



**kidsalive**  
INTERNATIONAL

## GUATEMALA

### Source of Hope School

Source of Hope School, in the small town of Zapote, serves a desperately poor population living at the base of the often erupting Fuego Volcano. In addition to the dangers posed by their location, child abuse, neglect, and forced labor are common among children here.

Kids Alive now offers quality education, nutritious meals, and health services to more than 200 children. Many of our students are the first in their families to graduate from high school; of our 2017 graduating class, 95% have continued on to higher education programs, which is uncommon in Guatemala.

We have also seen rapid growth in our discipleship groups in 2018. We have doubled the number of students we had last year, and we are able to staff discipleship groups for both boys and girls in grades 7-9. A major highlight for us was having a former Source of Hope graduate return to the school as our P.E. teacher, serving as a shining example to other students that they can achieve their dreams with commitment and hard work.

We hope to maintain a standard of 90% or more of our graduating students continuing on to some form of post-high school education or training. And goals for the coming year include raising up student leaders to lead discipleship groups and devotional times, as well as implementing training opportunities for our teachers and staff in the areas of spiritual and professional development and computer skills. God is at work here, and we are privileged to play a role in bringing hope to those who need it most.

# Hope Changes Everything...

## AT SOURCE OF HOPE SCHOOL!

The village of Zapote is situated at the base of the volcano Fuego and is home to rampant poverty and violence. Ivana\* grew up here and tells us that her earliest childhood memories are of her father getting drunk and beating the whole family. Sadly, it is common for men in this area to be alcoholics and treat their families badly. Her father eventually abandoned them, leaving her mother to raise the children with no assistance. Under those conditions, they struggled financially and emotionally, and Ivana fell into the trap of seeking acceptance from young men as she sought to fill the void left by her earthly father.

But God wouldn't let brokenness have the last word in her life! She recently started attending discipleship groups at Source of Hope, and soon accepted Jesus as her Savior. When she told her mother of her newfound faith, her mother was overjoyed. Now that Ivana is learning more about her identity in Christ, she no longer feels the need for attention from young men and is looking consistently to Jesus to fill that void for her. We are so thankful to see the change in her, and we know that it is only possible because of the hope offered by our great God.

\*name changed to protect privacy



*"Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord."*

Psalm 31:24 (NIV)

# What's happening...

## IN GUATEMALA?

Guatemala is home to over 17 million people with a vibrant mix of Spanish and Mayan cultures and boasts a beautiful and unique ecosystem. But much of the country is mired in poverty, systemic family violence, and child trafficking. One-fourth of the country's population live in extreme poverty, resulting in one of the highest rates of malnutrition in the world for children under five.

Physical and sexual abuse is rampant, and few perpetrators are brought to justice. Many children, mostly young girls, are at risk for dangerous child labor and forced prostitution. And hundreds of thousands of school-aged children are not in school at all. The needs here are staggering.

Even in situations that seem hopeless, Kids Alive is committed to rescuing victims of heart-breaking abuse and showing them their inherent worth and potential. The

wounded girls we serve need safety, stability, and intensive counseling as they heal from trauma.

Our ministries are witnessing life-changing results. A local church partners with us in bringing tangible support to children in the remote Zapote area of Guatemala, offering food, education, and family services. And we recently received government approval and assistance to begin our new Families Together program, the first of its kind in Guatemala.

At Casa Ester, we added a second story to the house, allowing us to assist even more young women as they transition to adulthood. And the majority of our high school graduates are going on to higher education of some kind. Despite the challenges facing the Guatemalan people, we know that no situation is beyond hope. Our mighty God loves these children and we will continue to show them that love in any way possible.

# Partner with us in prayer...

### God is working at Source of Hope School! Please pray for:

- Protection from the forces of spiritual darkness
- Peace and safety for students who have recently accepted Jesus
- God's power to break cycles of poverty and despair

