We see the posts on Facebook and other media about the kids heading back to school, and realize how another North American summer has rapidly drawn to an close. And while for us here the children continued in their classes and normal routines, we also had a bit of “summer experience” with the presence of many teams that ministered here over the US summer months. Since March we have had more than 15 teams and other groups who have engaged in projects, activities with the kids, and some ministry work outside of Fundaniños. The teams’ presence here means a lot of extra activities and interactions for the kids, and they have blessed us with many completed projects. The kids love the times of games, VBS type of activities, special food events, and other such celebrations the teams bring. Projects accomplished include a renovation (painting, new ceilings, new room) for the boys’ house, re-staining of the outdoor play equipment, replacing the flag stone in the driveway, a new fence for the chickens and other fowl with repairs in the chicken house, repainting the exterior of the school, a total repainting of the dining room and baby house, and many other smaller projects that needed to be done. Many of the teams stayed with us in the new volunteer house (over 220 people this year so far), allowing for more time with the kids during meals and afternoons after school. A big THANK YOU to the teams who blessed us at Fundaniños in this way and we look forward to the upcoming team season.
**The Egg Challenge** given by Risa in our last newsletter brought a variety of food options to “doll up” the eggs that we serve for four or five meals a week. Ketchup, sausages, bacon, hotdogs, and hot sauces are now added regularly to the menu to give a little variety to the typical scrambled eggs. The kids very much enjoy the additional flavors. Over $450 were donated, and we continue to purchase items to use. We also recently began experimenting with different casseroles using donated bread, eggs, and milk, with the typical responses of mixed reviews from the kids with different palates and tastes.

With a total of 58 children now living at Fundaníños, our days are full. The summer was very busy with the teams coming through. Barb was in charge of the volunteer house, keeping it ready for the >200 guests who stayed there, in addition to her other activities with the kids. Denny found plenty to do with the general organizing of everything for the kids and home, doctor appointments, general maintenance, food and other purchases, together with Barb, trying to keep everything in a general state of organization. Trying to keep a balance of the administrative, interactional time for the children, as well as carving out family time, is an ongoing learning curve for us.

Omar continues to train with the ROJOS soccer team four evenings a week. He recently changed schools to a smaller, home school based curriculum but in a classroom setting, where he attends four days a week. It is fun seeing him interact as a big brother with so many of the kids, especially the little ones who seem drawn to him. Risa returned to the States in June and worked for the summer at Camp Hebron as a counselor, and will be working in the Lancaster area for the fall. Abby continues to be a huge help around Fundaníños with transportation of the kids to different activities, shopping, volunteering at our church, and building relationships with some of the girls. Maredith just started her final semester of studies in Nursing at Harrisburg Area Community College and is looking forward to graduating in December. She also fills the rest of her time at Chick-Fil-A, which has been a wonderful place for her to work. We look forward to being together as a family over the Christmas holidays here in Guatemala.

Our lives have recently taken us back to our early years of marriage with the arrival of Sofie, who came to Fundaníños when she was 14 hours old. Because of the high level of care she requires as a newborn, she is staying with us right now, until we are able to place her with the other younger kids. As for all the children here, we pray she will be able to be in a stable, permanent, family situation as soon as possible.

Sometimes at the end of the day we look back and wonder what all we did in the day, but know the day was full and we are tired. Please pray that we will find strength for each new day, to understand how to keep the balance of tough love/encouraging/correcting/guiding in a way that demonstrates God’s best and desire for each child. As we see the kids and hear their stories, as we watch them change and be confronted by God’s love, and as we look forward with hope for the plans God has for each one of them, we are thankful for the opportunity to be part of this ministry, and trust God to provide what is needed to do this well. Thank you for supporting us in prayer.

**Being a Partner in Ministry:** Our work here depends on the faithful prayer and financial support of those, like you, who stand with us. We are in a battle for the hearts and lives of the young people we care for, so please keep them, and us, in your prayers.

We serve as volunteers, so our support is derived from the tax-deductible donations of our partners to cover our living, travel, food, medical, school, and other personal expenses, as well as providing other services from our personal funds for the kids in our care. We are in a time of somewhat decreased financial income and increased expenses. We wish to be faithful stewards of the gifts that are given to us, and trust God to provide. Please consider a one time or regular gift to support our ministry here.

We partner with Commission to Every Nation (CTEN) to provide financial and spiritual oversight for our work here. Donations can be mailed directly to them, with a note on a separate paper indicating your preference for the funds for our ministry, at CTEN, PO Box 291307, Kerrville, TX, 78029-1307, or made online at www.cten.org/dennisfreed through credit card of bank transfer. Thank you for your faithful support in helping the children with whom we work find a hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11).