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Guatemala Update: May 15, 2014

## BE THE CHANGE



Wilmer Misael Ixcoy Vasquez needs a sponsorship in order to continue to attend school. He is one of several children on our waiting list seeking a Xela AID "Angel" like you! You can make Wilmer's dream come true! Email [amy@xelaaid.org](mailto:amy@xelaaid.org) for more information or click below to view our Children Awaiting Sponsors list.

[View Waiting List](#)

## For Aidan, "Bar Mitzvah" Means a Commitment to Others Less Fortunate

As **Aidan Jacoby** approached the age of 13, the year which in his Jewish tradition he would become "Bar Mitzvah" - which literally translates to a "son of commandment" - he pondered what that coming of age rite really meant to him. The conclusion he reached, was that it meant that now, he would commit to helping others.

Aidan's big brother Austin had traveled as a volunteer with Xela AID and Aidan had seen pictures from the trip that had inspired him.

So, he chose Xela AID as the vehicle through which he would begin his new journey to help others.



"I made a big poster with a wish list of needed items and put it up at school," he recalls. "I also shared my mission with friends and family that would be attending my Bar Mitzvah."

Aidan's list, provided to him by Xela AID, included a variety of school supplies and used technology that would be useful including laptops, and warm jackets which are always appreciated in San Martín, nestled 45 minutes from Xela in the misty highlands at 8500 feet.

"I wanted everyone to know that becoming a Bar Mitzvah means to donate to others less fortunate," Aidan says. "I wanted these gifts to go a long way, and I hope to inspire others."

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## Welcome Kelly Bookkeeping!



**Kelly Bookkeeping** has joined Xela AID to assist with its expanding bookkeeping and human resource needs.

**Pat Kelly**, its principal, began her career as a bank teller, then began bookkeeping while still a college student. "I borrowed \$5,000 from a credit union and bought my first computer," she recalls.

"It had 40 megabytes of hard drive space, DOS and Lotus123. It was awesome."

That was in 1987. Pat has been a bookkeeper ever since. Pat's main client is WTLC, which provides resources to transition women and families out of abusive situations.

"I've enjoyed meeting and helping all kinds of different people all these years, as well as learning about their businesses," she says. "I'm glad I can help Xela AID too. I was moved by the type of work you do. It's so real and so personal."

Pat hails from Greenwich, Connecticut, but has lived in Fullerton, California since she was 12. She is the mother of

sweatshirts bearing a special insignia: "I certainly put my vision on these hoodies," Aidan said. "I designed the logo myself."

Aidan's donations will be hand-carried to San Martin this summer, where Xela AID's Leaders of the Future, a youth group in training, will be awarded these hoodies for their attendance to meetings and participation in community help projects being undertaken by the group.

Said Aidan, "I hope to meet the children of Xela one day soon."

## Kathryn Tuma: 22 Years of Service!



**Kathryn Tuma** joined Xela AID at its very beginning as its bookkeeper, while at the same time serving on the Board and undertaking the many duties of financial management for St. Matthew Church of Orange where Xela AID was launched and where Kathryn continues to work. For Xela AID, Kathryn collected funds and recorded them in the proper accounts (Education, Health, etc.) and made distributions of monies to fund scholarships. Her efforts have totaled dozens of hours each

month for more than two decades!

"She has put in a tremendous amount of service time with Xela AID over the years, and we are extremely grateful for all she has done, and for the loving spirit with which she has done it," said Leslie Baer Dinkel, Xela AID Executive Director.

In 2011, Xela AID became an independent non-profit corporation - a 501(c)(3) - and as it has grown, "so has its budget, the complexity of its bookkeeping, and its reporting requirements," says Leslie, noting that the organization hired its first employee in February and this year will be required to file its first long-form 990s (tax forms).

Kathryn passes the torch this month to Kelly Bookkeeping which will manage Xela AID's finances, including all accounts receivable and payable, reporting, payroll and tax filing preparation. But Kathryn's not off the hook yet, says Leslie:

"We are looking forward to Kathryn's continued involvement, and hope to woo her down to Guatemala with us on an upcoming trip!"

## Xela AID's Work Study Scholarship Students Evaluate Progress

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bungalow-cottage with a lush garden and with her big pink Cockatoo - as well as with some chickens, bunnies, ducks and the occasional wild animal.

### Interested in an Upcoming Trip?



Xela AID's Summer Volunteer Trips are currently full, but by popular demand an October trip is being investigated. If you may be interested, please contact amy@xelaaid.org - No obligation. We will simply keep you up to date.

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."

- Winston Churchill



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Xela AID's Work Study Scholarship (WSS) recipients recently met with program coordinator **Lucky Gonzalez** to evaluate the progress each child is making in achieving their educational goals. WSS now supports nearly 100 children in school.

"Regular evaluation is now a part of the program," noted **Luis Enrique de León**, who welcomed Lucky to the staff several months ago and lauds her progress.

"Lucky is a great addition to our staff who is expanding our capacity to monitor student progress and improve our results."

Xela AID thanks the many scholarship sponsors who are making education possible for these children.

### A Note From Our Executive Director

We hope you've enjoyed our update. My thanks to **Amy Logan** for refreshing our look!

It is a joy and a great satisfaction to do this work. We invite you to join us. If you have questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me at [leslie@xelaaid.org](mailto:leslie@xelaaid.org).



Warmly,

**Leslie Baer Dinkel**  
Executive Director

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