


Bulletin



La
Alianza
Guatemala

JANUARY - AUGUST 2021





**«Utopia lies at the horizon»,
Eduardo Galeano said,
«When I draw nearer by two steps,
it retreats two steps. If I proceed
ten steps forward, it swiftly slips
ten steps ahead. No matter how far I go,
I can never reach it. What, then,
is the purpose of utopia?
It is to cause us to advance»**





At La Alianza, we don't stop. Children and adolescents keep coming in for protection, but above all, to get back on track and transform their lives, confident they can be happy.

Our efforts and those of our supporters, individuals, institutions and organizations, bear fruit in the life of every child and adolescent, despite the troubled and unprotective environments they live in. The State is historically in debt to children and adolescents, and it continues to be the corrupt, careless and absent character in this story, especially in the times of COVID-19, when vaccination has not yet reached the majority, poverty has been deepened and violence against women of all ages has increased. All of the above prevents to fully exercise the human rights of children and adolescents.

In such a panorama, girls and boys, children and adolescents can't live happy, dignified lives, but undoubtedly, in all that depends on you, or us, they are already transforming their lives and acquiring tools for a human rights respect-based life. The following is a sample of everything they did in their daily lives with utopia as their horizon.



Comprehensive care

AMBULATORY AND RESIDENTIAL

The Ambulatory Care Center, headquarters of La Alianza in Coatepeque, through the psychosocial and legal areas, carried out outpatient psychotherapy activities, parental skills training and provided legal advice to children and adolescent boys and girls (NNA) and their families.

Coatepeque Ambulatory Care Program team, with the National Director of La Alianza





Physical and emotional health

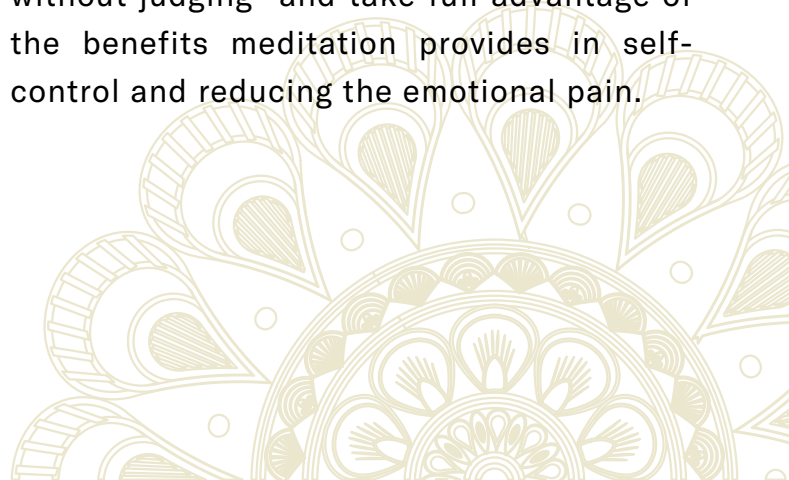
All children and adolescent boys and girls who entered the residence received general, pediatric and gynecological medical care, as needed. The babies were vaccinated and received physical stimulation according to their age at the nursery.

The adolescent mothers received obstetric care, as well as follow-up care during their pregnancy, delivery and postpartum stages.

In July, the coronavirus took a hit on us, actions needed to be implemented, medical care was provided to the 22 adolescents who contracted COVID, they were given medications, the Ministry of Health helped us in part. They all recovered and returned to their usual activities while we continued with the biosafety protocols to prevent new infections. In addition, we provided training on the subject and how to protect ourselves.



The psychology area inaugurated a space for meditation and relaxation that allows us to provide guided meditation, aroma and music therapy to 8 to 10 adolescents simultaneously, through aromatic candles, music and plants, to connect with the peace and tranquility within themselves. It basically seeks to comply with the principles of mindfulness: "intentionally pay attention to the present moment, without judging" and take full advantage of the benefits meditation provides in self-control and reducing the emotional pain.



The psychology team facilitated the Mother School program to the adolescents at ALA, where they had the opportunity to share their experiences, thoughts and ideas about human rights of children and adolescent boys and girls, but also, of the infant children of institutionalized adolescents, pursuing a responsible motherhood observing due respect for your rights. During current pandemic, the most important thing is to continue learning and growing, united, on the path of motherhood.



FORMAL EDUCATION

After all the holidays activities: the dance party, the gifts and a delightful dinner, in the midst of the biosafety protocols to stay away from COVID-19, the 2021 school year was inaugurated on January 18; the child and adolescent girls carried out integration dynamics and received their school supplies.

They attended face-to-face classes with the faculty members of the educational program Monday-to-Friday throughout 2021.

They always wore their mask, frequently washed their hands and maintained physical distancing whenever possible.



VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

With the support of INTECAP, a vocational training center, the NNAs learned how to carry out ambulatory sales from a mobile kitchen on a vehicle. They were taught how to prepare pizzas, which were later consumed in ALA, a delicious option to generate income!

This teenager learned how to make a delicious banana bread. The ALA staff later bought it from her! Others learned how to make pasta and sweet bread.



Safety

In February, on the anniversary of the 1976 earthquake, both resident NNAs and staff of ALA held an earthquake drill to practice preventive measures in case a similar phenomenon occurs.



ART, SPORTS and GAMES

The art teacher and the residents of Asociación La Alianza, through the Coatepeque Ambulatory Care program, painted a mural addressing Women's Rights.

The child and adolescent girls of ALA participate in the Marimba workshop with their teacher Esteban, who directs them to interpret melodies and learn more about this wonderful instrument. They also learned to play clarinet, keyboard, guitar, drums, flute, and tambourine.

Throughout the pandemic they have done physical education inside the premises, but on March 19 they happily resumed soccer practices at the outdoor field, following all biosafety protocols. They continue to have the support of the coaches of the Ministry of Culture and Sports. This lasted until July, when the coronavirus reached our residence and we had to put it on hold for a while.





On March 22, a bike path inside the residence was inaugurated. They have six bikes and take turns using them.



On March 30, the child and adolescent girls played with water-filled balloons and had a lot of fun. This is how they started the summer week along with their teachers from the educational program, and other educators from the residence.





ACCESS TO JUSTICE

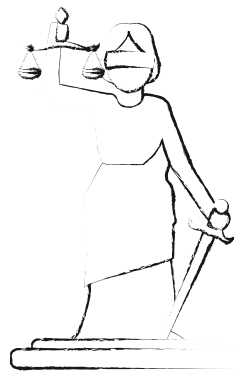
We started the year with a significant 42-year conviction against a sex offender.



We participated in several criminal proceedings such as tours of the places where the investigation is being carried out, depositions in a Gesell chamber, DNA sample extractions. All kind of procedures implemented to identify people involved in sexual assaults or human trafficking committed against girls who are under the care and protection of Asociación La Alianza.

In March and October, the legal team held workshops on Human Trafficking to inform the resident girls about what trafficking is, the phases of this crime and why it is called modern slavery.

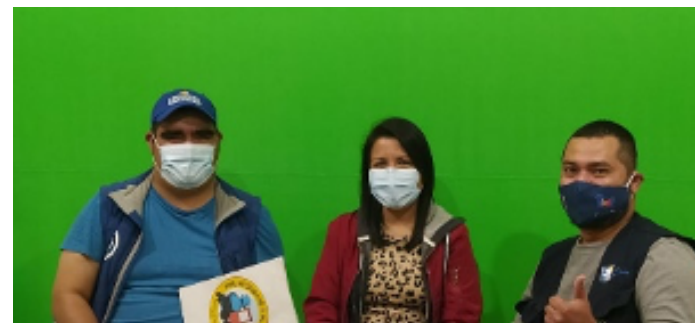




Workshop of the legal team of ALA Guatemala, with the NA, on "The protection process, our rights and responsibilities."

PREVENTION

During 2020 and the beginning of the current year, we started working on prevention in the municipality of Nebaj, department of Quiché.



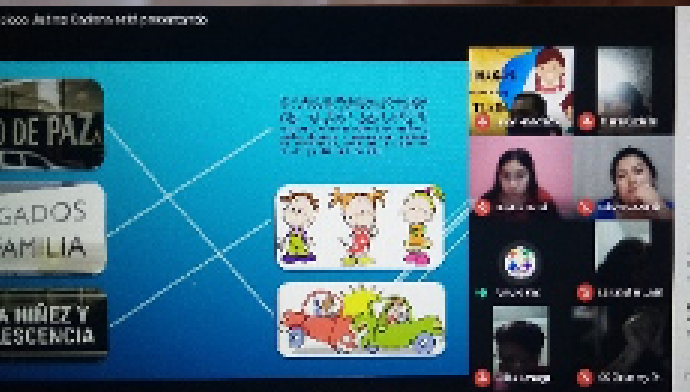
We started by informing the population about the work of La Alianza on human trafficking, a crime that must be prevented in a coordinated way.

The prevention team carried out an informative activity on violence with adolescents from Aldea Antigua Xonca, Nebaj, with the support of Friendly Spaces of the Health Care Center



The prevention team worked, in collaboration with the Red Cross, in a storytelling program aimed at adults and migrant children and adolescents from Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, living at Casa del Migrante, and Casa Nuestras Raíces, from the Secretariat of Social Welfare (SBS). Human trafficking, crime and problem related to the causes and risks of migration, was addressed on 5 occasions.

We carried out activities to strengthen the Community Support Networks (RAC) of San Juan Sacatepéquez, Mixco and Villa Nueva, in the department of Guatemala, through virtual training on the functions of the courts and how to accompany the community, but above all, emphasizing the leading role of communities in the procedures to protect the children and adolescents. The RAC carried out informational, recreational and peripheral activities in different areas of the city, in commemoration of the International Women's Day and the International Day of Non-Violence against children.





The Outpatient Care Program of Coatepeque, through the prevention area, concluded the programs on prevention of the crime Trafficking in Persons and the formation of Community Support Networks (RAC) in that municipality and in Pajapita, San Marcos.

La Alianza and World Vision concluded a training program of eight modules with the Network for the Protection of Children and Adolescents Coatepecana (REPRONAC), of the municipality of Coatepeque, in the department of Quetzaltenango, at the local office of La Alianza, where we provide comprehensive care through the Ambulatory Care Center for victims of sexual violence and human trafficking.

The training sessions for personnel of the Municipality of Coatepeque, especially from the Municipal Office for Children and Adolescents and the Women's Directorate, was also completed. During the activity, we delivered the report on the situation of human trafficking in Guatemala to Mayor Alfonso García Junco Hemmerling.



CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARE

The resident educators, those in the front line caring for our child and adolescent girls who reside at our house, received training, thanks to the voluntary service of Psychologist María José López Cabezón, a mercedarian missionary, who taught them about how to identify their strengths as well as their needs as women. And how to take care of themselves for the benefit of their mental, physical, emotional and spiritual health.

We also bought a recliner so that the 3 security guards can rest. We also have a small gym in operation for the staff.



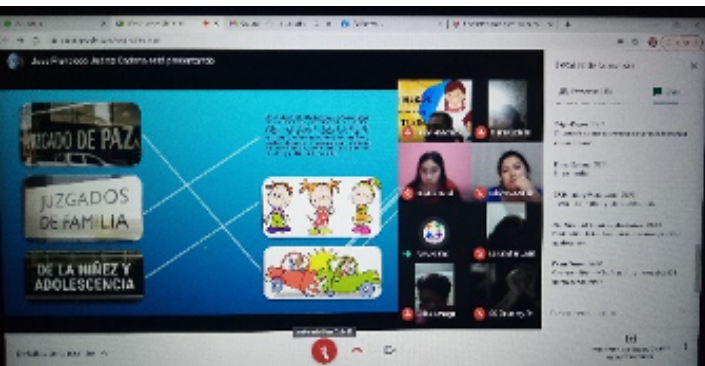
We participated in a campaign for the rights of migrants, in transit or returned, through the Articulating Group of Civil Society on Migration Matters, of which we are members of.

In the following, we share an article by Carolina Escobar Sarti, ALA's National Director, on the subject

<https://www.prensalibre.com/opinion/columnasdiarias/aqui-les-expulsamos-alla-les-matan/>


Let's walk together for a borderless world.





ADVOCACY

The National Director of ALA introduced the presentation act of the annual report on trafficking, presented by the Human Rights Ombudsman, in July 2021.



The headquarters of La Alianza lit up in blue on the International Day Against Trafficking in Persons, in coordination with government institutions and the United Nations. Launched in March 2008, in Vienna, Austria, by UNODC, it is an awareness-raising initiative to combat human trafficking and its impact on society. It is about encouraging mass participation and inspiring action to help end this crime.



OPEN DOORS

On March 4, we received with great joy the visit of the Human Rights Ombudsman, Lic. Jordán Rodas, in the framework of the commemoration of the victims of the Virgen de la Asunción Home, and the International Women's Day. He made a tour of the residence and ended with the act dedicated to the victims and survivors of the March 8 fire, during which he spoke about the importance of the restitutions of their rights.



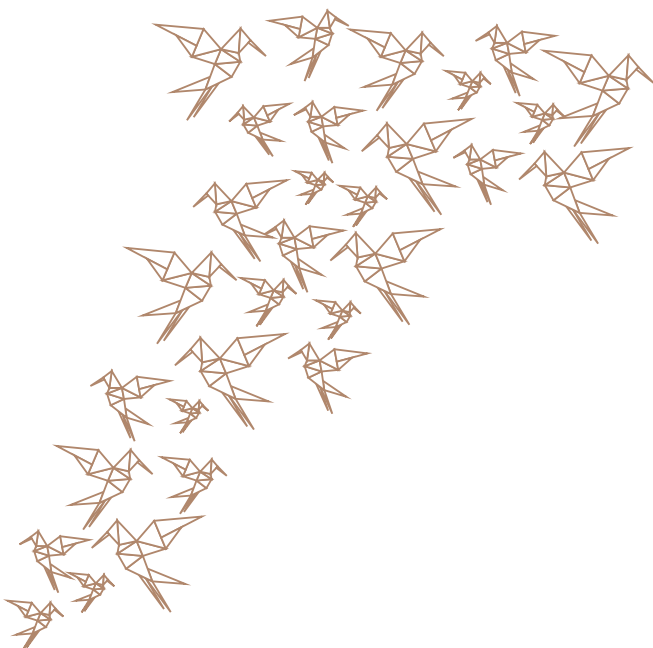


The Grandmothers of Sepur Zarco, accompanied by members of Women Transforming the World, paid us a visit to share their testimonies of life and experiences in the fight for justice. They held a Mayan ceremony, we all had lunch together, then they were given a necklace made by the girls and one of their teachers. It was an exercise in rescuing memory and understanding that violence in Guatemala is transgenerational; the path of transformative justice was bridged.

The NAs made necklaces that they gave to the grandmothers.

Link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FP3JbrNe5oGsTGvFdU0CdN43TAgTJag2/view>





Despite the pandemic, during this year we enjoyed the visit of several friends who, in one way or another, support the recovery processes of our child and adolescent girls. Among them, we had: the Political Affairs Officer of the United States Embassy in Guatemala, Sarahann Yeh; singer Sara Curruchich; Andy Stein of the Orphaned Starfish Foundation; Bill Cook of the Bill Cook Foundation; Besem Obenson, UNHCR Representative in Guatemala; Gillian Triggs, representative of the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees; Isabel Márquez, Deputy Representative of the Bureau of the Americas UNHCR; Grace Bonilla, Vice President for Latin America of Covenant House International.



This and more is possible, thanks to the support of:

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Compass Children's Charity / Football Action

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World Vision

*Thank
you*

