

Trip Report

Sunday, May 19th

- **4:00 am left home and met Chetti at Detroit airport**
- **All went well until we got pulled over to have our bags checked!! They weren't sure what the slides and microscope were doing in our carry-on bags!**
- **We made a couple of friends in our row, told them about SewHope and we may have a new connection! The woman's daughter who speaks Spanish and is learning American Sign Language is a UM student who is studying to be a Gynecologist! She thinks her daughter might like to come on a trip...Emily, I gave out one of the new cards before we left Detroit! Thanks for making them!**
- **No troubles the rest of the trip and we slid through customs!**
- **Anne, Carmen, and Kenneth picked us up. We stopped to get an ice cream cake for Myra's birthday! The group confessed they had already had ice cream earlier.**
- **We had a great meal and a wonderful discussion, and it was time for a cold shower and bed, oh about the cold shower...it wasn't cold! The hot weather had warmed up our water!**

Monday, May 20

- **Great sleeping with the fan! I woke up at 5:15 and got ready for the day!**
- **Greeted the kids as they came to school. I could feel the love as I received so many hugs**
- **Because of the heat, students in the morning only were in school from 7 am to 10:30 am**
- **Sammy and I started in 4th grade with the students making the cards for the sponsors. The cards were in the style of Georgia O'Keefe's flowers.**
- **Students used colored pencils, paint, and crayons**
- **The flowers turned out well**
- **As a bonus, the 4th graders just finished studying the digestive system and had made impressive digestive system projects! We were able to see many of them! Presentations were being done, I loved seeing the chance for the students to practice public speaking skills!**
- **We continued the process of the Georgia O'Keefe style cards with 3rd, 2nd, and reinforcement students in the afternoon**

- **Tim and I were out and about one day and we found some daily devotionals in Spanish. He suggested I get them to take to the SewHope employees. I bought 15 of them, and made a personalized card for each employee and gave them to each one of them telling them how they are appreciated and we are blessed to have them serving SewHope. (Carmen gave the ones to the security guards) All but the security guards had the employee's picture on the card. The employees were very grateful. It just reminded me that people are grateful when they see that they are appreciated. I received comments from several that they are very motivated to do their work.**
- **I had a meeting with teachers and Seiner to discuss the expectations of 30 minutes per week on Khan Academy, I told the teachers that they could use 30 minutes of Reinforcement time during the week to do their work while the students were working and if they didn't need help. The teachers each got a report showing how much time they have spent for the year and the level they are at, I told them I would continue to send the reports each month. I will also send the report of the students and what levels they are currently working.**
- **I also talked to the teachers about the Metric Olympics that would be taking place on Tuesday**
- **The reinforcement students finished their artwork**
- **The students then worked on the computers with RAZ Kids and I watched as they worked. After some observation, I talked to them about the correct way to work on the program. 1. Listen to the book, 2. Read the book, 3. Take the quiz one time. I sat with some students and they didn't do it, YIKES, the students only listened and read, and didn't take the quiz. I communicated this with the teachers again (This is a repeated theme) Then I had the teachers go back and help the students until they did it the correct way.**
- **I suggested that the teachers use the projector that I brought and show the students as a group how to do it again. They said they would do that.**
- **I reminded the students I look at the reports each month and see how they are doing. I told them that all their sponsors, Seiner, their teachers, and I want them to do well**
- **I also reminded them to do the books in order**
- **The students helped to water the trees and plants and did so at the end of the day. The new trees look like they are doing well.**

- Three older girls were in charge of changing the water for the chickens, one cleaned the water containers and the other two were in charge of distributing the water.
- I stood at the gate as the students left for the day and got many hugs. Two of the girls said thank you to me in English! You can really feel the love and gratitude from the students and their families.
- Sammy and I decided that we needed to prep for the P and 1st graders on the Georgia O'Keefe sponsor project. We drew the outlines of the flowers for the students with colored pencils so all the students would have to do is paint and use the crayons.
- Cecilia came and we ate dinner







Tuesday, May 21

- **The light and roosters woke me up early again! Time to get ready for another action-packed day!**
- **We started by getting up early to set up for the metric Olympics. Set up started at 6:15. Stations were set up and we were ready to roll by 6:45.**
- **Seiner got out the big speaker and played music when the students arrived and during the Olympics! We also had an Olympic banner and sign saying "SewHope's Metric Olympics:"**
- **We greeted the students and they were ready to have the Olympics! They had on their P.E. outfits which were donated by the Toledo Road Runners and tailored by the moms to fit their child! It was so hot but the students still wore them!**
- **The events were discus with a paper plate, javelin with a straw, and shot put with a koosh ball all measuring length. The last station was measuring weight with a scale by grabbing a handful of crayons**
- **The stations were manned by Sammy, Cecilia, Seiner, and me**
- **Students worked in groups of 4-5**
- **To familiarize the students with the Olympic events, I sent them videos and the teachers showed them to the students in advance**
- **The older students in 3,4, and R all estimated the amount they could throw the discus, javelin, and shot put as well as how much weight they could grab, and then did a comparison using subtraction.**
- **The older kids went first and then helped with the younger kids, the kids had fun!**
- **I discovered some deficiencies with students that I will be working to solve. Most relate to math facts and subtraction.**
- **The subtraction was usually over the middle zero. Once I showed the students how to do it they seemed to see the method but more work will need to be completed on this.**
- **We were not able to get all the groups completed today due to the shortened time but we will finish them on Wednesday**
- **Time flies and it was already time to say goodbye to the students until tomorrow**
- **We visited one home and a new stove was installed (look for more in Cecilia's report)**

- I noticed two postcards hanging on the post in this home. They were Bible verses. In the pictures below you will see the postcards and translated Bible verses. I am so amazed by the hope and faith of the families.
- We also visited 5 additional homes and heard their stories and connections to SewHope (look for more in Cecilia's report)
- The afternoon was spent watching students while on Khan Academy and helping them, I reminded the teachers and the students that they should watch the videos to help them. I worked with kids on equivalent fractions and area and counting. Many students were doing well
- The new computers that were purchased by Dr. Rekha's family at LEAP were delivered and one is set up so far, the other one is also in Senier's office
- Dinner and ice cream cake
- Felt like 109 degrees today!
- Everyone had a good night's rest after a warm shower! Each of us in the bunk room had a fan!





Joshua 1:9 ▾ New International Version ▾

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

[Read full chapter](#)

[Joshua 1:9 in all English translations](#)



Psalms 121:8

Psalms 121:8 NKJV

KJV

NIV

NLT

NKJV

The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in From this time forth, and even forevermore.

NKJV: New King James Version ▾



Wednesday, May 22

- **Our day started with an Arbor Day celebration! Who knew that today was the day of the tree? The entire school came out front for the celebration and the first graders were featured. They carried the flags in one by one, Guatemalan, SewHope, Santa Ana, and Petan. The students wore white gloves and were very proper when they were participating.**
- **The ceremony included prayer, presentations, and of course the National Anthem!**
- **Rekha, Sammy, and Cecilia got a little cross-curricular and led the students in tree pose to add to the Arbor Day celebration!**
- **Our goal for this morning was to finish the Metric Olympics with the students in 2nd and 3rd grade. With the help of Ceceila, Rekha, Sammy, Seiner, and me the students learned how the measurements relate to real life**
- **We gathered for a grand finale photo of all the students in K-4**
- **We gave each student a frisbee that was collapsible and this was the hit of the day**
- **Sammy taught the students how to throw the frisbees and then the fun began!**
- **Just like that the kids were going home! Time flies when you are having fun!**
- **We needed to do a test drive of making popcorn for the movie. The teachers fired up the outdoor stove with wood and we made some! It was good. We shared it with the afternoon students!**
- **The afternoon session started and we had the Metric Olympics for the students but decided because of the extreme heat that we would move it into the classrooms and on the front porch. The students in the afternoon seemed to enjoy the Olympics.**
- **After the students left Rekha came to Seiner's office and was able to see the computers that her family donated the money for. Seiner was so proud and thanked her for all they had done.**
- **It was a pretty night but smoke had been in the air all week as there were many fires in the area. You can see the smoke in the picture below.**







Thursday, May 23

- **Another morning of love from the students as they are always greeted by Seiner at the gate in the morning...first stop hug from Senier and second stop me and Cecilia and anyone who will hug them!**
- **We worked to make the cards for the sponsors of the K and 1st graders**
- **We then went into each classroom and thanked the kids for working so hard and telling them about people who are helping them in the United States. We asked them what symbol is that of God and God is always with them and the cross is just a reminder.**
- **The students were proud of the crosses and many of them wore them on Friday also!**
- **Sammy and I were surprised when two of the students gave us a gift. They used the origami skills that Gloria's sister taught them to make us a special origami bird!**
- **I presented the students with some of the books that were donated and they loved them**
- **I tried to get as many pictures of students who are sponsored by the same person/family as I could. Some people have students in the morning or afternoon so this is not always possible**
- **More hugs as the students left today!**

- I met with the teachers and Seiner to go over RAZ Kids. The teachers were very receptive to the new learning. They brought the computers for the training and I was able to show them how to get into the teacher area and how they can look up the results of their students
- I also showed them how to look up different things so they can help the students
- I explained that there is a large discrepancy of the time the students are on the program.
- I have gone over this before but I think doing this in person made a big impact.
- The teachers appreciated the new knowledge
- Carmen asked if I would go along and take pictures and information on a stove and water filter installation because Cecilia was on a jornita
- This family has no students at our school and is very poor and live right off the main road and they operate a tortilla company
- They found out about getting a stove from a community presentation done by SewHope
- The house had 3 pigs, a turkey, a cat, and many chickens running around in the house
- 10 people live at the house
 - A single mom with three children, a ten-year-old in 1st grade, a 5-year-old in Parvolous, and a 17-month-old, She told us the baby gets one diaper for the day and one for the night, diapers are 2.5-3 Q each or 2 for 5
 - A mom and 10-year-old 2nd grade son
 - There is an aunt and her husband and two other adult women
- The stove installation went well and you could tell Sammy was focused on the other stove installations as he knew what parts came next and was very good at helping. He will need eye protection in the future! Drilling through metal roofs is tough and things go flying!
- Marcelo and Guillermo are a great team. The placement of the exhaust was quite a way back on the roof and they had to slide a piece of wood up and up on the roof until Marcelo could reach the pipe to be able to caulk
 - We all got a laugh when Marcelo raised a rubber chicken that was on the roof

- The stove was installed and Marcelo explained how to use and care for the stove to the woman with the three children
- Carmen, Marcelo, and Guillermo talk to her about the water filter
- We stopped for some before-dinner ice cream and boy was it delicious!
- We had some special visitors, Myra's husband and daughter, oh how she has grown!
- Camilo visited and we talked about expanding our school. He will get back to us on a price soon.
- We went back, Seiner had stayed late so we could practice the movie night. That is just what we did. A few bumps and Cecilia's phone's help and we were set for tomorrow's movie night!
- We had dinner and all of us were exhausted and took warm showers and went to bed!











Friday, May 24

- **Up with the roosters and light and ready for an amazing day!**

- **Went for a walk with Rekha and Cecilia and met an angry turkey who was not happy we were in his territory!**
- **Saw some students who were coming very early to school**
- **Stopped for a picture by the gate with some of them! One group that was there was the family that the mom is in the women's group, who makes food to see each day.**
- **The chairs arrived for the movie night and I could feel the excitement!**
- **Greeted students**
- **Had a meeting with two men from the Ministry of Education, and Anne covered the results in her trip report.**
- **After Anne left I spent more time with them showing them the Khan Academy and Raz programs. They were very impressed with the programs and everything we are doing. I explained that Khan was free and that they might consider trying it with a class at one of the schools to see how it worked. I told him how it was used in NYC in the poorest and lowest performing schools and how they improved. Of course, he wanted computers from us...then he thought and was going to try to get computers together from other schools and maybe try it out at the school with the best internet. He told us that the teachers were Flinstones...I think he was saying they are set in their ways.**
- **He wondered if the public teachers could come and observe. I told him he would need to work with Seiner. I thought Seiner could show them how to enroll the students if he would agree.**
- **I felt it was good to spend the extra time with these two men as they had given us a break and we may need more breaks in times to come!!!**
- **Gathered Chetti's family's sponsored crew up for a picture with her! She looked so proud and happy!**
- **Said goodbye to the students and one family brought me a gift of ribbon flowers. It was so sweet. The girls went and got their mom upon my request so I could officially thank her for the beautiful gift.**
- **After the students left, I met with the teachers, of course, with tears flowing I thanked them for their dedication to the students and families. I told them how much we appreciate them and all they do.**
- **Seidy started to talk but couldn't hold back the tears so Lesbia spoke for the group and with tears in all of their eyes, they thanked us for their support and the opportunity to work at SewHope.**

- I had asked the teachers earlier if they were happy with the way things were going and they all said yes. I also asked Wendi and Seidy who are teachers who were here before if things were better than last year and they both said they were so much better. They all seem to be getting along very well.
- The Kindergarten class has an amazing student teacher. She wants to be a School Psychologist. She was so good with the kids and even came and helped out on Movie night! She comes each day on a motorcycle and has a plastic box full of teacher things! She is on the left end of the picture of the teachers.
- We passed out crosses to the Reinforcement kids and they loved them.
- The kids played chess in the afternoon
- The students helped set up the chairs for movie night
- LOTS and LOTS of popcorn was popped in the outdoor kitchen, it was put into paper bags
- The drink was mixed up in a big trash barrel and placed into plastic bags
- The movie night would start at 6:30, at 6:10 the people started pouring in!
- We wanted to test everything one more time, I turned on the projector and it was all set, THEN, I looked and the light was off. The power decided to go off! So I prayed and Seiner and the Security Guard got the generator. Just as they connected to the generator the electricity came back on!
- Seiner had many announcements before the movie and more after along with a prayer
- The popcorn and drinks were passed out, a little rearranging had to be done but all in all it was great!
- The movie night was attended by about 250 people and Cecilia noticed that vehicles were lined up at the fence, it seems we were attracting people from the neighborhood!
- We left for a short time to get dinner and were back for the end of the movie.
- Families helped clean up and Cecilia and I felt like celebrities as families wanted their pictures with us!











Saturday, May 25

- We all were up to say goodbye to Cecilia, Rekha, and Sammy as they went to the airport, we had a great team of everyone working together. We had a lot of laughs, I wish we could have had a “Day of the Frog” for Cecilia but it wasn’t to be!



- **Most of my day on Saturday was spent sending pictures to the sponsors of the students and sorting through the cards while Anne saw patients.**
- **We had lunch and continued to finish our work**
- **We packed and left for the airport at 5:00 pm. We wanted to go to Flores to see if we could find some nativity scenes to bring back. We didn't have any luck there but I was able to see the Island of Flores and how charming it is.**
- **We decided we would get a bite to eat and went to Pizza Hut (we figured that would be safe) and we ran into a student from the school with his aunt. He hugged me and we "Google Translate Talked". His aunt came over and introduced herself and told us how she appreciated all we do.**
- **We got our pizza to go and sat in the airport eating it with Myra.**
- **We checked in and we were on our way to Guatemala City. We arrived about 9:30. We took a ride to the Hostel and the man who was our driver agreed to pick us up at 4:00 am for our flight.**
- **With fans positioned we went to bed by 10:30 and woke up at 3:30 so we would be ready for our ride.**





Sunday, May 26

- **We got to the airport and got on the plane. The flight left late and this was concerning to us as our connection was a little tight.**

- **Anne said she hasn't ever seen customs this busy so we decided if we had to we would go on our own so at least some of us could get on the flight.**
- **After customs, there was a security line. It took a lot of time to get through this too. Anne got her bag searched and I was off on my own but then caught up with Chetti. We went from Terminal F to C on the Tram and then we had to get to the last gate in the terminal C-15 to catch our flight! WE RAN the whole way and I am not a runner! We got to the gate and no one was waiting to get on the flight. Chetti and I got on the plane and must have looked like a tornado coming in! WE were sweating up a storm! The flight attendant called us the "Chatty Sisters" because we were laughing and talking so much and were amazed that we made it on the flight! We begged them to wait for Anne. They had given her seat away BUT we cheered when we saw her! The three amigos were together again! Our flight got back to Detroit about 4:00 and it was a miracle but our luggage came too! Tim and Randy were there and we will remember our adventures and be laughing about it for years to come!**

What a great honor it is to be involved in an organization that is really making a HUGE difference for so many!

Thanks for always being so supportive!

Regards,

Roxanne