



AMBASSADOR OF GERMANY IN GUATEMALA, VISITS LAZOS DE AMOR PROGRAM

Guatemala, December 20, 2017

As part of the actions promoted by Mr. Heribert Scharrenbroich, during his visit to Guatemala in 2016, El Refugio de la Niñez has strengthened its communication and coordination ties with the German Embassy in Guatemala, participating in activities and events promoted by the embassy which have been of great value to continue supporting children and adolescents victims of violence in the country.

El Refugio de la Niñez, has participated in periodic meetings that the embassy has carried out to know the advances of projects financed with resources that come from Germany.



*Mr. Heribert Scharrenbroich in a meeting with Leonel Dubón
Executive Director of El Refugio de la Niñez*

On December 13th 2017, Mr. Harald Klein, Ambassador of Germany in Guatemala, visited the Shelter Lazos de Amor of El Refugio de la Niñez, which provides integral attention to girls and adolescents victims of sexual violence. During the visit, Mr. ambassador shared, in a friendly space, with the girls and adolescents who presented the work methodology of El Refugio de la Niñez and expressed their gratitude for the support received, as it has contributed to emotional recovery and family ties.

El Refugio de la Niñez with the support of Kinderhilfe Germany, provides specialized attention to 75 girls, boys and adolescents who stay daily in their temporary shelters for protection, in which they are provided with comprehensive care services that include: food, lodging, clothing, shoes, education services, health, among others to provide them with the protection they require and reduce the risks to which they are exposed. It has also contributed to the strengthening of family ties so the girls, boys and adolescents can safely return to their families, considering that most of them come from dysfunctional homes and families, living in poverty and extreme poverty, with little access to basic services such as education and health.



Mr. Heribert Scharrenbroich with the girls of the Lazos de Amor Shelter

According to the experience of El Refugio de la Niñez in the care of girls and adolescents victims of sexual violence, it is estimated that in **95%** of the cases the victimizer has been a close relative including: parents, stepparents, uncles, grandparents, siblings, neighbors among others and as a result of it, many are pregnant or have their babies with them at a very young age. Some of them have been mothers since they were 10 years old, putting their emotional and physical health at high risk, because their bodies are not prepared for motherhood. Given the situation of violence suffered many of them escape from their homes and remain in the streets for prolonged periods, others have problems of alcohol and drug abuse, among others, increasing the risk of vulnerability to which they are exposed.



Mr. Harald Klein, Ambassador of Germany in Guatemala sharing with the girls of the Lazos de Amor Program



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With the support of Kinderhilfe it has been possible to impact in a positive way in the lives of many girls and adolescents, who have achieved their emotional and physical recovery.

THANKS KINDERHILFE!



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