

The Belize Expo hits the Road



That's right after two years of holding our annual Belize outreach at the Hearts of Christ facility in Roaring Creek, we decided to venture farther west to a more populated area called San Ignacio. Hearts of Christ is still our in-country partner and graciously hosts us while we are in Belize but this year we thought it was time to reach out to a new geographic region. With transportation such a premium in Belize and virtually nonexistent for people living with disabilities, you have to go to new areas to connect with new people. So we sorted, organized and re-packed-up a portion of the mobility items and medical supplies that had been shipped over in both a 20 foot container from Houston and a 40 foot container from South Florida and hit the road. This was no small task though as we had to rent a 20 foot container on wheels and use one of the Hearts of Christ buses as overflow. It also took us about two days to rearrange things but it was well worth it from the smiles on the recipients in San Ignacio.

Before heading to San Ignacio, we did several local day trips in the Roaring Creek area to build a few ramps, distribute some mobility items, and medical supplies and even hand out Bibles, hygiene kits, rice with beans and a bit of candy. Our most memorable outing came the day we went to Ciara's house. Ciara is almost 10 years old, has Cerebral Palsy and a contagious smile that lights up her face. We were there to give her both a manual wheelchair to use in her house and a power wheelchair so she could go to school about a mile away in addition to building a ramp for their house so she could access it by herself.

While the building team worked, others on the mission team walked around the village neighborhood to hand out items we brought to the children and families who were walking home from school. The activity attracted a lot of attention and one family came by asking for some kind of

wheelchair for their son, Wilson, who was born with deformities in all four limbs. Leanne and John had gone back to the Hearts of Christ mission to get a wheelchair for Ciara and at the last minute decided to put an extra mobility stroller in the van to see if Ciara could use it when traveling away from home. When they got back to the job site, Wilson and his family were there and it was very evident that God had intended the mobility stroller to go to him. So, Ciara got her wheelchair and Wilson got his stroller - double blessings! Our morning devotion had reminded us that God is with us and goes before us, so this was affirmation that God was at work and had gone before us to help us to be prepared for the families we met that day.

Although the work was more than in past years to take the Expo to San Ignacio later that week, God was so faithful in giving us all the strength and energy needed to bless those in this new area. In fact, when we arrived Saturday morning at the facility where we were holding the outreach there were already several families who had been there since 6am.



All in all, nearly 60 wheelchairs, over 100 walkers, crutches, canes and gate trainers as well as countless bath aides and bed pads, gloves and diapers were given out that day. The photo, games, art and prayer stations were a blessing to many as well as the new health activity station, too. To top it all off we had 4 people pray to receive Jesus as Savior at the Expo and we even got to stop by and pray with our good friend Eli who we met and built a ramp for last year on the way back to the Hearts of Christ mission facility. ☺

