

Youth Development Program:

As part of this year's support services to our scholarship youth, LHI is now providing internet access in our computer lab. We have also added classes on how to use the internet for homework and research to our regular computer instruction for our youth, as many of their homework assignments require online resources. Classes are conducted by our local computer professional, Cecilia, who has been working with LHI for a year.

Another important aspect of the Youth Development Program is the workshop component. With the support of Wings Guatemala (<http://www.wingsguate.org>), LHI hosted a sexual education workshop for youth in April. They were taught valuable information on their rights over their body and how to make responsible decisions regarding their sexual development, as well as given the chance to ask questions about a topic rarely discussed in Chajul.

Members of our first year middle school class enjoyed a fun weekend in March with visiting high school students from Portland, Oregon. The students put together an interactive project called "Foto Voz," or Photo Voice, for LHI youth in which they worked in small groups to explore Chajul and learned to take photos with digital cameras. It was a great experience for our Chajul students, as they not only got a chance for cultural exchange, but also stepped into the role of cultural ambassadors to Chajul, guiding the foreign students around and introducing them to the landscape and way of life in Chajul.

At the end of the project, the students from Portland and Chajul together picked some of their favorite photos and presented on what they found most interesting or beautiful about them. The visiting group printed nearly 100 of the photos for the LHI youth to keep as mementos, a meaningful gift in Chajul where printed photos are unaffordable for most families.

"Saber Sin Límites" Community Library:

The Community Library continues to grow with 70 new users in March alone! Lidia, our newest librarian, has been learning quickly. She hosted her first story hour last month and it was a great success.

LHI's library team had the exciting opportunity in April to work with professional librarians from North America volunteering with Librarians Without Borders. With the hopes of developing professional partnerships, Marilu, Lidia, and Edilma put together an impressive presentation of the Saber Sin Límites programming along with a special Story Hour activity and reflections from some of our top library users. The star users did an amazing job speaking in front of the group about their personal stories of growth and exploration in the library and what it means to them.

The visiting librarians were highly impressed with the Saber Sin Límites library, remarking that our collection of books, organization, and engaging literacy programs were better than any library they had visited in Guatemala. With suggestions and support from their team, our librarians hope to continue to improve and develop the library services.



Youth educators from Wings Guatemala present a sexual education workshop for LHI youth.

Library users, LHI staff, and librarians spend a day with visitors from Librarians Without Borders.



Maria Angelica Anay Ramundo learns how to use a digital camera for the first time during the Foto Voz project with visiting high school students from the US.