

### WE HAD A MERRY CHRISTMAS

This year's Christmas celebration with the children was exceptional. Everyone enjoyed traditional tamales for dinner, followed by a special worship service and a devotional that encouraged the children to remember that God has a plan for their lives. We ended the evening with gifts, hot chocolate, a bonfire, and fireworks. We would like to say thank you to everyone who donated toys, clothes, and shoes. Your gifts made Christmas a special experience for our children!



### AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR...



### ORCHESTRA ON TV

During the winter break from classes, the Agua Viva School's orchestra practiced four hours each day to prepare for several Christmas concerts. In addition to participating in a memorable recital at the Chimaltenango Christmas Fair, the national television station interviewed the orchestra members before airing one of their performances. Allan, one of our sixth grade students, loved these experiences: "It's wonderful to be a part of a music group that has enjoyed such unbelievable opportunities." We couldn't be more proud of their hard work and success!



### PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray that God would help our children to choose friends that encourage and inspire them in the ways of the Lord and who will not lead them astray.
- Please pray that God would mend broken hearts and that He would draw our children closer to Him when they feel sad or alone.
- Please pray that the students in our school would be inspired to dream big and work hard for a better future for themselves and their families.
- Please pray that God would bless all our staff and their families with an extra measure of joy and a deeper relationship with Jesus!

## LEARNING AND GROWING

Esvin is the oldest of four brothers who came to Agua Viva last year. He is a happy boy who loves to joke with his friends. His favorite activities are soccer and spending time with the other boys who live in his house. Esvin said that the most significant lesson he has learned at Agua Viva "is to consider my words before speaking, because it's important that my actions please God." Please keep Esvin and his brothers in your prayers as they continue to grow in the Lord and learn more at Agua Viva.



## THANK YOU 4 INTERNET

Many of you donated funds to assist us in completing our office internet project, and we would like to thank you for your generosity. Our office staff is enjoying the new resources, as well as increased productivity. We appreciate your help in realizing this important goal!



## LOCAL BLESSINGS

Every month, a special group of people from Refugio de Amor visits Agua Viva so that they can spend time with the children who have no visitors on Family Day. These selfless individuals recently hosted a Christmas party for Agua Viva. They played games with the children, prepared food, and delivered an encouraging message. They also gave spinners and purses to the children. We are thankful for our relationship with a local Guatemalan group that gives so much time and love to our children!



## TEAM OPENINGS

We still have several open dates for teams who would like to minister at Agua Viva this summer!

May 12 - 19      May 19 - 26  
June 9 - 16      June 23 - 30  
July 28 - Aug. 4

If you are interested in bringing a team, please contact Sherri Schlax at [avhosts@aguavivahome.org](mailto:avhosts@aguavivahome.org). You can also access helpful tips for planning a successful experience at [www.aguavivahome.org/team-planning](http://www.aguavivahome.org/team-planning).

### CONTACT US:

**Mission Trips:** Mark and Sherri Schlax—[hosts@aguavivahome.org](mailto:hosts@aguavivahome.org)  
**Sponsorship Programs:** Misi Schlax—[sponsorship@aguavivahome.org](mailto:sponsorship@aguavivahome.org)

If you have not received acknowledgement of your contribution, please contact Tom Maloney—[tom@aguavivahome.org](mailto:tom@aguavivahome.org).

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