

New Beginnings

January 2020

Remember two years ago when we at Spectrum tried our hand with something new? Our plan was to hold a class that would teach people in our neighborhoods how to cut hair. We wanted them to graduate from the class with a marketable skill so we researched what the requirements were for one to be a licensed hair cutter. We incorporated all they needed to know into our class. On top of that, one of our teachers raised funds so that each graduate would receive a hair cutting kit with clippers and scissors upon completion of the course. We were thrilled when thirty people finished the three month training and took part in our graduation ceremony!

Fast forward two years. Fernando and Alejandra are a young couple who went through the class together. When they graduated, they received their certificate and kit. The problem was that they had a young family and didn't yet have the space or the clientele necessary to support their household. They wanted to start their new business, but they wanted to do it right.



Fernando, Alejandra and their two children.

For the last two years they've continued to work their factory jobs. Jobs that require close to sixty hours a week but only bring in about eighty dollars for that amount of time. Between the two of them they provided for their family but were also able to save enough to purchase equipment and prepare a room in their house where they could work. In their off hours, they cut hair and slowly but surely began to build a base of regular customers.

Just last month, Alejandra was able to quit her factory job and focus on cutting hair. Their new business is off and running! For now Fernando will continue to work at the factory to bring in a regular paycheck.

So many great things come from this story. At the root of poverty exists a lack of hope. Hope that things can ever get better. During the class, our teachers invested in their students with long hours and taught them many things. The message to the students was that they had what it took to make something of



Giving back! Fernando volunteering to help us cut hair at our recent Spectrum outreach in his neighborhood.

themselves. Fernando and Alejandra believed the message and did what it took to begin a business! Not having to work the factory hours will free Alejandra to be there more for her children. We also communicated to them that God has plans and intentions for their lives. He loves them and provides for them. We shared the Gospel with them and encouraged them to go to church. But at the factory, both Fernando and Alejandra had to work on Sundays. Now Alejandra said she is willing to go to church. She's a little apprehensive to go without Fernando, but one of our staff said she will take her and introduce her to people.

Please pray for Fernando and Alejandra. Ask that God would bless them and help them to grow their new business. Also, pray that they would become involved with the church and that God would work through the church and the relationships they have with Spectrum to lead them to Christ!



Soccer balls are always a big hit!

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From all of us at Spectrum,

Matt Kooi
Spectrum Ministries Director



It was this young girl's turn to go choose her gift!

P.S. What a Christmas! With your response to our need for Christmas toys in our communities, we were able to give out over 1,200 new toys to children. I went to visit one family afterward and the new toys each of their kids had picked that day were up on a shelf, still in the packaging. When I inquired about it, they said they were saving them for Christmas morning. These gifts mean more than you know to these kids! Thank you!

To see a video of a toy distribution go to our website spectrumministries.org



This young man received a new helicopter for Christmas. He'll take it home and add it to the toys he still has from the previous three years!



Thank you to everyone who gave to make our kids Christmas special!

"I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy." - Psalm 140:12