



Education and Hope

PROVIDING HOPE THROUGH EDUCATION FOR THE CHILDREN OF GUATEMALA

September 8, 2006

Dear Friends,

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Julie Coyne

Most of you reading this letter are familiar with Education and Hope and its founder Julie Coyne. In 1994, Julie journeyed to Guatemala to study Spanish where she soon encountered wonderful people gripped in a debilitating cycle of poverty and illiteracy. Instead of returning to her comfortable life in Fairfield County, CT, Julie stayed in the hope that she could be of some help to the children she had come to love, children who had already begun to change her life. What began as a simple effort to send just a few children to school developed into a non-profit organization that currently provides academic scholarships to 160 children, an after school program where 60 children receive tutoring and hot meals daily, and a home for a dozen children who no longer have families to care for them. Every child in the program receives comprehensive support including: books, school supplies, backpacks, bus fare, uniforms, school shoes, sneakers, and any necessary medical care.

After years of grass roots efforts to raise funds for the annual operating budget, we have some exciting news - Education and Hope has been awarded two one-time grants totaling \$375,000 to be used toward the purchase of property to meet the existing and growing needs of the program. With these gifts in mind, one building has been purchased and another selected that combined will form an ideal home for Education and Hope. It is anticipated that an additional \$250,000 will be needed to complete the purchase and make the necessary renovations to these two properties. Therefore we have ambitiously decided to ask Friends of Education and Hope to help us raise this amount over the next three months. **Please join us as we launch our first Education and Hope Capital Campaign to raise these funds. We need your help to reach this goal!**

It is hard for us to comprehend the magnitude of this opportunity: Education and Hope will own its facilities and these buildings will enable us to realize our dream of creating separate areas for learning, administration, dining, cooking, shower facilities, and a much needed, safe recreation area. This purchase ensures program stability and, most importantly, it will provide countless children with the room *they* need to grow.

The intimate nature of this program has allowed us to feel that we are indeed partners with Julie on this journey. Through newsletters, emails and website updates, we have grown to feel part of the lives of these children and their families. We follow their progress, celebrate their achievements, and share their burdens. We have felt joy in knowing we are truly making a difference in the lives of these children and are empowered by the success of the program we are helping to sustain. We hope you share in our excitement as we renew our commitment to the children of Guatemala by helping make this dream a reality.

Nutritious meals, hot showers, a clean place to do homework, and a safe place to play are simple things that we all may easily take for granted; however their importance in the lives of these children is beyond description. On behalf of Julie and the children, please accept our sincerest thanks for all you do. Together we are working to transform the lives of all who are touched by Education and Hope.

Warmest Regards,

The Board of Directors of Education and Hope