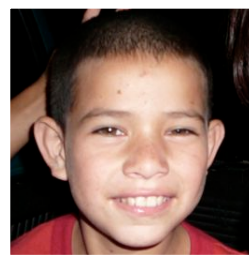


a home



a family



a future



a project update

may 2008

Warm Greetings "It takes a village to raise a child... it takes a community to build a village" ~ this was our initial slogan on our preliminary flyer about Project Somos. Nothing could be more true. The support and encouragement we continue to get for creating this project is really heartening. Gracias to one and all. Daily, we are asked how things are going for Project Somos. Here, briefly is where we're at...

The Project Somos Vision is to provide a home, family, community and future for abandoned and orphaned children in Guatemala. We will build a village using sustainable technology and power, develop organic gardens and a school and provide the children with a loving and rich environment so that they can thrive and grow up to be innovative and responsible leaders in their community. There will be seven homes where the children will be raised by Guatemalan foster moms with six other children.

A Very Brief Summary of Project Somos goals over the next three years:

- build our website
- develop our plans
- build our Canadian and Guatemalan support
- raise \$1 million
- return to Guatemala
- purchase land
- complete required paperwork to receive children
- design and construct homes/receive children
- develop onsite sustainable energy sources
- establish organic vegetable gardens
- build guesthouse for volunteers and visitors
- establish businesses to sustain the project
- replicate the village in other locales

Latest update about Project Somos

Great news! ~Our logo has been designed! And here it is...



children's village

Many thanks to Chris Baker for working so hard with us on this. For those who have never designed a logo-it's no easy feat, let me tell you! Chris Baker has been a dear friend of mine since 1984. We met when I was 19 and on my way to Europe. At the time he lived in England and was visiting BC. He has since moved to California and he and his dog, Jake were the wonderful caregivers of our dog, Tika while we were in Guatemala this Winter.

We now have a tagline!

"a home, a family a future"

These three simple words completely embody the essence of the work of Project Somos. Our gratitude to Robin Greenman who helped us with this one! Many years ago, Robin and her family were next door neighbours of ours in Kitsilano. She now lives in Portland, Oregon and Greg and I were warmly welcomed into her home on our way to and from Guatemala. Thanks for your enthusiastic willingness to help us with the tagline, and the project in general!

Brainstorming our way to Guatemala

We're on Week 8 of Think Tanks. Each week a small group of individuals gather in our living room, or digitally, via the web over any combination of tea, wine, cookies, pizza, popcorn or other goodies, and we brainstorm about ideas related to specific topics that need to be addressed to establish the children's village. These meetings have provided us with so many ideas, incredible inspiration, positive support and lots of laughs. They have been such a source of encouragement to both Greg and I as we work towards this vision.

Last week, the Kids Think Tank was a total blast. The group was full of incredible ideas about how to create a kid friendly environment, fundraise, volunteer, build support with other young people, etc. They are quite a force to reckon with and we look forward to seeing where they will go with this enthusiasm. Be sure to check out our Facebook photos from these sessions. (Compassion Fruit)

Still upcoming are:

Psychological ~ Thursday, May 29th~7pm
Financial Sustainability ~ Thursday, June 5th~7pm

Please think about joining us live or via the web!

We'll begin to re-visit some of the topics in the future~stay tuned for more Think Tanks!

All the Best from,

Heather (and Greg and the Board of Directors)

Many thanks to the "Thinkers" so far; Jason, Simon, Chris, (via iChat), Ilana (via iChat), Breanne, Jocelyne, Gin, Marc (via Skype), Roberto, Shamir, Surrinder, Kathy, Tim, Michael F, Kathy, Holly, Susan, Denis, Kate, Tamara, Meg, Naomi, Millicent, Ella, Paloma, Michael M (via iChat) and Lisa (via iChat)!