



# A Day in the Life of a Father

Venancio Ixcoy lives with his wife Angelica in a pueblo near Antigua, Guatemala. They have three children—13 year-old Rebeca, 11 year-old Moises and 6 year-old Noe. They live in a two-bedroom home made of block that they earned by working 300 sweat-equity hours at the Common Hope Development Center. Angelica works as a private nurse.

Venancio works at home creating small ceramic flowers, birds, and fish to make into mobiles. One mobile takes three days to make and sells for



a little more than seven dollars. He also makes small ceramic buses to sell in a few stores in Antigua.

During our visit, he was busy filling an order of 3000 small hearts to be made into necklaces. He also hand paints all of the pieces. With Common Hope's help he was able to buy a small kiln three years ago to bake the pottery.

Venancio is not your typical Guatemalan father. Because he works

at home, he helps care for the children, cooks and cleans if his wife is working, and walks the youngest to school in the mornings. Although he only has a fourth grade education, he is an attentive and creative father who

enjoys playing and spending time with his children. He has high hopes that all of his children will become professionals. The oldest, Rebeca, wants to be a doctor.



## Venancio's Typical Day

**7am** The family wakes up and Angelica makes breakfast for Moises and Noe.

**7:15am** Moises goes to school. Angelica, who has been a nurse for 3 years, leaves to work a 24-hour shift with a private patient. She sometimes earns more than Venancio in a month. Venancio washes dishes in the *pila*, the outdoor sink.

**7:30am** Venancio normally walks Noe, the youngest, to school, 1km away, but this morning he goes to Moises' school for a parent meeting. The two boys attend classes in the morning and their daughter Rebeca attends school in the afternoon. Rebeca walks Noe to school this morning.

**8-9am** Parent meeting at Moises' school in one of the classrooms.

**9am** Venancio buys bread on the way home from the parent meeting. Once at home, he washes, peels, and boils *platanos* to help his gastritis. Rebeca buys and prepares eggs while Venancio works on his clay hearts for the order he is filling.

**9:30am** Rebeca and Venancio have breakfast together

**10am** Venancio's assistant, a 12 year old boy, arrives to put the clay into the heart shaped molds while Venancio puts metal hangers into the hearts. Venancio's work area is next to the kitchen.

**11:30am** Normally Venancio starts lunch, but today he goes to Common Hope to talk with Rebeca's teacher about her tutoring classes. Before leaving, he instructs Rebeca on preparing lunch.



**12:30am** Rebeca eats lunch and then goes to school. Moises and Noe arrive home from school.

**1pm** Venancio returns from Common Hope and prepares lunch, chicken and broth with vegetables, for himself and Moises and Noe.

**2pm** The children clean up dishes from lunch and then do their homework. Venancio sits down at his worktable to work on the hearts.

**3pm** Venancio uses a machete and an ax to cut wood to fire up the kiln and bake the clay hearts.

**4pm** Moises, Noe, and Venancio play "cassettes" at the kitchen table. They set up cassette tapes like dominos, a favorite game of the children.

**5pm-7pm** Venancio continues working on the hearts.

**7pm** Venancio starts preparing dinner with the children.

**8pm** They eat dinner.

**9 or 10 pm** They go to bed.