

✦ Hope growing in steady grace ✦



As we move into March, I have been reflecting on the quiet difference between peace and equanimity. Peace often comes to us in moments of stillness — in prayer or meditation, in worship, in the laughter of children, or in the beauty of God’s creation. It is a gift that refreshes and restores the soul. Equanimity, however, runs deeper. It is the steady trust that God is present even when life feels uncertain, difficult, or beyond our control. Across cultures and faith traditions, there is a shared wisdom: when we release our grip on outcomes and rest in God’s faithfulness, our hearts become anchored. In that place, we are not shaken by hardship nor defined by success — we are steadied by grace.

As life at the Dream Center continues to grow, we see this steady grace unfolding in the love that surrounds each child, in classrooms where learning opens new possibilities, and in the safety and belonging families are beginning to feel. We are reminded that true strength is not found in controlling the future but in walking faithfully through today. My prayer is that each of us would carry this quiet steadiness into our homes, workplaces, and neighborhoods — becoming a calm presence in a restless world.

Thank you for walking alongside this mission with such generous hearts. Because of you, hope continues to grow.

With gratitude,

Eugene Gicheru

Dream Center Updates

from Julio Galindo & Jemima Barrera

Joy, Friendship and Learning

At the Dream Center, February included a special moment to celebrate friendship, kindness, and the joy of being part of a community. Students spent time together through games, activities, and shared moments that encouraged laughter and connection. For many of our students, school is one of the few spaces where they can simply enjoy being children, surrounded by friends who support and encourage one another. Celebrating friendship reminds them that they are not alone and that relationships built on respect and kindness are an important part of growing up.



Beyond the fun, these moments help strengthen the sense of belonging that is so important in a learning environment. When students feel safe and valued, they are more open to participate, to learn, and to build meaningful relationships.



During the same week, students also participated in workshops focused on recognizing and understanding their emotions. Through interactive activities and guided conversations, they explored how emotions influence their thoughts, decisions, and relationships with others. Learning to identify feelings such as frustration, joy, sadness, or excitement helps students develop greater self-awareness and gives them tools to respond to challenges in healthier ways.

These workshops are an important part of our commitment to supporting the whole child. Emotional learning helps students build empathy, improve communication, and strengthen their ability to resolve conflicts peacefully. As students grow in their understanding of themselves and others, they also grow in confidence and resilience—qualities that will serve them well both inside and outside the classroom.



Love in Action

This month we were reminded that love is not only something we celebrate — it is something we practice. At the Dream Center, education is deeply connected to compassion, responsibility, and learning to care for others. Moments like these help our students see that kindness and service are not abstract ideas, but actions that can transform lives in very real ways.

Visiting the Elderly - As part of a civic activity, our students visited elderly members of the community. Many of the older adults in the area live alone or face daily challenges simply meeting their basic needs. During this visit, students not only spent time listening and sharing stories, but also brought practical support. They helped deliver water so that the elderly would not have to carry it themselves, brought firewood so they could cook their meals, and provided basic food supplies.

These simple acts became powerful lessons for our students. They saw firsthand how small gestures of care can ease someone's daily burdens and communicate dignity and respect. The visit reminded everyone involved that caring for our elders is an important part of building a compassionate and healthy community.





Supporting a Student in Need – This month one of our students needed medical attention that was not available in her community, so we accompanied her to the city where she could receive proper care. Access to specialized medical services often requires traveling far from rural areas, and for many families this can be overwhelming without support.

During her visit, she stayed with Julio and Jemima and shared everyday moments with our family. Beyond receiving medical care, this experience also gave her the opportunity to see life in the city – something she had never experienced before. It was the first time she had ever left her village to stay somewhere else overnight. While she was in the city, she also had the opportunity to obtain her DPI (national identification card), a process that is often much easier to complete in the city than in rural areas. Being able to take care of this important step was both practical and empowering for her.



Experiences like this can be deeply formative. While the primary purpose was to ensure she received the care she needed, the visit also opened a window to a wider world. These moments help our students grow in confidence, curiosity, and hope as they discover new possibilities beyond the limits of their immediate surroundings.



Expanding horizons: Learning beyond the classroom

Leaving the village, even for a short time, can open doors to conversations, relationships, and discoveries that are difficult to experience otherwise. These moments help students see new possibilities for learning, creativity, and future paths. Education, in this sense, is not limited to textbooks or classrooms—it also happens through meaningful encounters, shared experiences, and the courage to step into unfamiliar spaces.

This month our high school students had the opportunity to visit a university campus and attend a Big Band concert. For many of them, these were entirely new experiences. Being exposed to higher education environments, music, and cultural events helps young people imagine futures they may never have considered before and expands their sense of what is possible for their lives.

Learning beyond the classroom also includes investing in the growth of our teachers. This month our educators participated in training and professional development opportunities designed to strengthen their teaching strategies and deepen their ability to support students academically and emotionally. When teachers continue learning and growing, the impact reaches every classroom and every student they serve.





Dream Center Spotlight



Tech Teacher

Sanly Palacios

I am originally from Mixco, in the department of Guatemala, and come from a family of five. We are a simple, close-knit, and joyful family, and our faith is an important pillar that guides our lives and keeps us united.

In my free time, I enjoy reading, watching movies, spending time with my family, participating in church activities, and traveling to discover new places.

Working at GCO deeply motivates me. The organization serves the community focusing on adolescents with limited resources—many of whom work while studying. Being part of this mission allows me to support their educational journey and growth. Knowing that my work can make a difference in their lives fills me with purpose and gratitude.

Looking ahead - walking together

As we move further into March, several important moments are ahead for the Dream Center community. Our students will be completing their first unit evaluations, an opportunity to reflect on what they have learned so far this year and to continue strengthening their academic foundations before the upcoming break.

This month we will also administer standardized assessments led by Lina Gicheru, which help us better understand our students' progress and identify areas where we can continue improving our educational programs. These evaluations provide valuable insights that guide our teachers as they support each student's learning journey. As always, we are grateful to walk alongside our students during this season of growth and learning.

If you would like to support this work during 2026 —whether by continuing or increasing your giving or by joining us for the first time—you can do so here: [Donate here](#)