Guatemala 2013 (Jterm trip)

+ 6 Middkids, one Dartmouth

-put together group to volunteer at Common Hope for month (Real World Antigua)

-Civil War: 1960-96

-roughly 200k citizens killed

-US cut off military aid to country

-Mayan Indians were singled out for special brutality by right-wing death squads

-army was blamed for atrocities

Poverty

-75% pop lives in poverty

-40% pop indigenous

-90% indigenous pop lives in poverty

-40% labor force works in agriculture

-food insecurity

Health

-50% of all children are malnourished

-poorest half of population gets only 60% of daily caloric requirement

-most deaths due to treatable diseases or preventable conditions

Common Hope

-established by Dave and Bettey Huebsch in 1986

-started with education

-expanded to health care, housing, family development

-C.H. promotes hope and opportunity in Guatemala, partnering with children, families, communities who want to participate in a process of development to improve their lives through education, health care, housing

-currently works in 26 communities within Guatemala and serves more than 11k impoverished children and adults

Education

-dropout rates

-urban communities: 8th grade

-rural communities: 3rd grade

-C.H. partnered with public schools to improve literacy and to model effective classroom management techniques

-U Chicago's Grad School of Pub Pol demonstrated that C.H. significantly increases likelihood of graduating from high school

Health Care

-C.H. provides basic curative and preventative health care, health care ed, prenatal ed, pharmacy, nutrition services

-operates clinics within Antigua as well as in the highlands

Housing

-health and secure living environment is vital to long-term success in school

-dirt floors leads to parasitic diseases and diarrhea

-open cooking fires cause respiratory diseases

-homes perched on steep hillsides are at risk of sliding away during rainy seasons