

Chime In Youth Ambassador Call 12.9.15

Mariah began the call telling everyone how excited she is about the trip to Guatemala. It's her first time going out of the country and she's a little nervous about it but also believes it will be fine. She's excited to meet the other Youth Ambassadors in person and very grateful that the transition from the World Peace Caravan to Chime In worked out. She is proud of everyone who has worked so hard this year. She had to leave the call to study for her finals.

Susan then spoke about the trip. She mentioned that a contingent from Celerity, 42 people, will be joining the group, enabling both groups to be able to build 10 houses. She then introduced everyone who will be going on the trip who is on the call, including Benjamin, Susan's children, Nancy, Cat, Lea Anne, Jeetan, Jessica and Tony. She explained that both groups will be starting the trip together and staying at the Barcello Hotel. Then the Celerity group will continue to stay at the Barcello Hotel when the Chime In contingent moves to the school where they will be staying while they build the houses. There will be a tour guide waiting at the airport for everyone's arrival. Everyone will be getting a T-shirt, with Susan and Kelly coordinating how everyone gets theirs. No one who is going on the trip needs a Visa to get to Guatemala but everyone should be carrying their passport with them at all times.

On the night of the 13th, there will be dinner at the hotel. On the 14th they will be going to the board of tourism conference room where everyone will meet and speak about their projects. They will have lunch at the hotel and then tour Guatemala City in the afternoon, including going to the US Embassy. At night there will be a dinner. On the morning of the 15th everyone will meet for breakfast and have the morning free before heading out on the trip later that afternoon. That night everyone will be staying at the school, with a number of Techa workers also staying there. The houses will be built until the 18th. On the 19th, everyone will be working on the murals.

Tony then got on the call. He said they just finished building 20 houses and is excited to have the group come and build more with them. He also said he's putting together a trip on the 19th with an organization called Safe Passage for everyone who wants a further look into life in Guatemala. Tony said that everyone can bring something special for each family if they choose to do so.

Dana will be filming on the trip and asked Tony how far the houses are from each other. Tony said that five of the houses are close to each other and some of the others are farther away but still in the same neighborhood. There will be about 15 cameras including 10 time lapse cameras that will document the building process from start to finish.

Jeetan asked about the children and offered to bring soccer balls for them.

Nancy offered to bring flip flops or other shoes to bring for the children. Tony was concerned about sizes but Susan suggested she bring the shoes to donate to the community center. Dana said that by the time everyone leaves, the group will have a better idea of the needs of this

community and it might be better to save the donations until after the trip. Tony said they return to the community a month after the houses are completed so they could deliver packages to them at that time. Jeetan offered to bring a clock. Tony suggested that all the gifts should be the same for every house, i.e. if clocks are offered, every house should get a clock. Kelly said that everyone should bring whatever they're inspired to bring and suggested that this idea could be talked about again after the trip.

Lea Anne thought she would like to bring ribbons so every house could have a Christmas-like decoration on it.

Susan got back to the specifics of the trip and said that everyone should bring two pairs of work pants and some extra T-shirts and cotton work socks and closed toe work shoes. Techa will also be providing a T-shirt for each person. She also suggested items like packaged snacks, sunscreen, phone, flashlight, and said there will be electricity so electronic items can be brought. For the community she suggested bringing paint brushes, candy, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Kelly also mentioned there is a packing list on the Chime In website for everyone's reference as well as a full schedule of the trip itinerary.

Tony also suggested bringing leggings and a sweatshirt with a hood, although he doesn't expect the weather to be that cold.

Benjamin said he feels this conversation that the group has every week really excites him and he used his positive experience about using technology to communicate with people around the world to dismiss concerns from others that technology is ruining communication. He is honored to be able to share the experience of traveling abroad with those joining the trip. He also suggested learning a few words of Spanish to make the attempt to communicate with those we will be working with and for. He said we will be making the houses more beautiful with the colors of love. He said it doesn't matter whether you believe you're an artist or not, that everyone should feel welcome to join the mural painting part of the project. He said when you enter the spirit of creativity, magic happens.

Kelly reminded everyone that we're not going there to help poor people but are there to receive the gift that this community has to offer and by being there help them lift themselves from the grip of poverty. She also added that being able to be of service like this is a way of inoculating us from the fears pervading the world today.

Jeetan said he's very excited about going on the trip and working in the community. He also said we have to be mindful of using our judgment by defining others by our Western values. As someone who grew up in a refugee camp and found happiness there, he understands that there's happiness in places where we might see only great poverty and despair. He also can't wait to meet everyone else in the group.

Kelly said that Chime In is being mentioned in various media and that the group's work is having a ripple effect on the world.

Cat is also excited about the trip and gave thanks to Kelly for getting this group off the ground. She is trying to get her employer and people at her work to also donate items for the community.

Susan reminded everyone that donations are still being accepted on the website.

Lea Anne supported what Jeetan said and asked everyone to question their assumptions about others and see the similarities instead of the differences. She's looking forward to getting her hands dirty. She also said that Benjamin brings out the artist in her and makes her feel as if she can be whatever she wants.

Kaitlin, Susan's daughter, said she can't wait to go down to Guatemala. She hopes this is the start of a lot of volunteering she hopes to be doing in the future.

Nancy says she's learning some Spanish for the trip and is looking forward to meeting everyone.

Rob, Lea Anne's grandfather, also said he's looking forward to the experience and enjoying the positive energy of the call.

Susan reminded everyone to email either her or Kelly if you have any last minute questions about the trip.