

Growing up with Impact Ministries

Back in 2007, Impact Ministries was running an afterschool program in San Antonio. One of the children who came was 6-year-old Coralia.



Little Coralia wasn't impressed: "I had to walk so far. Also, it meant a double effort for me, studying at school in the morning and studying in the project in the afternoons." But that soon changed. Coralia liked meeting team members from the US & Canada, including the Canadian family who would sponsor her for many years, as well as others from her own community. "I received a lot of love from the people who were part of it day by day," Coralia says.

And love was a big deal for Coralia. Coralia felt unloved in her family. Born with health issues to a single mom, Coralia was often left in the care of her grandmother while her mother went to find work. "As I was growing, my whole family looked down on me," recalls Coralia. "Each one showed me that they did not love me, including my mother."

As Coralia outgrew the public school in San Antonio, she started attending Vida Chijacorral. "I was so happy!" says Coralia, "If I had not gone to Vida Chijacorral School, I would not have been permitted to continue studying."

But Coralia didn't outgrow the health issues. She often had difficulty breathing, and her family couldn't afford the recommended operation. Weeks into Junior High, she was hospitalized and critically ill.

"Although it was very difficult, now I realize that the Lord always has good plans," says Coralia. "Through this illness, my mother met the Lord." People from church prayed for Coralia, and taught her Mom how to talk to God too. The next day, Coralia was stable and ready to go home! And as Coralia saw her mother's faith, she too, accepted Jesus. "My Mom began to pay attention to me and to love me," says Coralia, "She is still faithful to the Lord."



After graduating from Grade 10, Coralia continued on to the new Teacher Training Program that Impact Ministries was offering at her school. She graduated with honours in Early Childhood Education, and was soon asked to come on staff at the Vida Children's Home.

Now Coralia is no longer a student, but a fellow worker with Impact Ministries. As she shares love with abandoned little ones, she reflects: "God knows that His plans and purposes in my life are so beautiful and all I can do is say thank you."

Coralia turns 20 soon. As Impact Ministries is celebrating 20 years, we'd like to thank you for coming alongside children like Coralia through the years. Coralia is passing on the love that you shared with her!

In our first years in Guatemala, we visited the mountain village of San Antonio and realized that the Gospel had not yet reached there. So, we began a program for school-aged children two afternoons a week. For many years, we helped with homework, shared about God's love, and did fun activities. Some students, like Coralia, continued their education at Vida Chijacorral. Then a church from Salama began a church plant in San Antonio. As we watched this church grow, we realized it was time to hand over the work in San Antonio to them. Our San Antonio program ended in 2016.

~ Les & Rita



Young Coralia at home



Coralia with her sponsors at San Antonio



Coralia working at the Vida Children's Home

20 Years of Impact!



2000

Les & Rita Peters move to Guatemala with their family

2002

After school program starts in San Antonio
School breakfast program begins



2007

Schools open in Mochán & Purulhá

2009

Impact Ministries Medical Clinic opens

Vida Chijacorral School opens



2010

First Senior High Program offered
150th Short Term Mission Team hosted in Guatemala

2014

Vida Nueva School opens



2015

Half of Vida School staff now former Vida students

First Class Supporters come on board



2018

Agua de Vida Chijulhá school opens

2019

Grand Opening of Vida Children's Home



2001

Prayer meeting begins in Peters' living room - start of Rio de Vida Church



Impact Ministries takes over administration of Beerseba School, later to become Vida Chamché School
First 7 students sponsored



2006

School opens in Chicoy



2013

First Team stays in Chisac Guesthouse



2016

First intake of students for Teacher Training Senior High Program

First national pastor ordained through the Rio de Vida Church



2020

Celebrating 20 Years of Impact virtually due to Covid restrictions



Greetings from Guatemala! Our family moved to Tactic, Guatemala in the year 2000. We began our ministry here with a small school of seventy-eight students. Now, twenty years later, we have graduates from our schools who are teachers & principals, children's home staff, pastors, and leaders in every area of this ministry. These young men and women have grown into godly leaders with a vision for their own people and their own communities. God is filling their hearts with His understanding and His plans to reach out and to grow His kingdom in this part of the world. Thank you for coming alongside them as they impact their communities for Christ!

~ Les & Rita

For a more detailed timeline, check out [impactministries.ca/timeline/](https://www.impactministries.ca/timeline/)

Thank you for your generous response throughout the Covid pandemic.

While schools and churches are closed and short-term teams are cancelled, your gifts of food to our families are a lifeline for so many. We have already distributed thousands of food hampers to Vida families and to others in need and are continuing to accept donations: impactministries.ca/givefood



Join us in walking, riding or completing any number of crazy challenges for **Ride for Refuge on October 3rd**. All challenges this year can be completed from anywhere in covid-friendly teams or groups. Join one of our existing teams or create your own at rideforrefuge.org/impactministries — team members don't even have to be from the same location!

The **Vida Children's Home** is now home to several little ones who are school-aged, alongside our babies. Please pray for wisdom to know when to begin the next phase of our children's home construction, which will include "casitas" for the older children to live in family-style homes separate from the babies.



Our "20 years of Impact" celebration moved on-line, but it was still a wonderful time of praise and reminiscing! Thank you to everyone who joined us live from around the world to celebrate how God has been working in Guatemala. If you missed it, you can check out the recording at impactministries.ca/20yearsofimpact

We're collecting photos and stories to continue celebrating 20 years of Impact! Submit your team photo, favourite memory or impact photo for a chance to win fun prizes. Deadline is September 30th. Details: impactministries.ca/photocontest



Serving in Guatemala

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"Celebrating 20 Years of Impact"

