

# ship

SPRING 2024



*Our SHIP Tripper, Wanda (left), first came to El Salvador with The Hanna Project during spring break of 2023. As a group, they sponsored Eunice (right). This spring break, they reunited in El Salvador.*

## *Many parts, but one Body...*

Looking through SHIP photos is a little like watching fireworks or being at a concert played by your favorite artist. Each explosion of color, each song is your favorite one. Then you hear another burst of sound or the first few notes of the next song, and you're sure that this one is your favorite.

Right now, at this very moment, this is our favorite photo from El Salvador.

We love this photo because it shows what we most love about SHIP Trips --seeing our

Salvadoran friends meeting with the people who come on our SHIP Trips. Sometimes they're meeting for the first time, full of excitement and that nervous worry that always comes with a first meeting.

But sometimes, like in the picture above, it's a reunion, and we get to see old friends coming together after a long absence, exchanging big hugs, and catching up on what's happened since they last met.

The beauty of seeing all of these meetings

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is that it feels as if we're seeing the Body of Christ come together in real time. The words of 1 Corinthians 12:27 remind us that we're not alone.

They say: "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

Some parts of that Body are in our local churches; we see them regularly and are able to encourage and be encouraged by them. Some parts of the Body of Christ live further away. We might not speak the same language, come from the same socioeconomic backgrounds, or have life experiences that are in any way similar to one another.

But we are united in Christ.

Those language barriers break down with the first hug or when we realize that kicking a soccer ball helps us speak the same language. We see that, even in the poorest places, God still has given people the gift of hospitality as they invite us into their homes and offer us food. And, we learn that, even though our backgrounds don't look similar on a surface level, we've all had similar struggles, hurts, and the universal need for love and acceptance.



Our SHIP Tripper, RJ, is having some fun helping our students with a lesson on dental health.

We love showing people what God is doing in El Salvador. One of the best ways to do that is by actually taking them there.

On each trip we spend a week getting out of our comfort zones and being the hands and feet of Jesus in El Salvador. Sometimes that means working hard, and sometimes it just means hanging out and playing a game of Uno or soccer. If that sounds like something you're interested in doing, we want to talk to you about going.

Basic Info: The 2024 SHIP Trip cost is \$650 + airfare. **(Our normal price is \$850 + airfare, but we're celebrating our 20th with a discounted rate.)** The cost includes all transportation in El Salvador, food, lodging, and an excursion. Find out more information at [shipinternational.org](http://shipinternational.org).

**2024 SHIP Trip Dates: June 8-14 & July 20-26**



# TAKE A SHIP TRIP



Spring break team members greet our students in the morning.

## Worth waking up for

Not everyone is a morning person, and we get that. But, ask anyone who's been on a SHIP Trip what their favorite part of the trip was, and you're bound to get this answer:

Greeting the kids in the morning.

The sun rises early in El Salvador, so our students get to school at 7 a.m. Saying "good morning" to a bunch of kids might not seem like a good reason to rise with the sun. Believe us when we tell you that it is.

Imagine waking up to smiles and hugs from nearly 100 of the sweetest kids you'll ever meet, being the person they practice their English on. It's an overload of cuteness.

But it's also a time of seeing where these kids are coming from. You meet their parents, see their teachers, and just get a sense of what this school means to the community.

And then you realize that, in some small way, you're a part of it. The kids are putting a smile on your face, and you're doing the same for them.



Nothing to see here, just a normal day on the jobsite in El Salvador. But, now that we've "goat" your attention...

Did you know that SHIP International has a birthday coming up? That's right. **We'll be twenty in September!**

We want to celebrate with you at our annual luncheon, so mark your calendar for **Thursday, September 26.**

We're about to start assembling an amazing team of **superhero underwriters and table hosts** for the event. Underwriters donate to help defray the costs of the event, and table hosts commit to fill a table (or two or ten) with people who will be interested in SHIP's work.

If you're interested in being an underwriter or a table host or both, contact us via phone (979.260.7447) or email ([contact@shipinternational.org](mailto:contact@shipinternational.org)).

September 26, noon-1 p.m.  
College Station Hilton, 801 University Drive East, College Station, Texas

# LUNCHEON 2024



P.O. Box 3003

Bryan, TX 77805-3003

## *Happily ever after*

You might recognize the beautiful bride in this photo (if you squint a little bit and imagine her about ten or more years younger). Anyone who's been around SHIP long enough should know that she's Katerin Coto--big sister to Luis, little sister to Ana and Juan Carlos, daughter of Blanca.

We have known Katerin and her family almost since the beginning of our work in El Salvador. She promptly made herself a part of the SHIP family, showing up whenever it looked like something fun might be happening, always bringing smiles to our faces, and being the biggest encourager/cheerleader we could have asked for.

Katerin has always been special to us, so, when we learned she was dating a young man named Junior, we had to be sure he was special, too. It turned out that he was, and in December, Katerin and Junior got married.

Congratulations, Katerin and Junior! We are excited to see the ways God blesses your marriage.

