

## TESTIMONIALS – SCHOOLS

### #1

#### **WEBB SCHOOL**

Knoxville, TN

Webb School of Knoxville has had the privilege of hosting students from the Faces & Our Cultures program over the past two years and we are looking forward to hosting more Guatemalan students in the future. Our school implemented a Multicultural initiative a few years ago in order to expose our students to more diversity on campus. This program certainly achieves this goal, as the Guatemalan students have been excellent Cultural Ambassadors in the Webb classrooms. All the girls have come well prepared with a wonderful presentation on their country and culture and they travel around the lower, middle and upper school classrooms answering questions and bringing their home country alive to our American students. Our experience has been very positive with the program and the Webb teachers have been delighted and impressed with the participation of the FACES students in their courses.

I also want to stress our positive interactions with Sandy Cardona and Gaby who run the program. In order for such a program to be successful, it requires good leadership and communicative partners. My e-mails are always answered quickly and efficiently and it helps to have Sandy and Gaby visit the school campus on a regular basis. They are hard working, helpful and always pleasant to work with.

For anyone interested in this program I would highly recommend it as an enriching experience for your home students and the FACES students too. Lifelong friendships are developed and a bridging of cultures is achieved by our young ambassadors.

Gracias!

**Elizabeth Greggor**

International Department

### #2

#### **HENDERSONVILLE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**

HENDERSONVILLE, TN

It has been our pleasure at Hendersonville Christian Academy to work with the FACES & OUR CULTURES program for the past four years. The students from Guatemala have always been eager to learn about American culture and have been an asset to our student body. The FACES & OUR CULTURES staff has worked hard to be certain the experience is beneficial for all involved. Without reservation, I recommend the FACES & OUR CULTURES program to you.

**William Slater**

Headmaster

### #3

#### **HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Dale City, VA

The Faces & Our Cultures Program has deeply impacted our entire school community. Our visiting students, Hugo and Gustavo, assimilated wonderfully into our school family and shared their culture with us on a personal, intimate level. Many of our students are still communicating with them and look forward to visiting them in their home country. We celebrate cultural diversity at our school, and this program gave us all a greater appreciation of our brothers and sisters from Guatemala. Special thanks to Sandy for her tireless efforts in working with our host families and ensuring for a smooth transition for our Cultural Ambassadors. We are looking forward to participating in the program next year.

**Joseph McLaughlin**

Principal

### #4

#### **NORTH CROSS SCHOOL**

ROANOKE, VA

We have just concluded what I hope will be a long series of connections with this wonderful program. The five young students from Guatemala became a significant part of the fabric of our school community. This was never more evident than it was on their final day at North Cross. The gathering in the Commons area was a very moving scene of smiles, tears, hugs, photos, and a lot more tears. The extent to which they had been so fully integrated into school life was very obvious. They did a masterful job throughout their stay participating in classes, extra-curricular events, and to a limited extent in sports. Unfortunately, since they were not officially enrolled in school, they could not compete in interscholastic contests, but they added a lot of spirit and enthusiasm to the practices.

The thoroughness of the screening and preparation process employed by Faces was evident right from the start. There was steady contact throughout the eight weeks to make sure all was in order. Sandy Cardona has done a superb job. Any school considering this opportunity would reap huge benefits on many levels.

**Malcolm Douglas**

Director of Sustainability & Community Services Coordinator

## #5

### **THE COVENANT SCHOOL**

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

As representatives in the Admissions Office at the The Covenant School in Charlottesville, Virginia, we would like to highly recommend FACES & OUR CULTURES PROGRAM to other schools.

Sandy Cardona was extremely organized throughout every step of the process. She accurately articulated the details of the program to us, so we knew exactly what to expect. Because Sandy visited the school on several occasions, she really understood the essence of our program and carefully placed F&OC students accordingly. Sandy really seemed to “know” each of the students who participated at Covenant. The seven students who came to Covenant for two months were motivated and outgoing. They blended in with our own high school students and contributed in many ways to our program. Each Guatemalan student made a superb presentation to Covenant’s lower School Spanish classes, and High School Spanish classes benefited greatly from the interaction with the FOCP students.

Our teachers and host families developed wonderful friendships with the F&OC students. F&OC has a stellar program and we look forward to working with them again in the future. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to ask questions about our experience.

Sincerely,

**Donna Harris**

Director of Admissions

Karen Merrill

Admissions Assistant

## #6

### **BRENTWOOD ACADEMY**

Brentwood, TN

At Brentwood Academy, we have been blessed and honored to partner with the FACES program for 5 years. Not only have we found the students from Guatemala to be great additions to our school, but our host families can’t say enough about their character, friendliness, and the way they acclimate and blend in with the family! Our teachers find the FACES students to be engaged, diligent and great citizens. They add so much to our foreign language program and their English becomes even stronger through the partnership.

**Sue Gering**

Director of Admissions