

In Special Consultative Status with the United Nations

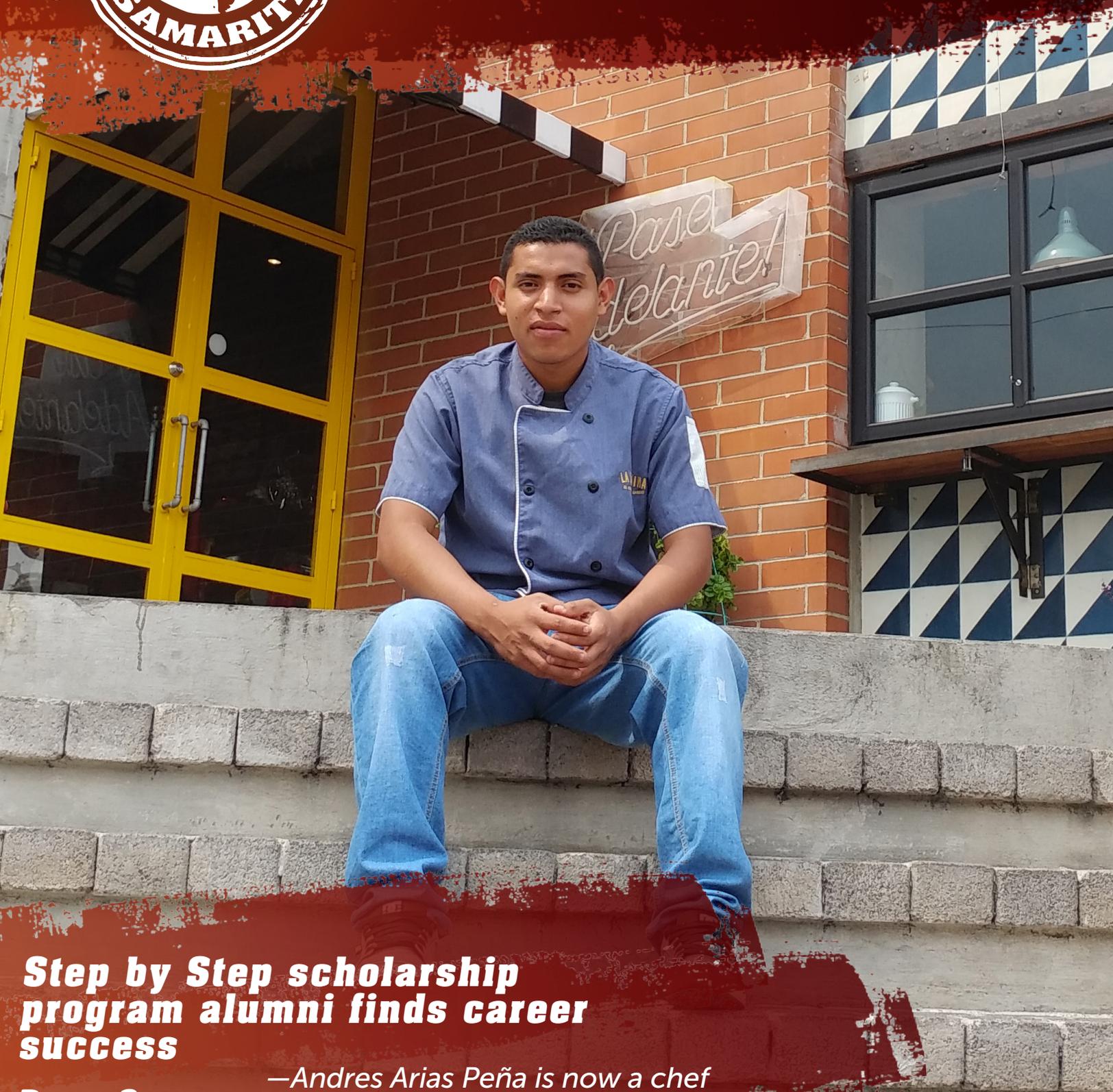


intsam.org

Summer Edition

SAMARITAN WORLD

News for the friends of International Samaritan



Step by Step scholarship program alumni finds career success

—Andres Arias Peña is now a chef

Make an impact.

Dear friends,

As the recently canonized Saint Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) once said: *"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin."*

When confronted with tragedy after tragedy, it is easy to become cynical - or worse, neutral - to the appalling conditions under which so many of the least of our brothers and sisters live.

Since the release of the last edition of Samaritan World, a string of catastrophes even more immense and heartbreaking than what is typical has arisen:

- Three tragic fires in one of the poorest and most dangerous areas of Guatemala City.
- The damage of the Santa Clara Nursery in Guatemala City, which has left hundreds of young,

innocent students without a daycare and school to attend while their parents work in the dump.

- And of course, a horrific landslide in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia which has taken the lives of over 113 individuals, including a 6-year-old Step by Step scholarship student.

At times like this, obstacles and challenges can seem impossible to overcome.

However, here at International Samaritan, we are inspired and motivated to work harder than ever before to end garbage dump poverty and make sure that no one must live in such appalling and dangerous conditions.

Time and time again, we've

proven that the most impactful route out of the dump is through education and quality jobs.

As the stories of Andres (page 3) and Yeshialem (page 7) prove, being born in the dump need not be a death sentence.

With the help of generous people like you, we're investing in schools, scholarships and vocational training that create a direct pathway from despair to dignity.

Stop and save a life today by making a donation and investing in those fighting hard every day for a way out of the dump. We cannot change the past, but together we can change the future. Please consider supporting our mission.

Many blessings,

Oscar Dussán

President
International Samaritan



Sponsor

Help send children to school so they can escape from poverty.



Donate

Give money, hold a local fundraiser, send children to school. Every dollar helps.



Volunteer

Service trips to help teach, build houses, provide medical services and care for infants happen year round.



Lead

Contact our office for information about starting an I.S. campus chapter at your high school or university.

RUN FOR RELIEF

Runners raise over \$5000 for Guatemala City fire victims. Read more on **page 5**.

MEDICAL MISSION

Medical team prepares to provide care in Nicaragua on **page 6**.



Angela Malburg, Andres Arias Peña, and Dan Weingartz

I.S. Step by Step Scholarship Program at a Glance

Fully-Funded

Educational experiences, which include tuition, textbooks, school supplies, uniforms, transportation and medical attention, lead to better job prospects and improved quality of life

Enrollment

135 Step by Step scholarship students

4 Countries

Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, Ethiopia

Goal

100 additional grants given to students by 2018

Education Leads to Quality Jobs

I.S. invests heavily in the Step by Step scholarship program because we know firsthand that a good education creates a path from the garbage dump to dignified, stable and safe jobs, as per Goal 8 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Andres Arias Peña, a Step by Step scholarship program graduate from Guatemala City, is one of many program alumni using the skills he's learned to build a better life for himself. When Andres was younger, his cousin was killed by a local gang member. Instead of seeking revenge, he worked hard and invested in himself and is now working as a chef at an exclusive restaurant in one of Guatemala City's most exclusive neighborhoods.

In February, Andres was visited at work by board member Dan Weingartz and his sister Angela Malburg. Both were impressed by his skills and thrilled to see him happy and smiling at work.

We are proud of Andres and all of our Step by Step scholarship students, who work hard to overcome vast obstacles and create a better future for themselves and their families. Your support of the Step by Step scholarship program will help other students like Andres find their own path to success.



Aims of Goal 8: Good Jobs and Economic Growth

- Achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all men and women
- Develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment
- Promote safe and secure working environments for all workers



Source: UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform

ETHIOPIA LANDSLIDE

Addis Ababa dump community mourns loss of child, seeks to rebuild and move forward. Learn more on **page 4**.

NICARAGUA

Nicaraguan homebuilding program benefactor receives life-saving operation on **page 7**.

Photo: Birhanu's mother Radia stands at the door of their shack. Trash from the landslide stopped just before burying the house - Radia calls it a miracle.



Community mourns the loss of student, receives good news about program expansion

Over 100 dead and countless homes destroyed in largest such tragedy in over 50 years

On Saturday, March 11, 2017 at approximately 8 pm local time, a massive landslide of trash buried residents of the Kore dump community, destroying makeshift homes built of mud, thatch, plastic tarp and cardboard. According to Al Jazeera, the Kore dump, where 500 people work as official employees and thousands more as informal recyclers and garbage collectors, receives about 820 tons of waste daily.

Student, Mother Among Those Found Dead

Kalkidan Muluken, a 6-year-old scholarship student in the Step by Step program, is among the 113 who died in the landslide of garbage.



Kalkidan's body was found in an embrace with her mother's.

Kalkidan disliked living in the dangerous conditions of the dump and picking through trash with her

mother. Receiving an education, a luxury her family could not afford, was her dream come true. In her last letter to International Samaritan, she said the following:

"My greatest wish has been to go to school so that I can stay as far as possible from the garbage area. (Since receiving) the scholarship, not only do I go to school, but I also get food 3 times a day. My mother still goes to the garbage dump, but since I go to school now, she doesn't ask me to go with her. I am happy and unlike past years, I don't get sick often. This makes me even happier."

To lose an innocent young child is tragic and heartbreaking. The majority of those missing are women and children, according to Ethiopia Program Director Selam Terefe.

I.S. to Invest in Home Building, Scholarship Programs

International Samaritan, in addition to bolstering its investment in education, nutrition and healthcare for the Kore community, is currently organizing activities, games, music and other sources of emotional and psychological

support for Step by Step scholarship students that have been traumatized by the landslide.

Birhanu Godanna, is one such student. He lives with his mother, an HIV positive garbage dump worker, in a metal shack on the edge of the garbage dump. With the money he earns scavenging, he helps pay their rent.

Birhanu lost several friends in the landslide—none of those missing were found alive. With the loss of Kalkidan, Birhanu will now receive her scholarship and have a chance at a better life away from the dump.



Thanks to a generous grant from a donor, International Samaritan will be able to greatly expand the number of scholarship students supported in the coming years, helping to ensure that more children will be out of harm's way.

Third Fire Destroys Portions of Santa Clara Nursery in Guatemala — Fundraising Continues

Last winter, Samaritan World reported on two weeks-apart blazes that dislocated hundreds of people in Zone 3. Most recently, an accidental fire at a plastics recycling facility has damaged portions of the Santa Clara Nursery next to the garbage dump, leaving parts of the facility with smoke damage and perimeter walls structurally unsound and dangerous. Until funds are raised and repairs are made, 300 students ranging from infancy to 5 years of age are unable to receive the care, attention, nutrition and safety that the nursery provides while their parents are working in the dump.

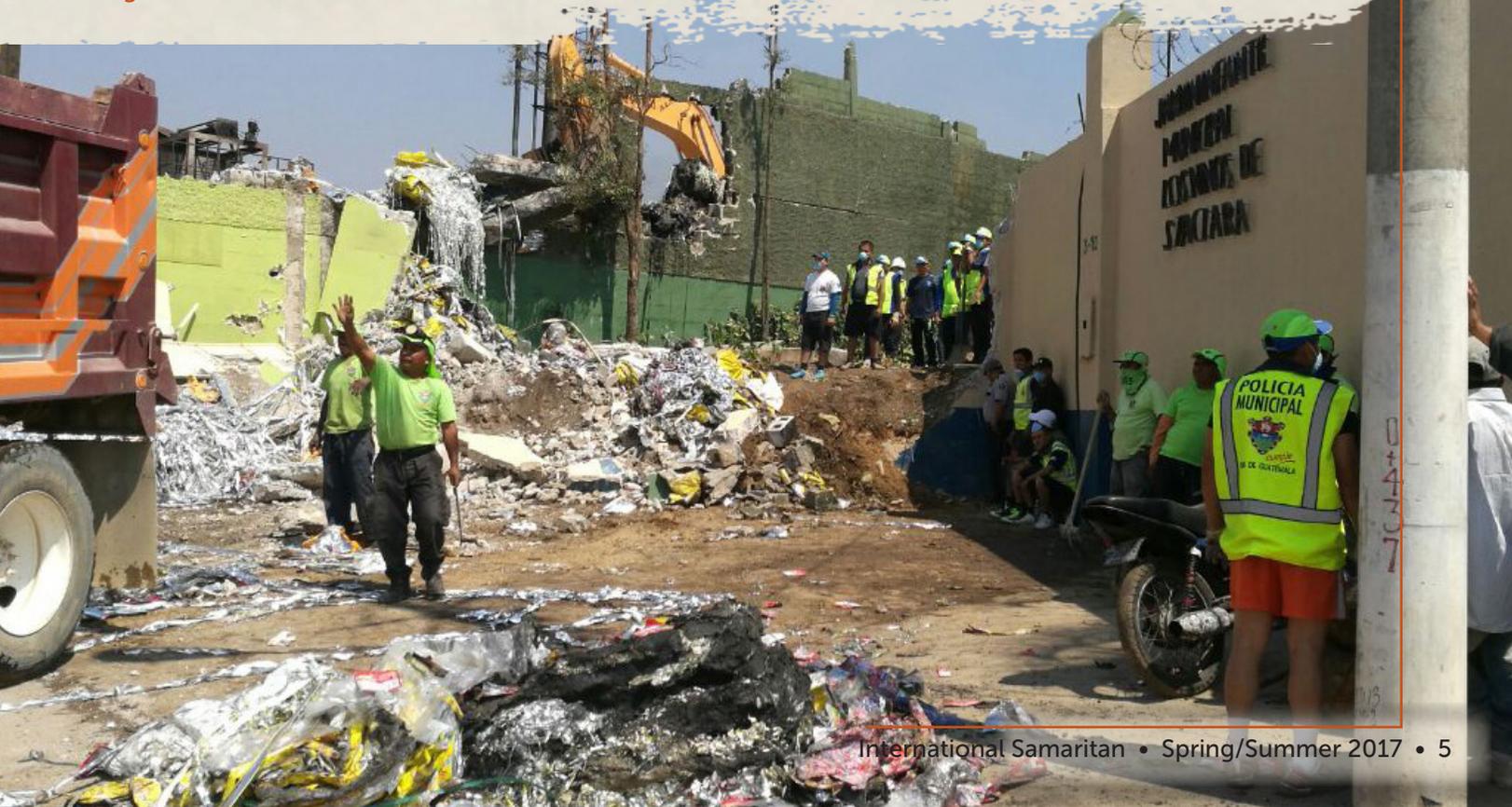
International Samaritan's emergency fund for the Guatemala City blaze got a large boost on Sunday, March 26, when a team of dedicated fundraisers took to the streets of Ann Arbor, MI to raise money for relief efforts. Together, the team raised over \$5000 to kickstart the rebuilding of homes and the nursery, and to aid families that have been displaced by the tragic and unexpected fires. Participants included members of the University of Michigan Campus Chapter.

I.S. is grateful to the team for their hard work and dedication, but funds are still sorely needed. *Please consider making a donation today by visiting intsam.org or mailing a check to 803 N. Main St; Ann Arbor, MI 48104.*



Above: Run for Relief team members braved the rain and cold. Thank you to Kate Anderson, Ellen Brooks, Oscar Dussán, Jonathan Hill, Olivia Huebel, Thomas Friedlander, Liz and Micah Ludwig-Borycz, Renee and Pat McDermitt, Lily Miller, Andrew Pawuk, Chloe Steffke, John Walsh, Brittany and Peter Whaley, Sean Yanik and Analise Yaldao.

Below: Crews begin to clear debris after the fire that destroyed parts of the Santa Clara nursery, including a building wall, and rendered others damaged and structurally unsound. This is the third such blaze in a three month span.



Friends of International Samaritan,

In the midst of our service immersion trip season, we are truly grateful for all of the institutions that continue to serve with us.

Recently, we welcomed home from Guatemala and Nicaragua our longtime partners of Spring Hill College, University of Toledo Honors College, and St. Mary's Student Parish at the University of Michigan. These students built homes and relationships, while learning about the root causes of poverty and understanding the meaningful impact of volunteer work.

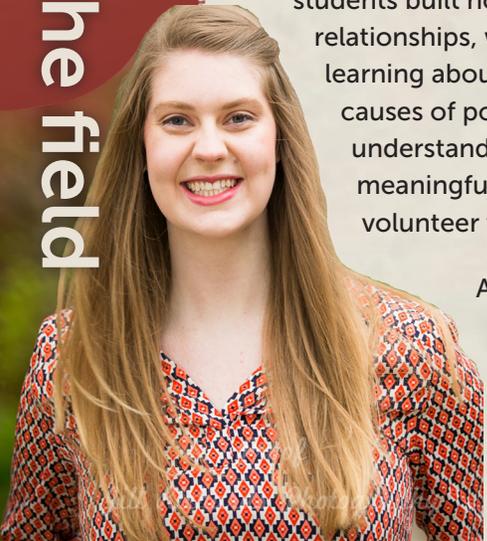
to expand the number of volunteers we send to Central America every year, increasing our impact both at our program sites and on the young people who serve with us. We welcome any suggestions or leads you have about potential partners to help us grow in the future. In the coming months, volunteers are also needed for medical missions. Your support is critical to making positive changes in lives around the world.

As we continue to grow our mission, we are hoping

Many blessings,

Sarah Daniel

International Service Coordinator
International Samaritan



Want to volunteer?

Join us for a summer medical mission:

July 29-August 6, 2017
GUATEMALA

August 13-20, 2017
NICARAGUA

For more details, visit intsam.org/medical-missions or email Mateusz Plaza at mateusz@intsam.org.



Medical Mission Returns to Nicaragua

From May 22nd through 28th, Brother Jim Boynton's medical mission will serve in the Nueva Vida Health Clinic in Ciudad Sandino, Nicaragua. Brother Boynton will be joined by seven Jesuit candidates and a medical team of two doctors, three dentists, one paramedic, and two nurses. They will provide dental care and medical treatment, and they expect to treat over 1,000 patients.

International Samaritan's medical missions meet an urgent and essential need of the garbage dump community.

According to the World Bank, only 3.7 percent of individuals in Nicaragua's garbage dump communities receive preventive healthcare, and almost none receive emergency care. UNICEF estimates that over 30 percent of garbage dump children suffer from severe malnutrition. Because of International Samaritan's medical efforts, thousands of people have been given healthcare and two medical clinics have been built in Central America. Please join our efforts this summer.

Dr. Harry Carr will return to Nicaragua to provide medical care at the Nueva Vida clinic.





Volunteering Safely

At International Samaritan, the safety of our volunteers is always of primary concern and importance.

In addition to communicating several times daily with in-country staff members and carefully monitoring State Department warnings and in-country news sources, I.S. collaborates with local police and security officers whenever it could be considered helpful.

Police and security have been a part of volunteer groups across the countries where we work for many years now. Officers know the community well and are respected and recognized within the area. While the nature of their work is serious, some have been known to joke with student volunteers, putting groups that may be nervous on their first days in a new environment at ease.

Officers at program sites throughout the world play a vital role in the success of our volunteer programs, and I.S. thanks them sincerely for their continued service.

Left: Guatemalan security team working alongside the Spring Hill College volunteer team poses for a photo.

Microenterprises in Ethiopia

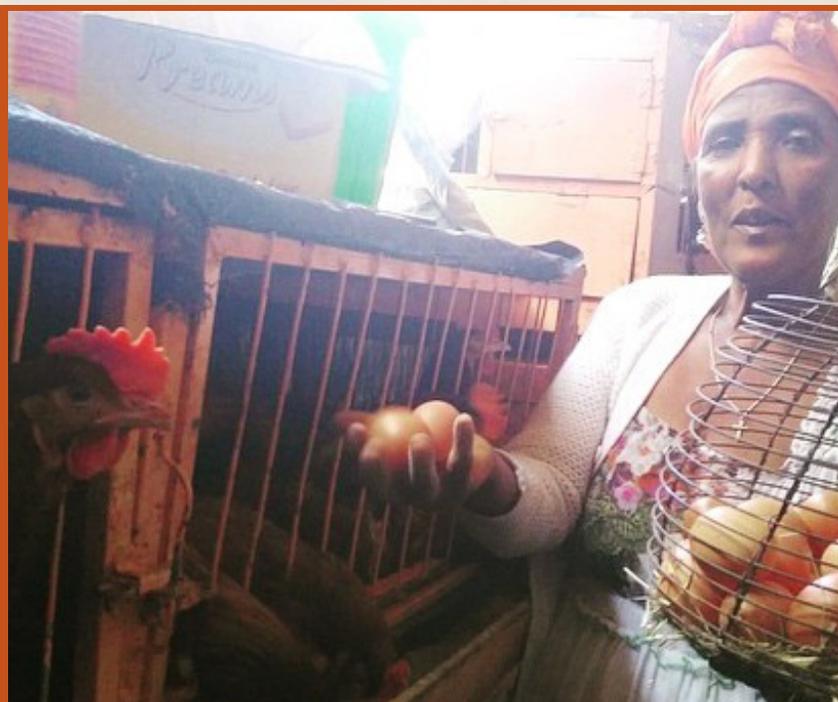
The tragedy of the Ethiopia landslide shows in a poignant, heart-wrenching way just how imperative dignified work is to ending garbage dump poverty.

Luckily, several of International Samaritan's microenterprise projects in the Kore community are helping women move away from the dangerous work of the dump and into safer fields that they can feel proud of.

These women, who had previously been successful with a kale cooperative funded by a microloan from I.S., have recently started their own egg production cooperative. In just one and a half months they have already begun to turn a profit, earning equivalent to hundreds of US dollars, according to in-country coordinator Selam Terefe.

Currently, the cooperative is looking to purchase more chickens to grow the business and maintain its sustainability.

Right: Yeshialem, a woman from the Kore garbage dump community, earns sustainable income through her work.



Nicaraguan Woman Receives Life-Saving Operation

Angélica Fuerte of Granada, Nicaragua has spent almost her entire life working in the garbage dump. From the age of 5 onward, she has scavenged for plastic, aluminum and metal to support her parents, siblings, and 3 school-aged children. Her story is featured in I.S.'s first virtual reality video (highlighted in the previous edition of Samaritan World), "The Story of a New Home".

In February 2017, Angélica fell ill due to ongoing complications with kidney stones. I.S. staff members Angélica Cancinos and Francisco Davila quickly arranged for surgery at a private hospital, as well as food and financial support for the Fuerte family while Angélica recovers from her surgery and is unable to work.

"I feel so blessed for all the wonderful things I.S. has done for my family," Fuerte said. "I have no words to thank you. I thank God for having the opportunity to know such beautiful people."

Left: Angelica Fuerte is cared for by a Nicaraguan nurse after receiving a vital kidney operation. I.S. sponsored all associated costs of her surgery, hospital stay and recovery.

Dear Friends,

We recently experienced profound tragedy in the Kore garbage dump in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The story of Kalkidan, a young scholarship student we tragically lost in the landslide, is featured in this edition of Samaritan World.

I had to ask myself, "How God can possibly bring good from this?" We are taught that God draws all things to Himself for good. But it is simply impossible to understand how the poorest people on the earth should have to grapple with such a tragic ending to young and innocent lives.

Blessed Charles de Foucauld once wrote: "Let us concern ourselves with those who lack everything, those of whom no one thinks. Let us be the friends of those who have no friends."

International Samaritan did have concerns for those who died in the dump. We knew them. They were our friends; we knew them personally. They are representative of the thousands we serve in similar circumstances around the world.

The mysterious presence of Jesus Christ in these poor people creates a hunger in the soul that grows with each encounter. This tragedy is a hidden gift of the sacred mystery of God's personal presence.

Our faith tells us that these innocent people are now with God, and their deaths can bring, and have brought, a deepening of spiritual life to those who come closer to God as a result of this tragedy.

Let us trust God's wisdom and providence as we continue to serve the least of His people, and be served by them.

Yours in Christ,

Father Don Vettese, S. J.

Founder
International Samaritan



803 N. Main Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
P (734) 222-0701
info@intsam.org



BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND COUNCIL

- Alvaro Andrade
Guatemala City
- J. Michael Bernard
Detroit, MI
- Fr. Brian Lehane, S.J.
Detroit, MI
- Christopher Lindsey
New York, NY
- Geoffrey Lyden, III
Toledo, OH
- Fr. Thomas Pipp, S.J.
St. Paul, MN
- Karen Pulte
Naples, FL
- Joe Rideout
Toledo, OH
- Scott Savage
Sylvania, OH
- Duane Stranahan, Jr.
Naples, FL

Truman Timmis
Birmingham, MI

Joan Vatterott
St. Louis, MO

John Vatterott
St. Louis, MO

Dan Weingartz
Shelby Township, MI

Fr. Don Vettese, S.J.
Founder

EMERITUS BOARD MEMBERS

Clay Mathile
William Pulte

Oscar Dussán
President

Andrew Pawuk
Vice President of Operations

Kenneth M. Coleman
Research Consultant

Is Planned Giving Right for You?

Would you like to see our work continue for years to come? Would you like to donate but don't currently have the budget? Would you like your legacy to include serving the poorest and most marginalized children? **If any of these questions hit home, planned giving is an option to consider.** By adding a provision to your will or trust, a donation is a paid after death, and after beneficiaries are paid. It will cost you nothing during your lifetime. International Samaritan is offering free professional counsel to anyone interested in planned giving. We are happy to discuss how our strategic needs fit your interests. Please call Fr. Don Vettese at our office at (734) 222-0701 for further information.

