

Kids Helping Kids

Common Hope promotes hope and opportunity in Guatemala, partnering with children, families, and communities who want to participate in a process of development to improve their lives through education, health care and housing.



- **3-Day Penny Challenge**

Students in grades K-6 save their pennies all year long for the Common Hope Penny Challenge held at Good Shepherd Catholic School in Golden Valley, Minnesota each year. For three days, classes compete to earn the most points in the school. Each penny in a class jar earns you one point, but if someone put a nickel in another class's jar that is a negative 5 points for them! Lots of fun is had by all. Good Shepherd parents are partners with Common Hope as well. They remember Guatemalan school children when they buy school supplies in the fall and when they purchase books in Spanish at the Scholastic Book Fair.

- **Author Visit**

Chaska Middle School East combined a visit from author Ben Mickelsen, who wrote *Tree Girl* and *Red Midnight*, with an opportunity to have fun raising money for Guatemalan students. The Student Council sold suckers and showed *A Day in the Life*, a video about a Guatemalan student, on their school's morning news site. Their efforts raised \$500.

- **Raffled Quilts Help Build Homes**

The students in Joelle Imholte's World Cultures class raised over \$5000 towards building new homes for Common Hope families! Students made two batik and tie-dyed quilts to use in a fundraising raffle. Chippewa Middle School students worked together to make a significant change in people's lives.

- **Bike-a-thon**

Jeannie and Devan, both 12 years old, organized a bike-a-thon for Common Hope in their home state of Maine. Without any adult assistance, the two friends pledged to bike ten miles, then collected donations in their communities. Together they earned \$526 for Common Hope. What a creative and fun idea!

- **Supply Collection**

Groveland Elementary students learned about life in Guatemala through the Common Hope student PowerPoint presentation (available to download from our website). The following week they collected toothbrushes and toothpaste to be used in hygiene kits for Guatemalan students.

- **Change for Change**

Carol Chorley's fourth grade class organized a school-wide fundraiser at Redeemer Lutheran Church and School in Stuart, Florida. They placed change jars in each classroom. In two months the school had raised \$1050, which allowed Common Hope to build a new home for a family in Guatemala.

- **Pop Money for Noe**

All year long students at Turning Point School in Monticello, Minnesota give up their pop money to sponsor Noe, age 11. In the summertime, profits from the vending machines are designated to fund this sponsorship, which makes it possible for Noe to stay in school.

- **Connecting Cultures in Math Class**

Discovery Middle School math teacher, Andy Walsh, shared his Vision Team trip experiences with his new students. To build a sense of community and raise awareness of other cultures, Andy encouraged students to deposit change in designated jars. Students kept tabs on their change collection and practiced estimating skills at the same time. After Christmas, the change was taken to the bank and students proudly sent their check for over \$120 to Common Hope!

- **Read for Need**

Third grade students at St. Stephen's School in Anoka, Minnesota sponsor Guatemalan student, Israel. In lieu of Christmas gift-giving, families are asked to consider a donation to help support the classroom sponsorship. In addition, students raise money by doing extra reading at home in a project they call "Read for Need"! Grandpas, aunts, and friends promise to donate money for each book they read!



Note to teachers: Ask your staff to consider a donation to Common Hope in place of a catered holiday lunch or a gift-exchange.

- **Learning and Giving**

The fourth grade world cultures classes at Johnson Park School in Princeton, New Jersey spent time creating books in Spanish about the *Animals of Guatemala*. The students colored the animals and spiral-bound the books for the kids in Guatemala.

- **Sharing Their Experience**

Nine students and teachers from Mayer Lutheran High School worked and experienced life in Guatemala. Once back in Minnesota, they created a video and presentation for students at a chapel service. They went to other churches to share their stories with them as well. They raised over \$1200 for Common Hope.

- **“Knights Delights”**

Irondale High School Special Education Classes in New Brighton, Minnesota bakes cookies. They sell their “Knights Delights” between classes. These industrious students sponsor two Guatemalan students with their earnings.

- **Sounds of Hope**

The Spanish Club at Woodbury Math & Science Academy, along with The Outreach Team, a group of parents, organized a benefit concert with the music department. An evening of music and readings in Spanish and English raised \$1100 for Common Hope.



- **Second and Third Graders Do Their Share**

Oak Park Elementary students learned about Common Hope and watched the video about a day in the life of a Guatemalan student. Wanting to help, they collected books in Spanish and sent them to New Hope school along with some heart-felt Valentines!

Note to teachers: if you order books from Scholastic Book Clubs, consider using bonus points to purchase books in Spanish from Club Leo. You can also send the order forms home with students to pick a book out personally to donate to young readers in Guatemala.

- **Birthday Giving**

Guests brought presents consisting of toys and games to Claire’s 9th birthday party. In turn, she brought them all to the Common Hope office to be transported to Guatemala!

For his 8th birthday party, Michael gave up his birthday gifts to collect school supplies for the children in Guatemala.

In honor of their 2-year-old adopted daughter from Guatemala, Deb collected our most-needed items for her birthday party from friends and family.

• **Homeroom Sponsorship**

A big thank you to Totino-Grace High School in Fridley, MN for their support of the children of Guatemala. Not only does each homeroom class at the high school sponsor a different student, but the administrative staff sponsors 14-year-old Mabi as well. The school has conducted many creative fundraisers to fund their sponsorships. And their support doesn't end with their sponsorships, either.

Students held a very successful supply drive before Christmas, resulting in thousands of dollars of in-kind donations. Students also tied fleece blankets to share with families in need, and they volunteered in Common Hope's warehouse. We are so grateful for the efforts of the students and staff of Totino-Grace -- and inspired by their commitment to help their peers across the globe.

Here are some ideas of how Totino-Grace has helped raise the money they need for all 44 of their sponsorships. As you can see there are many fun and creative ways. We hope it will inspire your school to do something similar!

Regular Homeroom Collections

- Conducted on select Wednesdays throughout the year, depending on the school schedule
- Our student ministers go to each homeroom with an envelope and collect money. There is one student minister per homeroom per year and it is hoped that the student minister will build a relationship with the students and teacher of that homeroom.
- **Note:** *On each collection day the student minister tries to include an 'education' piece on either Common Hope or life in Guatemala*

Cream the Dean

- This is a contest to throw a pie in the face of one of the two school deans (Right, students gather to watch!)
- Two jars, each containing the name of one of the deans, are placed out during lunch hours Mon-Fri.
- The dean who raises the most money in a given lunch period gets a pie thrown in their face on Fri.
- Each person donating \$5 or greater is entered to actually throw the pie.



Medallion Hunt

- A medallion is hidden somewhere on school property.
- A prize of \$25 is offered to the finder of the medallion but if a student chooses to make a donation of \$5 prior to the start of the hunt that student is registered to receive \$50 if they find the medallion.
- A new clue is given each morning and afternoon over the PA system.

Hallway Breakfast Competition

- On a given collection day, the money all of the homerooms in one hallway is added together.
- The winning hallway is awarded with a bistro-style breakfast before/during homeroom.

Change 4 Change

- During lunches, two jars are put out: one is labeled 'men' and another 'women.'
- Men put change in their jar while women put change in their jar.
- The gender with the most change wins an out of uniform day.

Santa Grams

- Ahead of time, student ministers make four different holiday designs.
- Students buy grams at 1/50cents or 3/\$1.00 and send to their friends.
- Santa grams come with a candy cane and are delivered in homeroom the following day.

When asked how their relationship with Common Hope has benefited them, Chad O' Leary, Campus Minister, replied, "Common Hope has challenged us to become better-educated on the realities of the vast poverty that surrounds us. A personal connection between our students and the families that we support is attempted, which is incredible, given the thousands of miles that separates us. Through the incredible effort put forth by our teachers and activities planned by our student ministers, we are able to approach the issues of poverty in a personal, powerful way, so that the suffering and hardships of others are not ignored."

If you are interested in starting a partnership like Totino-Grace at your school, contact Kate Heider at kateh@us.commonhope.org or by phone at (651) 917-1045.

On behalf of the people of Guatemala, Common Hope is extremely appreciative of all of the support we receive. We put together this booklet because we want to share some of the wonderful projects and events that kids have organized to help kids in Guatemala through their schools, youth groups or even on their own. Hopefully these thoughtful ideas and caring spirits will inspire others to reach out to all people suffering from poverty.

Thank you for your support!

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