



Common Hope Vision Team to Guatemala – We’re ready for 2018!

The eight-day Mission for 2018 will take place at the Common Hope project site in Antigua, Guatemala from Saturday March 10 to Monday, March 19, 2018. The Common Hope Organization has been running these Missions for 23 years. Each year Common Hope sends about 20 teams of volunteers to Guatemala. Common Hope promotes hope and opportunity in Guatemala, partnering with children, families, and communities who want to participate in a process of development through education, health care, and housing. A Vision Team is made up of 10 to 12 volunteers (students and leaders). Maximum number is 15.

The cost for each participant is \$1000 US for accommodation and food, and \$1200 CAD for travel. Travel arrangements will be made through Rotary District 7040. There will be two Orientation and Training Sessions (via GoToMeeting) for team members and leaders, and one or more face to face meetings. It is possible to have another Vision Team at another time of the year, perhaps a combination of Interact and Rotaract, or all Rotaract.

We are now looking for interested students and chaperones. At this time, we have one adult who has volunteered to go, but we need at least one other. Contact PDG Ariane Carriere ariane.carriere@rotary7040.com .



Visiting the Rotary Club of Antigua



Visiting Mayan ruins at Iximche

The Goals of the Vision Team Program are:

- Foster encounters that provoke compassion and challenge complacency
- Connect needs and resources
- Build relationship that compel visitors to actively partner with and multiply our work

The Team will stay in dorm-style accommodations at the Common Hope's Family Development Centre, a three-acre campus one mile outside Antigua.



The team will have the opportunity to get to know the people and culture of Antigua by offering various activities, tours, team building exercises and events – to be chosen by the team. Projects will include a wide variety of experiences, including visiting families with a social worker, sorting supplies in a warehouse, helping build a simple house, or engaging with students in an educational setting. Team members will be exposed, through personal experience, to the reality and challenges of indigenous family life in Guatemala.

Health (immunization) and Safety issues are covered through the guidelines in the *Common Hope Vision Team Leader Guide*. Vision Team members are expected to help the help the people of Guatemala by allowing their checked bag to be used for donations and supplies, such as school supplies, medical supplies, and donated clothing. Team members pack personal items in one carry-on bag.

The Vision Team will do fundraising for Common Hope. With the help of individuals and Rotary clubs, we need to raise \$500 US for each Vision Team member. The funds are used for the Common Hope programs.

In the words of one participant: "Spending a week in Guatemala with Common Hope was truly an unreal experience. I learned a lot from the people there, and it opened my eyes a little. If anyone is ever considering going, I'd recommend it without a doubt. And to my friends that accompanied me on this journey: thanks for the memories!"

To watch a video of the 2017 Common Hope Interact Vision Team, click on the link <https://animoto.com/play/uQNijnnSTy61ot01G5Nt1A>