



## SERVICE LEARNING TRIP

El Salvador, August 9th - 15th, 2014

### One Project at a Time

El Salvador is the smallest country in Central America. Its size is comparable to that of the state of Massachusetts and populated by almost 7 million habitants.

Welcome to a land of magnificent volcanoes, shining lakes, fields of green coffee fields, and over all, great smiles. Among this beauty, the needs of El Salvador's people are great. Realities such as lack of access to proper health care, housing, adequate water system, schooling and a decent income demonstrate that El Salvador has many contrasts. OPAT works closely with individuals, families and communities living in difficult conditions which holds them from being able to overcome their poverty.

The word poverty is far beyond a financial burden. Poverty is formed of many different conditions that limit a human being from overcoming, reducing their lives to one of survival, rather than one of enjoyment, but, in spite of this, people living in poverty have hope, a big faith and the potential to free themselves from poverty if an opportunity is given.

**Saturday, August 9**

#### **Arrival at the El Salvador International Airport**

*You will be welcomed by OPAT staffers at the El Salvador International Airport.*

*The group will be transported from the airport to Hostal Casa Verde in the city of Santa Ana of Santa Ana. The duration of the trip is approximately one hour and forty five minutes with one rest stop in between if needed or requested.*

*Room assignments will be announced upon arrival at Hostal Casa Verde.*

6:00 PM Dinner  
7:00 PM Community meeting

General guidance will be offered, as well as an introduction to OPAT and El Salvador reality

**Sunday, August 10**

7:00 AM Breakfast  
8:00 AM Departure to La Natividad Parish

OPAT pilgrims will participate in the regular mass with the community of La Natividad, 20 minutes from Hostal Casa Verde.

8:30 AM Mass in company of La Natividad community  
10:00 AM Visit to Community Brisas del Tecana (10 minutes from parish)  
10:15 AM Home visits

Our group will have the opportunity to learn from the life reality of the two families that we will be building homes for. This will offer a deeper view of the many conditions that limit a human being from overcoming poverty.

11:45 AM Return to Hostal  
12:30 PM Lunch in Hostal

#### TIME FOR REST AND REFLECTION

2:00 PM Departure to a youth and sports gathering  
2:30 PM Meeting and interaction activities. Soccer game and conversation

Our group will meet wonderful youth in El Salvador. We hope to be able to discover the realities and differences between both worlds, but most of all, we hope to be able to discover our similarities, what brings us together as human beings and God's children even though we come from different countries.

OPAT. Changing One person, One family, One community... One Project at a Time.

5:00 PM Return to Hostal  
6:00 PM Dinner  
7:00 PM Community Meeting and construction training

Monday, August 11

**CONSTRUCTION DAY**

7:00 AM Morning prayer led by OPAT staff members  
7:30 AM Breakfast  
8:30 AM Departure to work site, community "Brisas del Tecana"  
9:00 AM Construction begins

The OPAT group will be divided into two teams. Each team will build a house for one family in need. The teams will be close to each other. Each team will be within visible distance.

12:00 PM Departure to Parish La Natividad for lunch  
12:15 PM Lunch  
1:30 PM Continue construction  
4:30 PM Return to Hostal  
6:00 PM Dinner  
7:00 PM Community meeting

Tuesday, August 12

**CONTINUE CONSTRUCTION**

7:00 AM Morning prayer led by OPAT pilgrims  
7:30 AM Breakfast  
8:30 AM Departure to work site "Brisas del Tecana"  
9:00 AM Construction continues  
12:00 PM Departure to Parish La Natividad for lunch  
12:15 PM Lunch  
1:30 PM Continue construction. The group will give the keys to their new homes and set the OPAT logo  
4:30 PM Return to Hostal  
6:00 PM Dinner

Tonight we won't have community meeting, to allow participants to prepare for the next day when they are going to meet with the children they sponsor through our friend organization Unbound

Wednesday, August 13

Cultural day

**Today we will be able to visit different places in El Salvador, to learn from its culture, beauty and history.**

Those who are visiting their sponsored friends through our partner organization, Unbound, this will be the day that you will meet with them. Sponsored friends will accompany our group through out the day.

**A message from our friends in Unbound**

We know you'll understand that we have a significant obligation to protect our sponsored members and you, the sponsor. To do that best, we don't allow communication with your sponsored friend via Facebook, Twitter, Skype, instant messaging, phone, email, or any other form of direct communication. Violation of this policy could jeopardize your friend's eligibility for sponsorship and your eligibility to sponsor.

You are welcome to talk about your trip on your Facebook page or on blogs, including our Unbound blog. We just ask that for child protection reasons you refer to sponsored friend by first name only and by his or her country without naming a specific city, school, etc. Thank you for respecting our policies and protecting your sponsored friend.

7:00 AM	Breakfast
8:00 AM	Departure to Volcanoes National Park.
9:30 AM	Arrival at Volcanoes National Park. Meet sponsored children
9:45 AM	Walk the Volcanoes National Park trail
10:30 PM	Departure to Lake Coatepeque Time for swimming in the lake
12:00 PM	Lunch at Lake Coatepeque
3:00 PM	Departure to Santa Ana (We say good bye to Sponsored children
4:00 PM	Visit Santa Ana downtown and Ice cream stop
6:00 PM	Dinner
7:00 PM	Community Meeting and Talent show

***This is your last night in Santa Ana. Please pack your luggage. Also, prepare a handbag with everything you will need for a full day tomorrow. You will not have access to your luggage until we arrive at the Beach Hotel in Costa del Sol.***

**Thursday, August 14**

6:30 AM	Luggage loading and boarding transportation
6:45 AM	Breakfast
7:30 AM	Departure toward San Salvador, Capital of El Salvador
9:00 AM	Arrival at Divine Providence Chapel

*The group will depart for the Divine Providence Chapel, located in the capital of El Salvador, San Salvador. We will visit the chapel where Monsignor Romero was murdered on March 24, 1980, during a civil war held in El Salvador that lasted 12 years. After the experience of visiting different sites and realities, this day is dedicated to all martyrs who have given their own lives for the love of El Salvador's poor and of the world's poor*

9:20 AM	Arrival at Divine Providence Chapel. <i>Visit the house where Monsignor Romero lived as the Archbishop of San Salvador.</i>
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10:00 AM	Departure to Hand Craft market for souvenir shopping time.
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TIME AT THE MARKET WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE GROUP

12:00 PM	Departure to Costa del Sol
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*Costa del Sol is a beautiful beach of El Salvador, 1.5 hours from San Salvador and 30 minutes from the El Salvador International Airport. Our stay at this hotel is a great opportunity to relax and get our bodies, minds and hearts ready for the return home.*

1:30 PM	Arrival at Hotel and room distribution
2:00 PM	Lunch at hotel

FREE AFTERNOON

7:00 PM	Dinner and final words
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**Friday, August 15**

Participants will be transported to the airport according to flight itinerary

**\*\*\* ITINERARY ACTIVITIES MAY BE SUBJECT TO MODIFICATIONS WHILE IN COUNTRY**

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