

## Guatemala Project

Jacqueline Mealing is a member of St. Matthias and has been leading compassionate projects in Guatemala for the last 20 years. St Matthias has chosen to include this as part of the church's mission outreach and has contributed through the sale and purchase of the hand-woven Mayan scarves and personal donations. This has made a difference in the lives of indigenous families.

Jacqueline's work in Guatemala has centred around meeting the needs of impoverished Mayan communities. Her philosophy has been and is "Listen to the hearts of the people."

Some of her initiatives in the last few years have been in:

- establishing a mobile dental clinic which serves many villages around Lake Atitlan, Guatemala;
- fund-raising for, and design of, two children's playgrounds;
- supervision of the installation of more than 1,500 energy-efficient, smokeless wood stoves;
- the creation of two active women's centres in Mayan communities;
- establishing scholarships for secondary education;
- creating courses for education in health, nutrition, and general well-being;
- initiation of an on-going latrine installation project with mid-island Rotary clubs;
- raising funds for the purchase and distribution of school supplies to impoverished Mayan children;
- educating weavers in the development of marketable products;
- organizing and equipping literacy programs for adults;
- education and establishment of a sustainable organic community garden.

In the new year a group of volunteers from the Island will accompany Jacqueline to Guatemala. She is an active member of mid-Island KAIROS and is available to make a presentation to interested groups; however, she will be away in Guatemala for a good part of 2014.

Contact: [jacquelinemealing@gmail.com](mailto:jacquelinemealing@gmail.com)

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