

A Home of Hope: A Dream Born from a Mother's Love

Some dreams are born in the heart, and even when time seems to stand still, God finds a way to transform them into hope for countless lives.

Many years ago, while my mother, **Astrid Mariela**, was still with us, my father inherited a small piece of land located just one block behind the National Hospital of Tecpán, Guatemala. For years, the land was used to grow corn. But every time my parents passed by the hospital, my mother could never ignore the families waiting outside for news about their loved ones.

She would always say the same thing:

"It breaks my heart to see them here. They endure cold nights, scorching heat, pouring rain, hunger, and endless hours without a place to rest. Someday, we should build a shelter for them—even if it's something simple made of wood and tin roofing. What matters is giving them a place where they can feel safe."

Those words never left our hearts.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic changed everything.

My mother had an extraordinary heart. During one of the most difficult seasons our world has ever faced, she devoted herself completely to serving those who needed help the most. She reached out to hundreds of families, always putting others before herself.

After the pandemic, she became ill. Following months of fighting for her life, she passed away.

When we lost her, it felt as though our world had come to a standstill.

But in the middle of our grief, we realized that the greatest way to honor her life was to make sure her mission did not end with her.

That was when we turned to our director, **Kathleen Price**, and made her a promise. We asked her to trust us, and we promised that if she did, we would continue the mission my mother had begun.

Because Kathleen believed in us, we have worked side by side with **Mission of Love International** since 2021, bringing hope to hundreds of people through physical therapy, speech therapy, psychological counseling, inclusive education for children with disabilities, and many other humanitarian programs that have transformed lives throughout Guatemala.

The impact of Kathleen Price and Mission of Love International reaches far beyond our country. Their compassion has touched communities across the world, proving that love truly knows no borders.

Last year, we shared another dream that my mother had carried in her heart.

We told Kathleen about our desire to build a permanent home for this ministry—a place that would remain standing for generations to come, where the doors would always be open to anyone in need, no matter what the future might bring.

When that meeting ended, we honestly didn't know what the answer would be. It was an ambitious project that required tremendous faith and significant financial resources.

Kathleen looked us in the eyes and simply said,

"Yes. Let's do it."

That moment marked the beginning of a new chapter for Mission of Love Guatemala.

Because of her generosity, along with the support of many donors and volunteers, we were able to complete the first phase of construction. Today, that building is home to our physical therapy clinic, our speech therapy program, and our **School of Love**, where children receive education, therapy, encouragement, and above all, genuine love.

But the dream is not finished.

Today, we are building the second floor.

And this new level has a very special purpose.

Our dream is to create a **completely free shelter** for the families who wait outside the National Hospital of Tecpán.

Every single day we meet people who travel from remote villages, often six to ten hours away, just to stay close to a hospitalized child, parent, spouse, or loved one.

Many have no family nearby.

They know no one in town.

They depend entirely on limited public transportation.

They simply cannot afford to pay for a hotel.

When night falls, their only option is a sidewalk, the ground, or a small corner beneath an improvised roof.

They sleep in the cold.

They get soaked when it rains.

They endure the intense heat during the day.

Many go hungry.

They wait with fear, uncertainty, and heavy hearts, hoping for news that could change their lives forever.

We know that pain.

Our own family spent countless nights outside hospitals, praying beside someone we loved.

We know what it feels like to have nowhere to sleep, nowhere to shower, nowhere to charge a phone to reassure worried family members that nothing has changed.

Some kinds of suffering can only be fully understood by those who have lived through them.

That is why we are determined to change this reality.

Our vision is for this shelter to offer far more than four walls.

We want to provide a clean bed, a safe roof, clean water, electricity, a warm shower, a place to rest, a hot meal whenever possible, and above all, a compassionate hand to remind every person who walks through our doors that they are not alone.

We hope to build more than a building.

We want to build a community of care where love, empathy, and compassion are just as important as the structure itself.

This project is not about making a profit.

It is about restoring dignity.

It is about easing the burden carried by families facing some of the hardest moments of their lives.

It is about proving that there are still people in this world who are willing to help without expecting anything in return.

Nothing we have accomplished would have been possible without the incredible generosity of Kathleen Price, Mission of Love International, and every volunteer, sponsor, and donor who has given their time, resources, and hearts to make this mission possible.

To each of you, thank you.

Today, we want to extend this invitation to everyone reading these words.

Look beyond yourself.

Look beyond your own family.

Open your eyes and notice the people around you who are quietly carrying unimaginable burdens.

Perhaps none of us can change the entire world.

But together, we can change the world for one person.

One encouraging word.

One act of kindness.

One prayer.

One gift.

Every act of love matters.

Every concrete block placed in this building represents a family that will one day find shelter.

Every window will become a symbol of hope.

Every room will mean that a mother, a father, or a child no longer has to spend the night sleeping on a sidewalk while waiting for news about someone they love.

Today, we need your help to finish this work.

With your support, we can complete this shelter and fulfill the dream that was born years ago in the heart of a woman who dedicated her life to serving others.

We make this promise: as long as God gives us life, these doors will remain open to anyone in need, regardless of where they come from, their financial circumstances, or their story.

We believe with all our hearts that compassion still has the power to transform lives.

And we believe that together we can build a place where pain finds comfort, where weary hearts find peace, and where hope will always have a home.

Thank you for taking the time to read our story.

Thank you for believing that a more compassionate world is still possible.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Jhonatan García
Mission of Love Guatemala