



Merida Foundation

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September 2019

Dear Friends,

The group of Larry and Judy Lewis, Pat Joyce and her son Patrick Joyce embarked on the second mission trip of the year for the Merida Foundation on August 1, 2019 and stayed through August 6, 2019. Our youngsters, as Larry called them, Sandro and Genny Castro (sister and brother) are sharing their experiences with us and thus with you.



Sandro is a 25-year-old veterinary student in Merida, Mexico and worked with us every day during the trip both fitting glasses and translating. Below is what Sandro shared:

"This is my experience during the last 3 days with the group of the Merida Foundation

The last days my sister and I had the opportunity to help the friends of the Merida Foundation in a pair of villages, which consisted in giving out eyeglasses

for the villagers who needed them. The first and second days we visited the village of Samahil and the third day we went to the village of Seye. There will nice people that needed help because they have sight problems and they have no opportunity to get eyeglasses. Probably this is due to the cost of a new pair of glasses in an optician's store or maybe because there is not any place where they can get glasses in the village. Anyway, I am sure all the time and work we have made in the villages is good. The feeling when you get to help to improve the life quality of some person that need it, you can feel part of their joy in that moment and it is a true pleasure. Was it tiring? Yes, but it was worth it and I like to be a part of this group that tries to help people that need it more and also I had the pleasure to see again friends, like Larry, Judy and Pat, and to meet new friends like Patrick. Finally, I am learning every action has a consequence. In this case, we could improve a little the quality of life of these people. So I think it was and always will be an amazing feeling and experience."

Genny is a 39 year old business owner and designer seamstress in Merida, Mexico. Genny has known Dorothy since she was a little girl.

"I am fine working hard to achieve my dream and my Grandmother Dorothy is proud of me from heaven! She continues to live in my heart and my mind when I remember her green eyes, her smiles and all that goodness she had in her heart.



Sandro and I went to help Larry, Judy, Pat, Patrick and Mr. Luis. The first day we went to the town called Lizcocob but there was someone selling glasses so we went to another called Samahil. People did not stop arriving for glasses and we had to go two days until people finished arriving. The third day we went to Seye and worked until the glasses were finished. Then we went to eat shrimp at Progreso Beach.

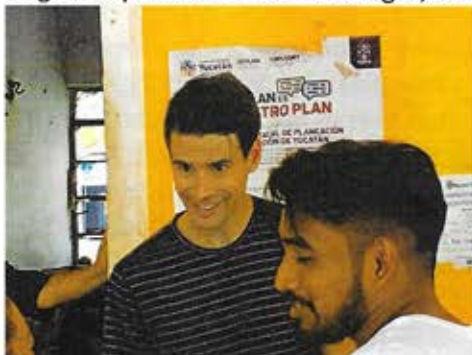
For the fourth day, we went out of Dzibilchaltun. It was my first time to visit the place. They are beautiful Mayan ruins. In the evening, we went to dinner at the Recou, an excellent restaurant.

Greetings to all of the people in Missouri . . . Grandpa Rudy, Greg, Louis, Anne, Mark, Caroline, Anne Rapp, Chuck Rapp, Father Fred, Gina and every people. It was a good experience!! Thank you!



Patrick Joyce is a 33-year-old Information Technologist in Denver, Colorado.

"A year ago my mother invited me to join her in Merida, Mexico for what she described other the phone as her "favorite week of the year." Though I was a little skeptical about this being her "favorite week of the year," I accepted her invitation and waited for our August expedition. Mom was right, it was the best week of my year AND one of the



most satisfying things I have ever done. Over the course of the week, I saw so many smiles, thankful for being able to again sew or read that even now, as I write this, I can feel an almost overwhelming sense of joy welling up inside of me. The most significant realization I gained over the course of the week was just how powerful a simple act can be when compounded over time. The world is so vast and there are so many people. It is easy to tell

yourself that it is too difficult to meaningfully change the world and to simply give-up. Dorothy instead resolved, after coming across people that could not see, to return with glasses that others had left behind, then to keep doing it over and over. One simple act over time has led to tens of thousands of persons being able to see and countless meals being disbursed to schoolchildren. It is stuck in my head now, how transformative simple acts of kindness can be. All we need is the courage to follow-through that first time.

I will never forget the friendships made nor the warm welcomes extended from the proud mayors and people in the villages as we set up our table and put glasses out. Oftentimes, a line of 10-15 people would form out of nowhere and before we were even ready to start! What is more remarkable is that our location each day was selected by Luis and nobody knew we were even coming. I became very fond of Luis, Sandro, Genny, Judy and Larry over the course of the week and I hope they are all well.

Thanks to all of our generous benefactors that continue to support the mission of providing eyeglasses and meals to the people near Merida. The needs that Dorothy recognized over 40 years ago are still there and through your support we will continue to carry on her legacy."

Many thanks to you, Merida Foundation family, for your continued support. We need your support now, more than ever, as we hope to open at least one more and maybe two nutrition sites when the new school year begins in September!

Thank you,
Merida Foundation

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