

The " Gift "

Over the last several years, the Mission of Love has travelled to Guatemala to help our friends in country to construct the Way-bi House of Dreams, a pediatric hospice that began as the dream of Dr. Edgar Moran and Dr. Claudia Moran. In 2012, The Mission of Love teamed up with these visionaries who dared to dream of a quiet place in the mountains where critically ill children and their families could gain respite and peace in the last days of their lives. Americans and Guatemalans have worked side by side to build a beautiful complex that is a testament to what love and commitment can accomplish.

The Way-bi facility is more than the actual hospice, however. The patient rooms are at the highest point on the grounds, at the top of a very steep hill, where the views of the surrounding mountains and valleys will take steal your breath. Lower down on the hill are ancillary buildings that involve a restaurant, and then, a park like farm that features domestic animals that provide an attraction for families to visit, hopefully while they are also visiting the nearby Mayan ruins of Iximche and enjoy a meal at the restaurant. These commercial activities help to fund the community services that are planned.



WAY-bi newly constructed medical and dental clinic for the Mayan communities of Tecpan, Guatemala. A Mayan Dream has been accomplished.

In October 2013, Mission of Love medical team of volunteers spent a week at Way-bi seeing patients. The doctor, nurse, and volunteers saw over 500 patients during the course of our week's visit. They were set up in a make shift clinic, and indigenous people came from miles around, and waited for hours to receive basic medical care. This year, a team of building volunteers began construction on an actual clinic, specifically designed for patient medical and dental care. We began the work in February, and had the actual building raised and roughed in when it was time for us to return to our lives.

When we returned this past October, we were thrilled to see that Doctor Edgar Moran and our Guatemalan friends had completed the construction and that the actual clinic was ready to open. Using supplies that had been airlifted on a Denton flight in July, the volunteers outfitted the clinic with a waiting and reception area, examination and treatment rooms, a dental room, and facilities for inhalation therapy. We were ready for patients, and the patients were ready for us.



Volunteers, patients, community leaders ALL wanted their pictures taken after seeing Doctor Kathie Nelson and Laurie in the newly constructed dental and medical clinic at WAY-bi Tecpan, Guatemala. What a week of Love and Compassion! Thank you to ALL who have made this medical and building Mayan Mission of Love a success.

The day the clinic opened, dozens of adults and children would come to the waiting area to be interviewed, weighed, blood pressure tested, and assigned a number. Then they would wait, and often wait. Everybody, and particularly the children, were kind, patient and appreciative.



Mayan Indian patients waiting to be seen by Doctor Kathie Nelson and Laurie at the newly constructed medical and dental clinic at WAY-bi. Many of these patients have never seen a doctor in their life.

According to Dr. Kathie and Laurie, one of the most common complaints among the children was stomach pain. The diagnosis was easy, these kids were hungry. The remedy was easy, but temporary, give the kids something to eat. So, while the children were waiting, the volunteers gave them juice boxes and snacks. There was no grabbing or fighting. The older children always made sure that their younger siblings ate first. They didn't shove the food down, they enjoyed it in small bites, and some would save a little for later. They didn't know when they might enjoy such a treat again.

I know this because I was there and I saw it. These kids didn't know me from Adam, but they knew that I was some guy with the Mission of Love, and when they left at the end of their visit, I got a hug from every one of them.



Bob Price with his Guatemalan friends at WAY-bi, Tecpan, Guatemala October 2014

I want to tell you about one little guy, about six. He was eating a sandwich cookie. Just like all kids, he twisted it in half. He ate one half, and then, he offered the other half to me. I didn't know what to say, still don't. I tried to tell him in my poor Spanish that the cookie was for him. Now, I wish I had shared it with him.

He had wanted to give me a gift, no matter how small, and I refused it. Did I do it because half a cookie was no big deal to me? It was certainly a big deal to him. That little guy reminded me of what Mother Theresa taught. Don't give when it is easy, that is no sacrifice. Give when it is hard and give from the heart.

I am writing this just two weeks before Thanksgiving. The political commercials are over for this year, and big box retailers and car dealers are encouraging us to spend our holiday cash on their stuff. General Motors has an ad featuring shiny red Cadillacs, how festive.

I do love sharing gifts with my family, giving and receiving. I particularly enjoy knowing that my kids and grandkids made an effort to pick out something to please me. But I do wish that I had shared that cookie with that little boy in the mountains of Guatemala last month, because we would have shared so much more than a snack. I will likely never see him again, but I will not forget the lesson in generosity.

~ Bob Price ~



Our WAY-bi Mission of Love volunteers making a difference in the lives of the Mayan communities of Tecpan, Guatemala.