

This holiday season, on behalf of the families of **Education and Hope**, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks for remembering our needs throughout the past year. The difficult state of the economy is an inescapable issue these days, and I have never been more aware of how incredibly fortunate we are at **Education and Hope** to be supported by such an extensive community of generous donors. I am immensely moved by your continued outreach during times of increasing financial hardship, sharing what you can when you can to ease the burden of another. Many who are unable to support our program financially give of their time, spread the word about our work to others, or simply keep us in their thoughts and prayers. No gift is ever too small, and we are thankful for the many ways you contribute to help our program thrive and bring hope into the lives of so many children.

On a personal note, I share with you my own immense gratitude to have found a partner with whom to share my life, my love, and my vision for **Education and Hope**. The lifestyle that I have chosen is quite unique so I feel exceptionally blessed to have found someone who understands my passion for **Education and Hope** and will provide tremendous support to me as I continue my work in Guatemala. Gordon Lagerbom and I were first married on October 12<sup>th</sup> at St. Jerome in Norwalk, CT, surrounded by an overflowing community of friends and family. We were blessed to make the circle complete on November 2<sup>nd</sup> when we were married again in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, surrounded by the children and families of **Education and Hope**. Each celebration was a true feast of joy and love.

I chose to share this news with you because I feel that our union represents a new chapter for me in which my life will surely be enriched in ways that will strengthen my spirit and my commitment to the children of Guatemala.

Now more than ever we must encourage one another to be mindful of the great abundance in our lives, blessings such as food or shelter, family, friends and health. Gratitude for all that enriches our lives inspires us to share what we have with others, transforming the isolating fear of scarcity into a greater sense of community. I believe that trying times like these give us the chance to define how deep our hope is for humanity as we reach beyond our own challenges and worries, even our own suffering, to tend to those who live in dire need of our help. It is with a grateful heart that I offer my thanks to you for keeping the needs of our children so present in your lives.



May this Season of Joy fill you with light and love  
to last throughout the New Year.

Julie Coyne and all the families of **Education and Hope**