



The CLASSROOM CHRONICLE

— CHANGING LIVES THROUGH LEARNING —

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A Weekend of Fellowship, Friendship, and Renewed Commitment

One of the greatest blessings of supporting Children Create History School is the community that has grown around it. That spirit was on full display during Dean Phyllis Manoogian's recent visit to All Saints Episcopal Church, where supporters gathered for a weekend of fellowship, learning, and renewed commitment to the children of San Andrés Itzapa, Guatemala.

The weekend began on Saturday evening with a dinner for sixteen friends and supporters of the school. Those attending represented both mission teams that have traveled to Guatemala over the years, along with others who have become dedicated supporters of the school.

Many had witnessed the school's work firsthand, while others have faithfully supported the ministry from home. Throughout the evening, Phyllis shared updates about the school, discussed both its accomplishments and its future, and answered thoughtful questions about its long-term vision.



Supporters gathered for dinner during Dean Phyllis Manoogian's September visit to All Saints.

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Guests shared stories from their mission trips, recalled the joy of delivering school supplies and books, and spoke about the lasting impression the students had made on their lives. It was a powerful reminder that while we travel to Guatemala hoping to make a difference, the children are the ones that change us.

At Sunday's Adult Forum, Phyllis offered a more detailed presentation about the school's mission and current programs. The conversation continued after the 10:30 service during coffee hour, where a video showcasing the school and its students gave many parishioners their first glimpse into daily life at Children Create History School. The presentation was warmly received and followed by another lively question-and-answer session.

Throughout the weekend, we also invited supporters to consider becoming monthly partners. Consistent monthly giving provides the dependable foundation that allows the school to plan confidently and continue serving children every school day.

The weekend represented much more than two successful events. It reflected years of growing relationships, shared experiences, and countless acts of generosity from members of the All Saints community. Seeing so many people gathered around a common purpose was both inspiring and deeply encouraging.

Together, through friendship, faith, and faithful support, we are helping create opportunities that will last a lifetime.

What a High School Diploma Can Mean for a Family



AI-generated image

For families in Guatemala, education can make an enormous difference in long-term financial security. The gap between leaving school after a basic education and completing high school can affect not only a young person's opportunities, but the future of an entire household. In 2024, average monthly labor income in Guatemala was about \$333. In rural areas, it was closer to \$255 a month, while some rural agricultural workers earned far less.¹

Those numbers become even more striking when compared with basic living costs. In May 2026, Guatemala's rural food basket was estimated at roughly \$95 per person per month. For an average rural household of about 4.8 people, that equals approximately \$457 a month just for basic food needs.²

Education does not guarantee prosperity, but more years of schooling are associated with substantially lower poverty rates. According to Guatemala's 2023 National Living Conditions Survey, 68% of people with no schooling lived in poverty. Among those with primary education, the rate was 60.9%. For people with secondary education, it fell to 38.1%.

Falling behind in reading and basic classroom skills at an early age can become increasingly difficult to overcome. Helping a child succeed in the earliest years can influence whether that child remains in school long enough to reach secondary education and qualify for better employment.

For a family living on only a few hundred dollars a month, the difference can be life-changing. Helping a child learn to read, build confidence, and stay in school may seem like a modest beginning. But that beginning can change the economic future of a child and a family.

Sources

1. Guatemala National Institute of Statistics (INE), 2024 National Employment and Income Survey.
2. Guatemala National Institute of Statistics (INE), Rural Basic Food Basket, May 2026.
3. Guatemala National Institute of Statistics (INE), poverty and education data.



Why This Mission Matters to Me

By David Pearce

At this point in my life, I often reflect on how fortunate I have been and the responsibility that comes with that good fortune. I did not get here entirely on my own. Along the way, people encouraged me, educated me, and gave me opportunities.

That is one reason Children Create History means so much to me. The children served by the school were born into circumstances very different from mine. They did not choose poverty or the obstacles that can make even a basic education difficult. When I see their faces, I do not see statistics or some distant problem. I see individual children with their own personalities, hopes, abilities, and enormous potential.

It is easy to feel sympathy for people facing hardship. It means much more to decide that their lives matter enough to become personally involved. For me, supporting this mission means more than writing an occasional check. It means giving my time, sharing what I have learned over the years, and helping build something that can continue serving children in the future.

In retirement, I could make life mostly about my own comfort and enjoyment. And I certainly enjoy retirement. But I have found that having something meaningful to work toward gives this stage of life a sense of purpose that I value enormously. Children Create History has become part of that purpose.

JOIN OUR MONTHLY PARTNER COMMUNITY

Your monthly gift helps provide the dependable support our school needs to serve children every school day.

\$30 a month

helps support a student's education, nutritious meals, and a brighter future.



Scan to visit our website and become a monthly partner.



Scan to follow us on Facebook for school updates and photos.