assist us in the building process as we build the new home for our kids. Because this is a large project, what exactly your team will do is largely dependent on when you come and where we are in the process. This could be anywhere from building fence and constructing walls and gates to building storage facilities to laying block for the main house and running plumbing and electrical, and on and on the possibilities go.

This will be a work-first mission project for you and your group so most of your time will be spent on the site working on the construction. Your team members will need to be prepared to do light to moderate to sometimes heavy construction work while you are here. Of course, we will never discourage people who are less able but still want to help from coming on the mission and we will find tasks for them to do as well. We leave the decision as to who comes on your team to the discretion of each group and we want to honor and respect that, so we will always have tasks that can be performed by pretty much anyone available to your group. You will also have the opportunity to meet and get to know the kids of Casa de Mi Padre a little bit and see firsthand who you are helping by your commitment to come.

For construction groups, you can expect an average day for your trip to look something like this:

7:00 wake up

8:00 breakfast

9:00 arrive on site

1:00 lunch

2:30 return to site

5:30 wrap up day at site

6:30 or 7:00 dinner

8:00 wind down time

10:00 time to get some sleep

# 4. Cost breakdown of the entire trip

## How much does this trip cost?

The cost for your mission project is **\$885 per person**. All group funds must be sent in full two weeks before your trip date. **Plus, a \$100 nonrefundable registration fee** for each participant must be sent two months before your trip date. **The cost of each team member's flight is additional**. Depending on when you book your tickets you can expect to pay anywhere from \$750 to \$950 for a roundtrip flight to Guatemala City and back, depending on your point of origin in the United States. So the cost of the flight plus the \$885 per person will be the total cost for each member of your team. The quoted price includes all food, transportation, and lodging the entire time you are in Guatemala. This also includes the last day's stay in the city of Antigua and your hotel room there plus two meals there as well. The only thing not included in the cost is any additional purchasing you may wish to do while here in Guatemala. This usually includes things like souvenirs, gifts, and any other items you may wish to buy and take home with you. Each person is encouraged to have spending money in the amount of their choosing.

**Group Funds:** The group leader might also choose to bring some extra "Group Funds" for additional needs of the group or for ministry or outreach projects.

**Additional Charges:** any additions or changes to the accommodations are considered additional charges. This would include extra hotel nights or dining during your travel and would be an additional cost to the group. The price schedule is final.

\* Note: If the last night of your trip is on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, each person will be charged an additional \$40 to cover the cost of the weekend rate of the hotel we stay at in Antigua.

## Needed Construction Donation

If some or all of your team would like to help out with our construction work, let us know! We will figure out a specific project you can complete or focus on during your trip, then we will also give you an estimate of how much it would cost to purchase the needed materials in Guatemala. Your group can then do some fund raising in your community or church to reach that goal (maybe a GoFundMe, a silent auction, etc.) Whatever money you raise for your project can be sent along with your group's final payment. If your goal is not totally met, that is alright. We trust in the Lord's provision.

## How long will our team be in Guatemala?

We have found that the best time frame is for an eight day trip from departure to return. While this may sound like a lot, your team will have 5 actual working days while in country. Two of the days will be spent traveling to and from Guatemala with the final day being spent in the city of Antigua in preparation for your return to the United States. For example, a usual trip would have you departing on a Wednesday from the United States and returning to the US the following Wednesday. This seems to be a very good timeframe which gives ample time to accomplish much needed work on the construction. We can adjust this timeframe based on your teams needs if necessary, but this is a good starting point and seems to be a good amount of time for a short-term mission project.

## Number of Participants

The number of participants per group is limited to a total of 14. A team can be split as to where they will be serving. The options for service are to serve at our home with the kids, helping with maintenance at our ministry buildings, off-site evangelism, or construction at the new property. Any combination split is acceptable.

## 5. Other Logistical Information

**Required documents:** Be sure you have a current U.S. passport; visit <https://travel.state.gov/> for details.

We also require each participant to submit the following documents to us along with your registration payment paperwork:

- Fingerprint background check (for those over 18)  
If you have a current background check on file with your church for working or volunteering with kids, we may be able to accept that. We also can process background checks through [protectmyministry.com](http://protectmyministry.com)
- Pastoral Reference for Child Rescue Missions
- Read and agreed with Child Rescue's Child Safety Code of Conduct and signed the Child Rescue Pre-Trip Requirements form

### **Booking Your Trip**

The further in advance you book your mission trip, the more flexible we can be with the dates. You are encouraged to schedule your team as early as possible and start planning the details of your time in Guatemala. You can email us at [crshane2010@gmail.com](mailto:crshane2010@gmail.com) to get more information and/or to schedule your mission trip with Casa de Mi Padre. Once we get your team scheduled, we will send you more detailed information on your trip and how to plan everything in such a way that your time with us will be productive and fruitful. We will assist you with every facet of the planning and execution of your trip to Guatemala including all the do's and don'ts while you are in country, what to bring and what to leave home, what to expect during your time here, etc. We want your trip to Guatemala to be a huge blessing to you and your team and we will do everything in our power to make sure of that.

## 6. Contact Information

Casa de Mi Padre is a ministry of Child Rescue of Central America. Our US address is:

Child Rescue  
11201 Parallel Parkway  
Kansas City, KS 66109  
913 721-2760

**Contact email for prospective mission groups:**

[crshane@gmail.com](mailto:crshane@gmail.com)

website: <https://www.savingkids.net>

# What's Next?

1. Go to the Lord in prayer. Seek the Lord to confirm He wishes for you and your group to travel to Guatemala on a short-term mission to help us build the new Casa de Mi Padre.
2. Contact us to get any questions answered and to schedule your team. Once we have you on the schedule we will work with you every step of the way in helping you and your team to have the best possible experience you can have while on your trip.
3. Begin promoting the trip to your group or church. We will provide you with helpful information and media that will help you promote the mission to Guatemala and help cast the vision of what the mission is all about. Pray that God will touch the hearts of people that He wants to be a part of your team and ask Him to give you wisdom and direction as you begin preparing for the trip itself.
4. Once scheduled, we will work with you or your team leader and provide much more detailed information about every facet of making your trip to Guatemala from best times to travel, planning, and how to promote the trip within your group or church. This will include exhaustive travel tips, advice, and information, what to expect culture-wise during your stay with us, encouragement and helpful information on how to raise money for your individual team members and for your group as a whole if needed, the do's and don'ts of your time here in Guatemala, and many other areas of information that you will find very helpful in making your trip very fruitful and productive.
5. Most importantly, saturate the entire process with prayer. Start with prayer, pray as you go, and end with prayer. Ask God to go with you and your team every step of the way. When God's hand of blessing is on the mission, amazing things always happen. Also ask God that He not just use you and your team, but that He also uses the trip to work in and change the hearts of the individual members of your group. God can do unbelievable things when we join Him in what He is doing and follow His leadership. Ask God to work in your heart as well and pray for wisdom as you take each step in this process.

The long-term impact of your team coming down will have an effect on future generations of Guatemalan children and young people for many years to come and so your commitment and investment of time and resources cannot be understated. For groups participating in our construction project, we encourage you catch the vision of seeing a new and permanent home for the orphans of Quiché and then to help others in your church or organization catch that same vision. You and your team will then have the chance to experience God using you to have an impact on the lives of other people for all of eternity. We are praying with you that God guides you and your group as you seek Him about coming to Guatemala. Our hearts are in prayer with you as well.



## **Group Financial Information Instructions**

Group Leader please provide the following information and complete the follow the instructions:

### **Registration Payment and Final Payment**

The Group Registration Forms must accompany both the registration and final payment. All participant checks can be made out to your church and the church can produce two checks (one for the registration due two months before your trip date and one for the final payment due two weeks before your trip date) sent with the Group Registration Form to

Child Rescue,  
11201 Parallel Parkway  
Kansas City, KS 66109

If the participants are writing personal checks and no church is involved the checks must be made out to Child Rescue and bundled by the group leader and sent together with the Group Registration Form to Child Rescue, Parallel Parkway, Kansas City, KS 66109.

### **Group Information**

The group leader must provide the following information on the form provided.

### **Spending Funds**

Each person should determine how much spending money they would like to use during their trip. These funds should be added to the trip amount and a list should be brought with the team. This amount must be placed on the form and sent with final payment.

### **Wire Transfer Fee**

There is a \$40 transfer fee that must be added to the final payment for the group.



**Casa de mi Padre**  
**Child Rescue**  
**International**

**Group Deposit Form**

**(due 2 months before trip start date)**

Trip Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Group Leader Name \_\_\_\_\_

Group Leader Contact Information:

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Flight Information - Arrival to and Departure From Guatemala (If Known):

\_\_\_\_\_

Total Number in the Group: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration**

Number of Participants \_\_\_\_\_ X \$ 100 \_\_\_\_\_ **Total = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Additional required documents for each participant**

Background check \_\_\_\_\_

Pastoral Reference for Child Rescue Missions \_\_\_\_\_

Letter of reference from pastor \_\_\_\_\_

Send All Funds and Form to: Child Rescue  
11201 Parallel Parkway  
Kansas City, KS 66109

Send Digital Copy to Shane at:  
Email: [crshane2010@gmail.com](mailto:crshane2010@gmail.com)



Casa de mi Padre

Child Rescue International

## Final Group Registration Form

(due 2 weeks before trip start date)

Trip Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Group Leader Name \_\_\_\_\_

Group Leader Contact Information:

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Flight Information - Arrival to and Departure From Guatemala (If Known):

\_\_\_\_\_

Participant Total Costs: (Includes all in-country Travel, Accommodation, and Deposit)

Each mission team member = \$ 885.00

### Final Payment

Number of team members \_\_\_\_\_ X \$785 (\$885 - \$100 reg) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Extra fee for hotel on weekend (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$40 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Construction Project Funds (if applicable) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Spending Money \*\*We cannot accept US Dollars in country\*\*

Total Amount of Spending Money for the Group = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Group Leader should bring a list to Guatemala to aid in distributing the funds to the group members

Bank Wire Transfer Fee \$40.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*One Payment Per Group\*\*

Total Amount Sent to Child Rescue = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send All Funds and Form to: Child Rescue  
11201 Parallel Parkway  
Kansas City, KS 66109

Send Digital Copy to Shane at:  
Email: crshane2010@gmail.com

# 7. Required Forms to Print for Each Participant

## Child Rescue Pre-Trip Requirements Form

I, \_\_\_\_\_, confirm that I have:

- Provided Child Rescue with a background check or copy from within the last year dating from my volunteering at Child Rescue or that is on file with my church.
- I have provided a pastoral reference of my character.
- I have read and agree with and to Child Rescue's Child Safety Code of Conduct.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pastoral Reference for Child Rescue Missions Groups**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, recommend and affirm that \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ are a member  
(or members) in good standing from our congregation at  
\_\_\_\_\_ Church.

I'm able to certify without qualification that:

1. They are a member(s) in good standing.
2. No criminal charges have ever been brought against them nor do they have a criminal record.
3. They have never behaved in such a way as to indicate that they might deal with minors or adults in an inappropriate manner.
4. They do not have a current untreated alcohol or substance abuse problem
5. They do not have a current untreated emotional or mental health problem.

\*\*\* If you could not agree to all these statements for one or more of your members, please provide a detailed explanation of who and why you cannot agree with one or more statements and your reason you are willing to vouch for this person.

Name of group member(s): \_\_\_\_\_.

Reason you cannot agree and why you still vouch for them:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I'm able to state without qualification that they are of good character and reputation and qualified to serve at Casa de Mi Padre.

Pastor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Child Rescue's Child Safety Code of Conduct**

### SITUATIONAL CONTACT WITH CHILDREN

- I understand that eliminating or reducing one-adult to one-child situations dramatically lowers the risk for sexual abuse of children. I will avoid one-adult to one-child situations with children other than my own.

### PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH CHILDREN

I understand that healthy touch is valuable to children, and I will abide by the following guidelines for appropriate touch with children.

- Touch will be open rather than secretive. A hug in the context of a group is very different from a hug behind closed doors with a child not your own.
- Touch will be in response to the need of the child, and not the need of the adult.
- Touch will be age-appropriate and generally initiated by the child rather than the adult.
- Touch will be with the child's permission, and any resistance from the child is to be respected.
- Touch will communicate respect for the child.
- Appropriate interactions include verbal praise, side hugs, shoulder-to-shoulder hugs, and pats on the shoulder, back, or head.
- For smaller children, touching their hands, faces, shoulders, and arms, arms around their shoulders, hugs, and holding them when others are present are considered generally appropriate.
- Words can also be used to support and encourage a child; praise, positive reinforcement, and appropriate jokes.

### PROVIDING CARE TO CHILDREN

- I understand and acknowledge that I will not willfully allow any child in my care to suffer harm.
- I will consult my team's leader before leaving my children in another person's care.

## COMMUNICATION WITH CHILDREN

- I will not participate in activities or ongoing communication with any child without the knowledge and consent of their parents or care givers.
- I will not use language or behavior towards children that is inappropriate, harassing, abusive, sexually provocative, demeaning, or culturally inappropriate.

## DISCIPLINE OF CHILDREN

I understand that the corporal punishment of a child other than those in my own family group is forbidden.

## FAVORITISM/SPECIAL RELATIONSHIPS

I will avoid behavior that may give the impression to one or more children in a group of children (other than my own family) that they have a 'special' relationship with me. For all children not my own, I will avoid, for example:

- spending inappropriate special time with a child
- inappropriately giving gifts
- inappropriately showing special favors to one child, but not to other children
- inappropriately allowing the child to overstep rules
- asking the child to keep the relationship secret

## PERCEPTIONS AND APPEARANCES

I will avoid situations that may give the perception or appearance that I have engaged in misconduct with a child.

## CULTURAL SENSITIVITY

I will respect the cultural background of children, and I will not discriminate or disadvantage a child because of ethnic background.

## SOCIAL MEDIA CONTACT

- I will avoid exposing children to adult content on social media.
- I will only use/share my phone with children for taking or looking at photos or using translator.

## USE OF PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO

I will act with caution when posting photos of children online, taking into consideration clothing, parental consent and who can access the photo.

## REPORTING CHILD SAFETY CONCERNS

I understand that I have a responsibility to report all suspicions of Child Safety concerns through Child Rescue, and in some instances, to local government authorities and/or law enforcement.

## COOPERATION WITH CHILD SAFETY INQUIRIES

I agree to cooperate fully with any Child Safety Inquiry conducted by Child Rescue.

## UNDERSTANDING OF POSSIBLE ADMINISTRATIVE OUTCOMES

- I understand that if any allegation of misconduct/action causing harm is made against me or a family member, we may be required to cease contact with indicated people until an appropriate assessment is made.
- I understand that Child Rescue may report any child safety or criminal concerns to law enforcement and child protection authorities locally and/or in my country of citizenship.
- I understand that if an allegation of misconduct is sufficiently confirmed, the administrative outcome may result in a disciplinary outcome ranging from a formal warning up to dismissal.
- I understand that if an allegation of misconduct or violation of the child safety policies is sufficiently confirmed, persons or entities internal or external to Child Rescue may be informed for child safety reasons.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

I will not disclose personal information about a child or a Child Rescue worker given in confidence, unless it is in the course of acting out my duties, such as reporting concerns of safety and/or misconduct, or complying with a court order.

## COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT

I agree to comply with this Child Rescue Code of Conduct.

- \*\* Each participant must sign the Child Rescue Pre-Trip Requirements Form to indicate that they have read and agree with and to this Child Rescue Child Safety Code of Conduct.