

ABC *family* NEWS

BY THE NUMBERS:

14.28% improvement of ABC children graduating from high school since a year ago.

80% of our graduates are now working and supporting their families.

22 ABC students are expected to graduate high school in 2015 and most will pursue university degrees.

ABC program benefits **467** families, over **800** children:
42% Coastal region
46% Highlands
12% Guatemala City

Those who were served this year:

60% elementary school
30% junior high
10% high school

100% of ABC families have received the new TIVA water filter which is greatly improved over the old model.

Celebrate!

It's that time of year! Christmas? No, it's the annual ABC Celebration Day! Here's a peek into this greatly anticipated event. This year it was decided that instead of having a large celebration in one central location with all of the families traveling in, each highland congregation would host the party. With the money saved in

transportation, they could afford to invite the whole congregation to the party.

People from farthest away were especially glad not to have to deal with a bus full of carsick kids.



These girls perform a song for Celebration

Each congregation has a little different take on the whole thing, but they all include starting the day with corporate worship led by the kids. Then on to talent show (Bible reading, singing, dramas, skits) and then competitions (who can recite the most Bible verses, who can find the scripture fastest, etc.) races up and down the mountainsides (many run barefoot) and silly games, then a huge lunch prepared by the host congregation and everyone enjoying the food and fellowship.

Somewhere in the mix, they present the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners of the points accumulated during the year. As a recap, the kids get points in the program for grades, Bible school attendance, writing letters to their sponsors, and health checkups. At the end of the year points are tallied up and prizes are given for top points getters.

They did great this year, with more first place prizes than last year and fewer failing, which is always good news. This year we really saw the older kids step up and take responsibility for the activity and demonstrate their spiritual maturity in their encouragement of the younger kids. **Thank you to all of you who sponsor kids in this program.** The families ask us over and over to personally thank you and tell you what a blessing the program is to them.



Board member Cynthia Allen with scholarship recipients:

Scholarship Success:

Eleven Sherman scholars are continuing their education, two have graduated and we anticipate adding twelve new students in 2016

Noe Chan was our second Bates scholar to graduate in 2015, while five others continue their studies in dental and medical school.

We have one **Bennie/McDonnel/Strawther scholar** in nursing school and plan to add two more.

Josue Alvarez Osario was the inaugural recipient of the Jackson C. Coker scholarship and will enter his third year of medical studies.

Marta Ana Maria Alvarez has been designated our 2016 Jackson C. Coker scholar.

If Excelling in Physical Therapy School Were Not Enough...Meet Noe Chan.

Noe graduates this year from Physical Therapy School which comes as a surprise to many. In a modern day version of "can anything good come from Nazareth?", people were surprised to find such a bright young man from the hills of Chichicastango. He supplemented his budget while in school by mentoring in exchange for food, capably helping his fellow students. They repaid the favor by naming him "Mr. Physical Therapy" a title awarded by his peers and professors.



This year, his class took part in providing for the needs of a double amputee from one of the communities near Quetzaltengo. They visited him in his home and developed a plan to construct a PT exercise room and a handicapped accessible bathroom.

Noe will be our first team member licensed to provide physical therapy care, traveling between coast and highlands. We are grateful for young Christian servants like Noe, what a blessing he will be to the people we serve!

Do you ever wonder if your ABC investment is valuable? Eternity will only tell what your dollars have done to enable each child to reach his or her capacity. We do know that without your help the odds of these children getting an education in order to get out of poverty are slim. Over 90% of your Health Talents donations go directly to those we serve. This year nearly 100 of our ABC children were baptized. The angels in heaven are rejoicing - we know you are too!

