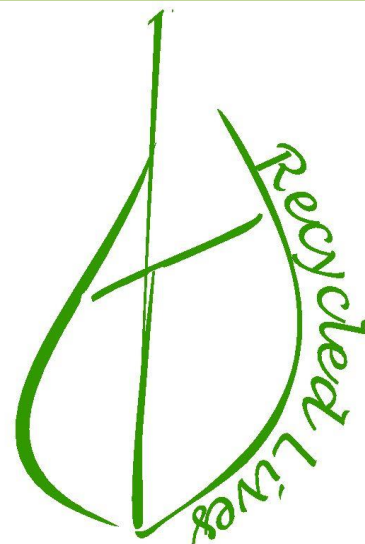


# Recycled Lives News



## Recycled Lives Board of Directors

Shawn Johnson

Founder, Executive Director, Missionary

Liz Cheney

Chair & Secretary

Dennis Troff

Vice Chair

Lina Latvala

Treasurer

Michelle Jilk

Board member

Kelly Wichman

Board member

Dave Wichman

Board member

## 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/trip/mission vacation to Guatemala. See page 2 to read about the most recent mission team! **Reserve your travel dates for 2017 now!**
- **Missionary News-** See page 3 to hear a current update and ways you can partner with them in their ministry in Guatemala. A website has also been set up to communicate updates & needs.  
[www.guatemalahome.wordpress.com](http://www.guatemalahome.wordpress.com)
- **Schedule a speaking engagement or visit** with the Johnson's during their visit home during the month of January 2017. Please consider helping them get the word out about what God is doing through Recycled Lives and their full time mission in Guatemala by inviting them to visit with your family and friends, your church, prayer group or small group bible study. Email us to set up a time or ask questions: [info@recycledlives.org](mailto:info@recycledlives.org)

## Connect with us:

Recycled Lives

PO Box 408

Cambridge, MN 5500

612-709-0914

[info@RecycledLives.org](mailto:info@RecycledLives.org)

[www.RecycledLives.org](http://www.RecycledLives.org)

Find us on Facebook & Instagram!

**Pastor Liz Cheney &  
Becca Bundy (on ladder)**



**Hannah Cheney**



**Angie Gurius & Kathy Siskar**



**Cheryl Lamppa**



## Friendship Guatemala (Amistad Guatemala) Team by: Shawn Johnson

Recycled Lives was blessed to host a lovely team of 6 in the new Mission House from Oct 25 to Nov 5. It was a memorable 10 days of ministry alongside a God designed team. The team was from Tower, Minnesota and led by Pastor Liz Cheney. Team members included Hannah Cheney (Liz's 11yo daughter), Becca Bundy, Angie Gurius, Cheryl Lamppa and Kathy Siskar (whom is a young 60-something woman, not 70 something- which I incorrectly reported one day on FaceBook, so sorry Kathy!)

The joy, compassion and love this group brought was immeasurable. The impact they made on the family that received a home and the community that was loved upon will never be forgotten. We also wish to thank each one of you that supported this team in any way. It was not just the team's physical and on the ground work that made this impact but the prayers, and resources made available to them to minister! This was definitely an example of the Body of Christ working together to bring glory to God!

In the 10 days of ministry this team had a chalked full schedule. They constructed a 2 bedroom home with tiled floors and a covered kitchen area with a cooking stove. They gifted a few families with 4 sets of bunk beds, installed a chicken coop, they provided a God centered Halloween party with 6 different activity stations, including face painting, pumpkin decorating, candy walk, a few crafts and gave an outfit and a meal to over 300 children and their parents. The team hosted a dinner at the mission home where yard games, kite flying and fun were had by over 30 persons including our neighbors, our helpers and their families. The team supported a few local family businesses through taking a peanut butter and coffee tour, and took in a day of sightseeing and celebrating Dia de los Muertos (The day of the dead), the day after Halloween. Families crowd cemeteries for the day to honor their deceased loved ones by joining together for food, drink, flying kites and adorning the gravesites with flowers. A few towns host giant kite festivals where families and groups spend up to 6 months piecing together with tissue paper, intricate designs that create a kite over 50 feet in diameter which are hoisted up in a cemetery and compete for the top 3 places for beauty and creativity. It is absolutely amazing to see! At the festival, the team even walked by and was greeted by the president of Guatemala and his wife. The team also ministered to us in bringing many items for the mission home and left enough financial resources to start an education sponsorship program and offset the recent increase in prices for the food distribution program. They closed their time with a day of reflection at the Pacific Ocean while worshipping and taking communion together on the beach. Please watch in the coming month for a special Newsletter edition featuring more photos and reflections from the team!

This team worked together before and during the mission trip experience in a way that deep friendships and bonds were formed. It was a beautiful blessing to be a part of. Working together alongside Brad to prepare the house for the team and host them was a terrific experience that bonded us together even more. We know for certain that we, as a couple, and this home are meant to host groups, couples and families in life changing experiences in Guatemala by serving the poor while taking in the country's breathtaking views and rich culture. We are truly excited to be hosting more persons at the Mission Home in the future that are called to serve in Guatemala.

## The Johnson's Missionary Update from Guatemala

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding Proverbs 3:5

We have now been in Guatemala for 7 weeks & our lives have been a whirlwind of various activity. Working through the process of adjusting in so many different ways of doing things can be exhausting at times; a process described by a friend as "adaptation & adoption". We were blessed to have the help & company of Brad's parents Robert & Polly & Josh, our son, here for the first two weeks to prepare the mission house. It was a lot of work but also lots of fun & excitement was had by everyone. After their departure we had a week to finish preparing to host & guide the first mission team in the new Mission Home. The team & the entire experience was so AMAZING! Hearing Brad talk for 45 minutes straight one day & listening to him confidently answer team member's questions blew me away. I believe he has found a service-nitch!



God certainly has been opening doors (figuratively and literally) and guiding us as we seek to carry out the work and vision He has blessed us to partake in. Within the first few weeks of moving to Guatemala, He connected us with a Christian couple and their 2 young children that live right across the street. They invited us to their church where we have been visiting to see if it is where we are to continue going on a regular basis. One day as I was walking home from the market, I was feeling a bit lonely and isolated, the door of a home opened right as I was walking by. It just so happened to be the home of a friend that worked with me in March to start a prayer & yarn group. She lives 3 blocks away from us! God connected us with a group of bilingual high school students whom provided their translating skills each day of construction for the mission team. This enabled the team members to have meaningful conversations and develop a relationship with the family they were building for. God connected us with a friend whom helped us with cooking and cleaning when the team was here. She has also has been teaching me where and how to shop for fresh produce & how to more safely navigate the public bussing (chicken busses) when necessary. I could keep going with a long list of the many ways God has provided all that we need to safely survive our first 7 weeks in Guatemala but I am sure you can already see & know that God provides where He guides.

We feel well loved by our brothers and sisters in Christ near and far. We feel so very blessed, even amongst the daily struggles we face as we experience life in a way that requires our faith to be stretched beyond our comfort zones. There are so many unknowns and things to learn and room to trust. We are comforted by the Holy Spirit's presence in and around our home and through the people God brings to us when we are in need. We thank each of you for praying us through. We praise and thank God for those of you who have helped us through your financial support. We are excited to share that we are almost fully funded for monthly missionary support! We are confident that in the coming months God will continue touch the hearts of people like you to help us raise the additional \$700/month in support needed to more regularly visit and minister in San Gabriel - the community which surrounds a garbage dump about 45 minutes away. This is where God has placed in our hearts to go and serve. He has called us to host teams in the Mission Home that we can bring to this community to serve in various ways. We are realizing that the purchase of a small used pick-up truck will be more cost effective & helpful in serving. Hiring drivers is expensive and using the public "chicken busses" for travel that far away is an unnecessary risk to partake in. Please continue to lift in prayer these needs & requests to God.

We believe that as the Body of Christ moves in to hug & comfort us through providing the encouragement and support we need, it is God's way of guiding us and loving on us as we navigate into the unknown spaces of faith, dependence and trust in Him. Please be fervently praying for our children and grandchildren as they work through adjusting to life with us being so far away and for us as we adjust to life in a foreign country where we are used to being short term guests and not long-term residents. Please pray that God impress upon your heart, in His perfect timing, the way in which you, and others, may be called to come alongside of us in carrying out His good works.

Trusting in His provision & peace,

*Sharon (& Brad) Johnson*

Missionaries, Recycled Lives

Contact us for more information or if you are feeling called to mission travel/a vacation with a purpose! [info@recycledlives.org](mailto:info@recycledlives.org)



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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.

Recycled Lives wishes to extend a big heartfelt thank you to each of you that supported the Tower, MN Mission Team! The prayer and financial support that this team of women had behind them was a beautiful display what the Body of Christ can do when committed to serving as His hands and feet! The impact you made will be known for generations to come. The support that you sent with this team extended deep into the San Gabriel community during their time here and will continue into the future through the love and help given and relationships that were made while here and through the educational support and supplemental food funding that was made available for emergency needs into the future!



***Luke 6:20-31*** <sup>20</sup> Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. <sup>21</sup> Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. <sup>22</sup> Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup> "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. ... <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.