

Subject: Service project completed by Eddie Morris

For my 8th grade year I had to pick a service project to work on. I wanted to try and do something for kids. My cousin Collin was very sick with brain cancer and I wanted to do something for kids like him. My Gramma Pat said that our cousin Andrea worked with this lady that does all this work for a lot of different people around the world. So we met with Andrea and she told us all about her friend and we decided that we would like to meet her!

In October, I met Kathy Price, who is the founder of the Mission of Love. I went to the warehouse and I sorted out baseball gear, like bats, helmets, and catchers gear. I also sorted medical supplies, clothes, and furniture. I was surprised of how big the warehouse is. Kathy had asked my mom and me if we would want to go to Guatemala with her! We said we sure would but never thought we would actually be able to ever go.

I asked my friends and family to help donate money and pillows to send to the kids at the House of God, who are staying there while they get their cancer treatments. The House of God is a small house with small rooms filled up with bunk beds, with very little comfort items. With my family's and friends generosity, I was able to get 75 pillows and pillow cases, which will add some comfort to the kids while they are staying at the House of God.

I was packing up all the pillows and pillow cases to be shipped to Guatemala. I was asked again if I wanted to go with them, and again, with the help of friends and family, I was able to raise the \$2,000 we needed to go! My Mom and I took a road trip to get last minute passports, and we took off on March 11th for Guatemala!!

On the first day there, we went to The House of God to drop off some clothes and toys, (our pillows we delayed in the US.) While we were there, they told Kathy what they needed supply wise for the month, and \$700 later, we were able to deliver the things they needed! We then went to the hospital to drop of some medical supplies. We met a little boy on the side of the road, his name is Louise, who has a rare skin disease and his family can't afford the medicine. We provided them with cream, toys, and clothes. We then went to Tecpan and we meet the new mayor. We made it to the House of Dreams and it has little Bungalows that we slept in that looked like mushrooms and there is a Hospice for kids. We went to a traditional Mayan ritual which was 3 hours long. There was a fire that they threw candles and flowers into to make the fire last long.

Our second day there we went to another ritual that wasn't has long, only 1 hour. We went to "the house" for a meeting and I played soccer, cards, croquet, and origami with the kids. We got supplies to start building a school, stone, dirt, wire, re-bar, concrete, and tools.

On the third day we worked on building a new school for the children of Tecpan...right in someone's backyard! I cut the re-bar and bent it to fit around the concrete post, but we couldn't finish the school because we had to figure out how to get home so we didn't get trapped in Guatemala because of the corona virus!

They were glad that we were doing all this. The pillows will allowed them to have comfort items for them and their family. The school will make a huge impact because they will be able to learn new things and how to read, and how to make things to sell. It made a impact on me because this is something I've never done before and I like to see the people smile.

Some things I saw and learned there:

- Mayan Temples
- Have to drink bottle water
- No street lines
- No stop lights
- No speed limit
- if you hold phone out in streets it could get stolen
- A lot of stray pets
- I am taller than a lot of people there and that doesn't happen often!

Eddie Morris ~ *Mission of Love Volunteer*





