



# Lighthouse Station, Inc.

Empowering Children, Strengthening

May 2008



## Our Mission

Lighthouse Station, Inc. was founded in 2006 to help relieve the suffering of people living in poverty throughout the world. The victims of global poverty are often children who have few opportunities for education, medical care or a stable family environment. Lighthouse Station begins by identifying the needs and challenges of a particular community. With the help of partners and volunteers, a course of action is developed to build skills and knowledge necessary to create positive progress for future generations. But it is not just money and skills that are lost when a community suffers because of poverty. The real loss is hope for the future. Lighthouse Station is dedicated to the renewal of hope in areas we serve. We have seen it firsthand with families we have met over the last two years. Their

smiles signal their self-confidence that stems from the fact they can now provide for their children. Others who see their smiles soon want to learn how they can strengthen their own families. Before long, an empowered community is planning their own self-sufficiency. Lighthouse Station's overall goal is to extend assistance to underserved communities throughout the world. We are tremendously encouraged by the generosity and goodwill that exists in our world, and we look forward to continuing this heartfelt mission. Lighthouse Station is a faith-based 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization. We are committed to lend our voices, talents, time, and financial resources to improve the lives of the disadvantaged and disenfranchised children and families struggling to survive in this world.



Pictured above is our friend, Lucia. Lucia supports her four-month old son, Tomas, by selling the beautiful hand-made weavings in her hands. Lucia's smile is a perfect example of the Guatemalan spirit.



Directly above, our first host father, Luis, with his youngest daughter. To the right, the latest Mission Trip Crew, Pictured with our first Host Family and one of our children, Kevin: Mark, Ro, Max, Emily, Jared and, in his traditional clothing, our Long-Time friend from Chichi, Manuel.





## Lighthouse Station Harbor

The **Lighthouse Station Harbor** program provides a safe, spiritual, family-centered environment for children to live, learn, grow, and thrive. The first Lighthouse Station youth home opened April 2007, in Chichicastenango, Guatemala. This program was initiated to place homeless and orphaned children in a home environment where they can experience shelter, safety, schooling, and family support. Our first youth home developed into a growing outreach program to provide a safe harbor for these children, many of whom

were living on the streets. In addition to providing housing and educational costs, Lighthouse Station works with our partner, Maya Collaborative to provide medical care for the children. Lighthouse Station Harbor is entering an exciting new phase in its outreach. Plans are underway to expand this wonderful program and move the Harbor youth home from its current location to a new, residential facility to accommodate more children and to better serve their needs. We will keep you informed of the progress of this exciting development!



Lighthouse Station Board Member Emily Mathews playing with local children in Chichicastenango.

**The Lighthouse Station Harbor program provides a safe, spiritual,**

## Forever Families

The **Forever Families** program gives new hope to families struggling to provide basic necessities for their children. Some families, many with a single parent, face the unimaginable horror of giving up their children because they cannot afford to care for them. We saw this desperation firsthand when two young girls were placed in our Lighthouse Station Harbor program. Their mother loves them dearly but could no longer afford food, clothing and education for them. The situation was

heartbreaking for the children and the mother, and Lighthouse Station realized a better solution was to find a way for them to stay together. Working with contacts in the community, we assisted the mother with housing and an income with which to provide for her daughters. The family now thrives and was the inspiration for our Forever Families program, which has received tremendous positive

feedback from the local community. These families have new hope for themselves and their children.



## Lighthouse Learning

Meet Kevin, the first child in the Lighthouse station harbor program. Kevin was orphaned and living on the streets until he came to the harbor. Kevin is now a wonderful student and is beginning music lessons.



The **Lighthouse Learning** program makes the dream of going to school a reality for children with few educational opportunities. Lighthouse Station has developed a new scholarship program to target the high illiteracy and school dropout rates in Chichicastenango. This region is similar to many other impoverished areas around the world in that many families and communities cannot pay the costs

of educating their children. Lighthouse Station quickly discovered that this is an area where a little assistance can make a large difference. The price of educating a child in Guatemala is minimal, while the benefits are limitless. Our scholarship program works directly with local communities to select children in direct need of this assistance and to assess educational costs for each child.

## The History of Lighthouse Station

In 2006, Lighthouse Station began its mission work by establishing a pilot project in Chichicastenango, Guatemala, a mountainous region 90 miles northwest of Guatemala City. Through our partnership with a local church in Guatemala, Lighthouse Station identified the needs of many children and families in the area. We began our outreach by consulting with church members, local business leaders and local government officials to create programs that would best serve the needs of this community. Through **Lighthouse Station Har-**

**bor**, we operate a youth home for children ages six to 18; our **Families Forever** program works in the area of family sustainability; and **Lighthouse Learning** is a scholarship program to help children attend school.

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Board member Rolando diaz with local children. The kids love ro, who draws them caricatures and is known for always having colorful balls and fun balloons!!



## Partner Spotlight: Maya Collaborative



Max Kintner's help and assistance to Lighthouse Station as we developed our mission, outreach, and programs was vital to the success of Lighthouse Station in Guatemala. The Maya Collaborative is a developing coalition of NGOs, non-profits, individual donors and researchers who share a common goal of improving the quality of life in rural Guatemala. Max has been in constant communication with

Lighthouse Station to help as we researched costs for programs and looked for our first children and families to serve with our programs. His insight into the people, culture, and government in the Mayan areas of Guatemala has been tremendously valuable to us, and we owe him and his staff many thanks for their support.

[www.mayacollaborative.org](http://www.mayacollaborative.org)

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**“Whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you do unto me.”**

**Matthew 25:40**

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## Our Future Plans

Lighthouse Station is very proud to announce we are in the process of developing a new residential facility in Guatemala for our **Lighthouse Station Harbor** program. Our goal is to provide a safe, stable, family-centered environment for children to live, learn, grow, and thrive. The new facility will include separate residential areas for boys and girls, houses for two host families, a library/computer lab, kitchen

and dining area, a living area, and community gardens. Lighthouse Station is also committed to strengthening the surrounding community, providing common roads, an improved water source, a community soccer field, and providing support for the local school. Stay tuned for ways you can support our efforts. We will keep you posted on our progress in these exciting new developments!!





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### Support Lighthouse Station

Our programs and outreach are possible solely because of the generosity of donors and volunteers, and 100% of donations go directly to our mission work with children and families. Donations of any amount are accepted by Lighthouse Station and are tax-deductible under section 170 of the IRS code governing 501(c) 3 charitable organizations.

#### Sponsor a child in Lighthouse Station's Harbor program.

You can sponsor a child to live in Lighthouse Station's Harbor Home in Guatemala for \$80 U.S. per month. That is just over **\$2 a day!** The cost to sponsor one child to live in this wonderful community for a whole year is only \$960. For this contribution, your sponsored child will receive a loving, stable home environment as well as food, clothing, medical care, and an education.

#### Sponsor a family in the Forever Families program.

You can sponsor an entire family in our Forever Families program in Guatemala for \$120 U.S. per month, or \$1,440 per year. That is just **\$4 a day** to relieve a struggling family's suffering. Your sponsored family will receive food, housing, education for the children, and medical care for the whole family as well as classes and occupational opportunities for parents.

#### Sponsor a Lighthouse Learning scholarship.

You can sponsor a Lighthouse Learning scholarship and send a child to school in Guatemala for only \$20 U.S. per month, or \$240 per year. That is less than **\$1 a day** to give a child an opportunity that will drastically improve his or her future. Sponsoring a child's education is the most effective way to ensure these children will have the skills necessary to gain employment in the future.

### Additional Support Opportunities

#### Market Day Parties

Lighthouse Station volunteers also will host "Market Day Parties" where you can bring friends to learn more about our Lighthouse Station programs and to purchase authentic, exquisite arts and crafts from the historical market in Chichicastenango. These woven textiles and carved woodwork items are handmade by the indigenous Mayan people who live in villages in the mountains around Chichi. You will not want to miss this opportunity to learn about an ancient culture and to see this spectacular native craftwork. All proceeds directly benefit Lighthouse Station programs in Guatemala.

#### Mission Trips

Lighthouse Station is honored by the number of requests we receive from people who wish to be part of our mission. We encourage anyone interested in this unique opportunity to join us on our next trip to Guatemala. Please contact us for information and how you can be involved.

#### Lighthouse Station Harbor Capital Campaign

Lighthouse Station is very proud to announce we are in the process of developing a new residential facility in Guatemala for our Lighthouse Station Harbor program. Our goal is to provide a safe, stable, family-centered environment for children to live, learn, grow, and thrive. The new state-of-the-art facility will include separate residential areas for boys and girls, houses for two host families, a library/computer lab, kitchen and dining area, a living area, a soccer field, and community gardens.