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Year End Report

A reflection on blessings



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on 2024, we are filled with gratitude for the growth and resilience we've experienced as a ministry, even amidst challenges. Our work is built on three essential pillars: the tireless efforts of our team running the ministry in Guatemala, our stateside support coordinator, and the dedication of our home office team. Together, these efforts are making a lasting impact on the lives of the Deaf community in Guatemala and beyond.

Our Work in Guatemala

This year, our work in Guatemala flourished through transformative programs and initiatives led by Albina, Emely, and Vanessa.

- **Accredited Lensegua Certification Program**

Albina oversees this vital program, ensuring the certification of interpreters who meet high standards in communicating with the Deaf. This program is critical for bridging communication gaps and elevating the quality of life for Deaf individuals in Guatemala.



- **Deaf Socials**

Held monthly, these gatherings provide opportunities for socialization, vocabulary building, and a deeper understanding of biblical concepts introduced in church. Through small group instruction, participants gain clarity and form lasting connections.



- **Congresso**

A skills-based workshop designed for the Deaf to learn life and employment skills and expand their vocabulary. It also helps interpreters improve their communication skills with the Deaf.



- **Camps for Deaf Adults**

These camps continue to be life-changing for attendees, providing language instruction, vocational training, and a sense of community that many have never experienced before.

- **Partnering with local churches**

Local churches are the key to our success! Without their partnerships, we wouldn't be able to continue the vital work of the ministry in Guatemala! This year we have been able to move the interpreter from a corner in the projected screen to an in-person experience on the stage which enables the interpreter to gauge the comprehension of the Deaf and clarify in real time any questions that arise. In addition we now have a Bible study every Sunday for the Deaf! We bring the Gospel to the Deaf every single Sunday in cooperation with our local churches.



The topography of Guatemala is challenging to navigate and many Deaf in outlying areas are isolated by the rugged terrain. Our regional outreach programs made a significant impact. Additionally, our focus on expanding our pastor training program remains by partnering with Deaf pastors from the United States, which will better equip pastors in Guatemala to lead their congregations, addressing the lack of Bible schools or seminaries for the Deaf in the country.



The Home Office: Resilience Amid Challenges

Roy (CEO) and Myra (Director of Operations) have continued to manage the home office with steadfast dedication.

- Roy has skillfully overseen the finances of Latin Deaf Services Inc., ensuring that every dollar is maximized for ministry impact. He also works outside the mission and, like Myra, does not collect a salary for his efforts.
- Myra provides critical operational support, enabling the smooth running of our programs and outreach.



Despite the direct hits of Hurricanes Helene and Milton this year, the home office remained operational. However, the storms devastated much of our primary support base, significantly impacting donations as families faced the loss of homes and economic hardship. We remain committed to our mission and deeply grateful for the continued generosity of those who have supported us through these challenging times.

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The Work of Kimberly, Stateside Support Coordinator

Kimberly has been busy sustaining and expanding our ministry from the U.S. Her roles this year included:

- Speaking at conferences and churches to raise awareness and support.
- Recruiting stateside pastors to mentor Guatemalan pastors, bridging the gap in theological education for the Deaf.
- Coordinating short-term mission teams, ensuring a seamless connection between our supporters and the field.
- Keeping our newsletter running, maintaining the website, and managing donation platforms.
- Actively seeking grants and donors to secure the future of our programs.



This is Kimberly's second year in this position and she has been learning the "Post-Covid" strategies that non-profits need to use for gaining support. Kimberly's in-person meetings with churches, organizations and individuals have been pivotal in ensuring that the resources needed for our programs in Guatemala continue to grow and thrive.

Be sure to be on the lookout for Kimberly on her travels!!

If you have a group or organization you feel needs to hear about Latin Deaf Services, reach out to Kimberly to arrange a time for her to present the work.

Text: 727-278-3824

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Looking Ahead

As we move into 2025, we are excited about the upcoming Chosen Camp for the Deaf, set to take place January 24–26. This annual event offers Deaf individuals from Guatemala and across Latin America the opportunity to learn, grow, and connect.



With your continued support, we aim to:

- Expand our pastor training program with the help of Deaf pastors from the United States.
- Increase the reach of our language instruction programs, including the Lensegua certification.
- Provide more opportunities for the Deaf to gain life skills, employment skills, and community connections.

*Thank.
You!*



None of this would be possible without you—our faithful supporters. Together, we are breaking the cycle of isolation, poverty, and vulnerability for the Deaf in Guatemala, giving them tools to thrive in language, faith, and life.

Thank you for being a vital part of this journey. As we look to the future, we ask for your prayers, encouragement, and continued support.

With gratitude,
The Team at Latin Deaf Services Inc.