

HEAL GROW THRIVE



CTF
COMMUNITY
TRANSFORMATION
FOUNDATION

The Story of Why We Exist

In the heart of Guatemala, we saw realities that broke us open.

We saw children going to schools that could not give them the tools to dream, much less to succeed. These children's minds were weighed down by trauma and despair, with no one to listen, and no mental health care within reach. We saw women and children who were silenced by abuse, their cries for justice swallowed in a system where more than 90 percent of cases never see resolution. We saw many families who live on just a few dollars a day, lacking stable employment, where women are excluded from opportunities to earn and grow, despite being the backbone of their families. We have met children and families with disabilities that are hidden away, not because of shame, but because no help was offered to them.

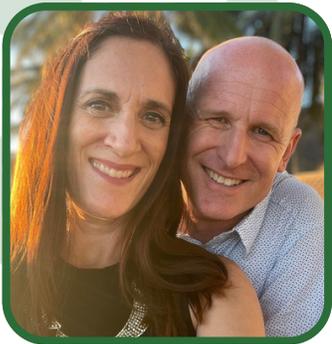
These sights impacted us and we knew silence was not an option. We decided to push back against despair with hope, against violence with safety, against poverty with opportunity. We walk alongside children, families, and communities—believing that transformation is not only possible, but necessary.

We are here because the people of Guatemala deserve more than survival. They deserve dignity, justice, education, and the chance to thrive.

Since 2000, we've seen lives transformed when children and families receive the care, education, and opportunities they deserve. We would be honored to explore ways to collaborate with you to expand this impact and continue creating thriving, resilient communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

This is why we live. This is why we will not stop.



Matthew Blacklock
K. Blacklock
Matthew and Kerry Blacklock

Wendy

Single Mother

"I escaped an abusive relationship with my two boys and thought life would be impossible. At CTF, I joined the women's program, discovered my talent for cooking, and now work from home selling food. I've learned to advocate for myself, my sons are safe and healthy, and I finally have hope for our future."



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Scan to
read
Wendy's
Full Story



Through healing and support, families move from brokenness to resilience, becoming strong foundations for future generations.



A Community in need of Healing

Guatemala faces several challenges including: Lack of Education, Mental Health, Poverty, Family Breakdown and Abuse.

Barriers that trap generations in hardship and hinder community growth.

Scan to
read Cited
Sources



- 1.Homeschool Spanish Academy
- 2.TramaTextiles.org
- 3.According to the World Bank 2023
- 4.Human Rights Watch
- 5.The Borgen Project
- 6.ChildAid

2.8 %

Guatemala spends 2.8% of GDP on education—far less than the average in Central America. 1

1 %

Less than 1% of healthcare expenditure is spent on Mental Health. 2

57.3 %

of Guatemalans live in poverty with an average income of \$6.85/day. 3

6697

cases of sexual violence against girls under 14 were dismissed between January 2018 and October 2023. 4

80 %

of employed Guatemalans worked in the “informal sector” due to a lack of stable income opportunities. 5

33 %

one of the lowest labor force participation rates among females, at 33%. 5

70 %

-of children are in school and not learning basic reading and writing skills. 6

MISSION

Our commitment to Healing and Growth



CTF empowers people to heal, grow, and thrive—offering compassionate care, transformative training, and guidance that inspires lasting change.

We facilitate healing in families, create healthy connections and fend off cycles of abuse, and poverty within the community.

Matthew Blacklock visits Guatemala for first time and a seed is planted

CTF is officially founded

Blacklock Family Goes to Guatemala

Leadership Training School in Guatemala developed

The GOOD Initiative is created

Community Centre in Guatemala opens

Sewing Cooperative starts

Bakery Cooperative starts



Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
Romans 12:21

1991

2000

2006

2009

2011

2017

2021

2023

We envision an educated and empowered community where:

- People are trained
- Individuals are self-sufficient and successful
- People with disabilities have access to specialized support to live their daily lives successfully
- Victims of abuse find health and justice
- Lifelong skills are acquired through training which brings resources and job opportunities for the area
- Families are healed and strengthened

Stories of Healing Sheny

In the mountains of Guatemala, Sheny grew up harvesting coffee alongside her family. The oldest daughter of eleven children in a pastoral family, responsibility came early. By second grade, Sheny was already discouraged with the education system and chose to step away.

Her loving father, wanting her to have a skill to rely on, enrolled her in a sewing school where she trained to become a seamstress. Sewing became not only a trade but also an outlet for her creativity and a path toward independence.

When Sheny married, her husband encouraged her to return to school. With his support, they raised two children, while Sheny studied, graduated, and went to university to become a teacher.

Sheny's journey led her to the CTF community center, where she brought her passion for education and her heart for service. She began teaching children with special needs, offering them the care, patience, and love she had carried since childhood. Sheny is a visionary who spearheaded a pilot program to launch a sewing school and cooperative, giving others the same opportunity for empowerment that had once been given to her. The cooperative is finishing its 5th year and is very successful.

Sheny is not only a teacher but a role model – a woman who rose from the coffee fields of Guatemala to become a leader in her community. Her life is a testimony of resilience, faith, and the power of education to change not just one life, but entire families and communities.



Scan to
read
Sheny's
Full Story



Daniela

Daniela was 15 when she came to the CTF community centre. She is autistic, and her family had to fight for her to access an education – something that should have been her right, but in Guatemala, it is often denied to children with disabilities.

Her life held even more pain. Daniela was a victim of sexual assault. DNA evidence proved the man guilty, yet he walked free, like so many do in a country where over 90 percent of cases of abuse and violence never see justice. Afterward, Daniela was trapped in abusive relationships, carrying the weight of trauma that no child should ever have to bear.

Through therapy sessions she received, Daniela showed the meaning of resilience. With people who believed in her, who stood beside her, she found the courage to break free. She began to see that she was not invisible, not forgotten, not worthless in a society that often hides away people with disabilities. She discovered she had a voice, and that her voice mattered.

Now she works at the community centre doing custodial work and has learned to manage her money and be independent.

“Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it.”
-Helen Keller



Scan to read
Daniela's Full
Story



Kender, 17

Born with microcephaly*, Kender's family thought he'd never be able to go to school or work. At CTF community centre, he received one-on-one therapy and specialized classes that helped him gain confidence and independence. Today, he's a gardener's apprentice, watering plants and raking leaves, and he's even learned to make bread in the baking cooperative. He never imagined he could do this – now he knows he can grow, learn, and thrive.

(* a condition where a person's head is smaller than normal resulting in intellectual disabilities, developmental delays, poor motor function and trouble with speech and coordination)

Scan to read
Kender's Full
Story



Here are the programs of healing, growing and thriving since 2000:

**God's Love,
Transforming
Lives.**

From healing to growth, our programs meet real community needs — with specialized support and partnerships that make participation possible for all.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

Learning Centres

We provide holistic personalized learning for over 100 children, supporting those with ADHD, autism, speech challenges, and other special needs to help them thrive.



Preschool Program

Our preschool nurtures children ages 3–5 through hands-on learning, play, and individualized support, preparing them for school with confidence and joy.

Neurological Program

This program helps children and their families with neurological needs, such as: Consultation and Diagnosis from a Neurologist, assistance with medication and vitamins and ongoing support and guidance through our learning centres, psychologists and teachers.



Una Nueva Danza School

Women are trained to teach a variety of styles of dance to hold their own classes for children and youth in the surrounding area.



COOPERATIVES

Sewing and Design Cooperative

Women and girls are trained in the sewing trade while receiving life coaching, business management and sales.



Bakery Cooperative

Trains local people in the art of bread making and gives them the tools to build their own businesses to provide for their family.



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Yolanda's
Full Story



Scan to read
Zaqueo & Karen's
Full Story





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Caring for the whole person – mind, body, heart, and spirit – to create brighter futures.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Women's Program

A weekly program where women from the community come to receive mentoring, life skills, inner healing, empowering and parenting help, while their children are cared for in a loving environment.



Counseling

Individuals and families receive personal counseling from trained counselors, psychologists and pastors to receive healing from abuse, trauma, anxiety and depression.

Family Events

We hold regular fun events for the families in our community to create community and a healthy family atmosphere. Events include family movie nights, dinners and sport events.



Bible Club

Every Friday children from our community attend Bible Club. This is a time to learn about God, worship Him, hear stories, understand truth and have a lot of fun!

Healing, Growing and Thriving since 2000



***Instruct the
wise and they
will be wiser
still; teach the
righteous and
they will add to
their learning.***

Proverbs 9:9

Healing:

- 200-300 people counselled and families restored since 2000
- 3 Learning Centres providing 700 children with specialized education since 2017
- 120 children with Neurological needs receiving specialized care and medication from neurologists, psychologists and teachers since 2021

Growing:

- Youth Mentorship- 2700+ students attending courses discovering their gifts, abilities and strengths
- Women's Program- 150 women received life and parenting skills since 2020
- 50 Preschool children getting a foundation to begin their education since 2022

Thriving:

- 600-700 children learning various dance expressions since 2004
- THE GOOD INITIATIVE Fundraising Platform has had 35 events, 1053 participants and over \$353,000 raised since 2011
- Bought a school for 400 children in Nicaragua
- Cooperatives: Sewing: 15 families impacted with more financial resources by women being trained to raise up their own businesses. (Since 2021). Bakery: 30 women and youth trained in bakery and able start their own businesses (since 2023)
- Leadership Training: Training and empowering of leaders and volunteers in Canada and Guatemala



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OUR TEAM

Board Members

- **Mike Simpson (Chair)**
Simpsonite Consulting Group (SCG)
Cochrane, AB
- **Jason Collins (Vice Chair)**
Collins Steel, Edmonton, AB
- **Kerry Blacklock (Secretary/Treasurer)**
Co-Founder Hijos de Dios Community Centre
(Guatemala)
- **Larry Green (Director)**
Assoc. Pastor, Saints Church Glory Hills,
Parkland County, AB

Executive Leadership

- **Matthew Blacklock (Founder and Executive Director)**
- **Kerry Blacklock (Founder)**

Advocates

- **Paul and Karen Collins**

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CANADA

**Community Transformation Foundation is a
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