

Recycled Lives News



This photo of Danny (aka Mowgli- upper right) cracks me up & fills my heart with deep joy. To see this little kiddo go from a malnourished, lethargic, weak, jaundiced 2 year old boy that didn't have the energy to play or talk and make us wonder if he was going to live; be transformed into this busy sweet boy that sings, plays, swims in the creek, fills his pockets with rocks to flick at the animals & find ways to get into mischief. He has hung around the work site every day this week and I can't tell you how happy I am to simply hear him say my name...over & over! I love what I get to do! God answered many a prayer for this little guy's health to be restored & his body be healed to grow. Thank you to all of you that support my heart & what God has called me to be doing. Sincerely, Shawn



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At a Glance: Events, Activities and Ways to Help

- **Mission Teams & Family Vacations with a purpose-** Contact us now for plans and pricing if you are interested in being a part of or organizing your own life changing mission team. We can also help you plan a mission vacation to Guatemala. **Reserve your travel dates for 2017 & 2018 now!**
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Connect with us:

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Find us on Facebook & Instagram!
#RecycledLives

Simple things = BIG impact

By: Michelle Jilk, Recycled Lives' Board Member and Mission Team Volunteer

Last summer a store, Sports Authority, was going out of business so I stopped in to see if I could find any good deals. In the mess of what was left was a pile of children's Nike soccer cleats that I knew were going to be very inexpensive. They didn't have carts at the store anymore so I grabbed as many pairs as I could hold in my arms. At the cash register, to my surprise, everything in the store was 80 to 90% off. I had 8 pairs of Nike Soccer cleats that rang up to be \$10.00 each!

Brad and Shawn were returning to Guatemala in February & made some room in their luggage so I brought the cleats over and also helped to pack the donation suitcases. Recycled Lives was able to distribute the shoes and shared messages and photos with me each time a child received a pair. It was amazing to see how happy a pair of cleats made each of these children. However, as I think more about these kids, I realize it's not only soccer cleats they are receiving but so much more. These are shoes that will enable these kids to form friendships on the soccer field with new teammates. The shoes will give them opportunities to gain confidence in themselves when scoring a goal or kicking a completed pass. Soccer games will become a part of the week that they can look forward to enjoy some fun in their otherwise hard daily routine. Being able to help put smiles on several kid's faces and joy in their hearts is a priceless blessing and it didn't cost me much of anything but a little time, a little amount of money the initiative to do something. Simple things can have a great impact.



Your contribution helps carry out life changing programs.

We are running short on funding for our Monthly Supplemental Food, Home Building and Individual/Family Care Programs. Would you consider helping? Any amount, small or large can make a world of difference.

Monthly Supplemental Food Program

San Gabriel Guatemala

Recycled Lives provides monthly assistance for 130 families through a supplemental supply of rice, beans and tortilla flour.

How your donation makes a difference:

- \$6 sponsors a family for a month
- \$50 sponsors a family for 8 months
- \$75 sponsors a family for 1 year
- \$800 sponsors the entire monthly food distribution for 130 families-

a great gift idea in honor of a loved one or a special occasion! Message us for details.



Home Building Program

Recycled Lives is working to bring durable and safer homes to families in Guatemala.

Constructed homes are approximately 14x16 feet per room, includes a covered cooking area with a wood burning stove. Prices vary dependent upon current material, labor and transportation costs, but are usually less than \$3,500 for a single room home and around \$4,500 for a double room home.



Individual & Family Care Program

Recycled Lives provides occasional financial assistance for individuals facing crisis or are in need of support to keep their children in school or a family member working. Our missionary performs a social visit to assess need requests and performs follow up visits as appropriate.

Examples of how your donation can be used to make a difference:

- Payment of a light or water bill
- Payment for testing and/or treatment of a medical condition
- Purchase of clothing, shoes or supplies require for school or work attendance
- Connecting individuals with specialty care that may be needed (surgeons, malnutrition programs, wheelchair fabrication/fitting, local church programs)



Recycling for Recycled Lives

By: Angie Gurius

Last fall I had the privilege of participating in a mission trip to San Gabriel, Guatemala with a wonderful group of women from Tower and Cook, MN. I got to see first-hand the work that Recycled Lives is doing there, and meet some of the truly inspirational people of Guatemala. At the end of the trip, Shawn presented each of us with a memento of the experience, a necklace made from a piece of jade that was taken from the jeweler's pile of unusable pieces. Each necklace was unique and beautiful in its own way, and was intended to be a reminder of the verse from 2 Corinthians 5:17 which reads, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone, the new is here!"



The symbolism of this necklace really resonated with me. I began thinking more and more about not only all of the things we Americans throw away, but about how easy it is to "throw away" people by closing our eyes to their suffering. At the same time, I was inspired by a sermon given by Pastor Liz Cheney, in which she challenged us pray and hear what God was calling us to do. What I heard was, "Get busy!" I resolved not to allow myself to become so overwhelmed by the immensity of the problems of poverty and suffering that I withdraw and do nothing. I also decided that I would just do something and pay attention to God's guidance if He wanted me to do something else. Thus, Recycling for Recycled Lives was born.

The goal of this project is to take things that we typically throw away, turn them into something beautiful and useful, and sell them to raise money for and build awareness of the work Recycled Lives is doing. Donations of used clothing (denim and T-shirts), crafters leftover yarn and fabric, and crafters unfinished or failed projects have been received. Sweaters are being unraveled to reclaim the yarn which is used to make hats, wrist warmers and boot cuffs and t-shirts are cut into strips for rag crochet. The ideas are endless! Last month, a "Deconstruction" group from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tower got together for the first of what I hope will become many gatherings to process donations and have a good visit. I plan to sell the items at the Farmer's Market in Tower and trade shows as opportunities arise.

There is still an awful lot I don't know. I'm not sure where this project is going. I don't know if people will really buy this stuff. I don't know where I'm going to store all of the donations. (By the way, we are not in need of anything at this time.) I don't know if it will really do any good. I know it won't solve the problem, but it is something, and I'm enjoying it so much. I also don't want to hog all the fun! If there are others out there who want to get in on the action, love to make things... or cut things up.... please email me at angie.gurius@gmail.com

Recycled Lives' Faith & Mission: Recycled Lives is rooted and built upon the belief that faith in Jesus Christ renews and transforms broken or lost lives into something beautiful and purposeful - Jesus Recycles our Lives.

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Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come.
The old has gone, the new is here!
2 Corinthians 5:17 [NIV]

Our Purpose: Recycled Lives is a non-profit Christian organization dedicated to bettering the lives of people living in poverty through facilitating access to resources that are physical, spiritual and/or financial in nature. We are advocates for ceasing poverty for all of God's people throughout the world.

Our Faith & Mission: Recycled Lives is rooted and built upon the belief that faith in Christ renews and transforms broken or lost lives into something beautiful and purposeful (He Recycles our Lives).

Recycled Lives is focused on sharing the gospel through serving as the hands and feet of Christ in our communities and throughout the world. We will go forth into the world to bring positive change to lives through demonstrating the love of Christ so that we may bring praise and glory to God.

Missionary Update:

We have been back to our "Guatemala Home" for a month now and so much seems to already have happened. We had a little over a week to settle in before we hosted a mission team consisting of a couple from Texas. Thank goodness we had that time because the day after arriving to Guatemala we both came down with influenza and were sick in bed for a few days and needed a few more days to regain our strength once the worst of it was over. Our son back home and a few other family members were sick with the same so apparently we all shared more than we had planned before our departure...we are still trying to figure out who to blame since we all got sick at about the same time! Once we were able to function, we restocked supplies, ordered materials for construction and performed the monthly food distribution in San Gabriel. I also had many social visits to do checking in on the families on our care program. When the team arrived, we began the construction of a home that was sponsored by First Baptist Church Cambridge; "Tell Me More" adult Sunday school class. The team also carried out a school supply & backpack distribution for almost 200 children on our food distribution list and we enjoyed time together praying, exploring and refilling our spiritual tanks.

The work here though joyful and fulfilling, is also physically and emotionally exhausting at times. In the course of the 7 days of construction, the heat and physical labor was exhausting. But what wore me and broke me more than anything was the multitudes of verbal and hand scribbled notes on scraps of papers which I received daily. Legitimate requests asking for shoes, food, clothes, houses, materials to build a church or to fix a roof or wall of a shelter, tuition for school and help for medicine and medical testing would leave me feeling heartbroken. At times I would feel dread when needing to exit the construction site to get something from the van or when leaving for the day because there is always a person in wait, with a real-life, legitimate need that I can't meet at the moment. But what I can do is to pray with them and extend the request to you...those that support what Recycled Lives is doing. Thank you for your support in easing burdens, meeting people's needs in their time of crisis, bringing them hope through working alongside of us to shine the light of Jesus in dark and desperate places.

Trusting in His Provision and Goodness. In Christ's abundant love,
Shawn Johnson, Missionary, Founder & Executive Director for Recycled Lives