The Classroom Chronicle

CHANGING LIVES THROUGH LEARNING

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A New Connection Opens Another Door in Guatemala

One of the most rewarding parts of the Children Create History mission is seeing how one connection can lead to another opportunity to help children in Guatemala.

Recently, Freddy Corado, a supporter and friend of Children Create History, introduced us to his niece, Arceli Sabrina, principal of Escuela Oficial Rural Mixta, a public rural coeducational school serving the village of El Manguito in Asunción Mita, Jutiapa. Through that connection, we were able to send two boxes filled with children's books, backpacks, and school supplies for her students.

This new relationship has also helped us find a home for a large collection of educational workbooks secured through the incredible efforts of All Saints member Himmler Aleman, a Broward County school teacher. Himmler rescued dozens of boxes of educational materials that were scheduled to be discarded by the Broward County School District.



Among them were hundreds of workbooks originally purchased for Broward County elementary students. Designed primarily for third- through fifth-grade students, they are more advanced than the materials currently used at Children Create History School.

Before sending them, we asked Arceli to review the workbooks and tell us whether they would truly be useful in her classrooms. Her response was encouraging: the materials are a good fit, and her school can put them to good use.

That feedback gives us confidence that these valuable resources have found the right home. It also shows how thoughtful partnerships can extend the impact of the Book Box Project beyond a single school.

We are grateful to Himmler for securing the workbooks, to Freddy for making the introduction, and to Arceli for helping us identify where these materials can make the greatest difference.

Together, they bring something even more important: a shared belief that struggling children can succeed when they are given patient instruction, encouragement, and the opportunity to learn.



Why Educational Support Matters in Guatemala

For many families in Guatemala, education offers one of the clearest paths toward greater opportunity. Yet schools often operate with resources that are far more limited than those we take for granted in the United States.

Guatemala has historically invested a relatively small share of its economy in public education. Government education spending has remained around 3 percent of GDP for many years, leaving schools to stretch limited resources across teachers, buildings, textbooks, classroom materials, and other basic needs.

Primary school enrollment is relatively strong, but keeping children in school becomes increasingly difficult as they get older. Rural families are especially affected by poverty, distance from schools, transportation costs, and other barriers. These challenges contribute to a sharp decline in attendance at the secondary level. This is why something as simple as a book, workbook, backpack, pencil, or notebook can matter.

Children Create History cannot solve the larger challenges facing Guatemala's education system. What we can do is help remove some of the smaller barriers that stand between a child and the opportunity to learn. By putting educational materials directly into classrooms and into the hands of students, we help teachers do more with the resources they have.

Every book we send and every school supply we provide represents a small investment in something much larger: a child's education and future.

Sources
International Monetary Fund, Guatemala: Selected Issues, 2025 — analysis of public education spending, enrollment, and rural disparities.

World Bank, Guatemala Country Overview, 2025 — background on poverty, inequality, rural disparities, and access to public services.



What Happens After a Book Box Leaves Fort Lauderdale?

When a Book Box leaves Fort Lauderdale, its journey is only beginning. Before a box is ever sealed, donated books and school supplies are sorted, counted, and packed so each shipment contains materials that will be useful to the children and teachers receiving them. More recently, we have also begun creating detailed inventories so we know exactly what is being sent in each box. Once packed, the boxes are shipped by freight to Guatemala.

The journey can take several weeks, and shipping costs have risen significantly. After arriving in Guatemala, the boxes must still make their way from the shipping company to the school or other recipient. From there, books and supplies are unpacked, sorted again, and placed into classrooms or distributed directly to students.

It is a long journey for something as simple as a children's book. But that journey is what turns a donated item sitting on a shelf in Florida into a resource a child can actually hold, read, and use in school.

The Book Box Project is not just about collecting books. It is about completing the entire journey, from donor to box, from box to Guatemala, and ultimately into the hands of a child.



STAY CONNECTED WITH CHILDREN CREATE HISTORY

Following our Facebook page is one of the easiest ways to stay connected with the school throughout the month. It also helps more people discover our mission.

When you follow our page, like or comment on our posts, or share them with friends, you help introduce Children Create History to more people who care about education in Guatemala.

Follow Our Journey!

JOIN OUR MONTHLY PARTNER COMMUNITY

Your monthly gift provides dependable support for classroom instruction, nutritious meals, and essential school supplies.

$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.