

# Guatemala


On July 21st of this year, San Francisco's Rainbow World Fund (RWF) journeyed for a fourth time to Guatemala bringing a group of 15 people from the United States and Canada. They carried eighteen hundred pounds of supplies to share with people in need of basic care. Over the past four years RWF has delivered over \$500,000 in humanitarian aid to communities in Central America. Their 11 days in Guatemala were exhausting and exhilarating, all at once. As a witness to the desperate needs of the Mayan people and to the dedicated people who work to overcome poverty, disease, and illiteracy, it is our job to tell some of their story.



On their way to Lake Atitlan in the beautiful mountainous area of the country, they visited Santa Apolonia. There they met a Sister who for many years has run an orphanage on a shoestring budget. Today there is a live-in school where the children receive education, vocational training, and lots of love and attention. Pictured is RWF's Amberjoy Leonard visiting with boys from the orphanage at Santa Apolonia.



Another small project they observed has huge implications for change. In the mountainous regions, a solar oven project is teaching women to build, use, and maintain their own solar ovens. This simple device now allows women to cook without fire. This fundamental change keeps these women from breathing the smoke-filled air of unventilated in-home cooking fires. Pictured RWF's Jan Gregorcich explaining how solar ovens work at a project she founded years ago.



The Maya and Ladino children live with their parents in the dump, eating food found in the dump. Hanley Denning understood the deplorable conditions that the city refused to acknowledge. She began Safe Passage, a daycare, to remove the children from the dump during the day and to provide balanced meals. Today Safe Passage provides daycare, food, hygiene, medical services, education, and job training. Now there is hope that the children will escape their poverty.



The team outside of Guatemala City, where there exists a huge ravine that for many years has been the city's garbage dump. Because of the civil war, which ended 11 years ago, many of the Maya and Ladino are homeless and unemployed with little or no help from their government. Thousands of these people moved into the city dump to live and retrieve recyclables to resell.