



... is a key to happiness.™

PHOTOS SPEAK M1



Photo positively represents Traci Weinstein



LET GRATITUDE BE IN YOUR SOLE

IMAGINE

...not owning a pair of shoes.

Not one pair. You could only walk on your bare feet. How would you go to school? How would you play at the playground? How would your parents go to work? These are questions 10-year old Traci Weinstein wondered about. In school, she had learned that there are people all over the world who don't have shoes. Traci was born in an orphanage in Guatemala. Guatemala is a poor country where many people don't have shoes. Traci was adopted by a family in Rochester, NY. She feels great gratitude to be a part of this family and living in the United States. This gratitude led her to collect shoes for people who don't have them. She realized that one pair of shoes can change someone's life.

Traci decided to focus collecting shoes through her shoe drive for Guatemalans. In her native country, 79% of people are poor and 40% of them are very poor. Traci's gratitude and compassion led her to set a goal to collect 25,000 pairs of shoes for the people of Guatemala. Her compassion also encouraged her community of Rochester! She began collecting shoes on Labor Day weekend in September and finished in November, at Thanksgiving. Traci exceeded her goal! She collected 30,000 pairs of shoes for the needy people in her birth country! Traci appreciated her community, saying, "[The] community helped a ton. Everyone has been a big help."

Traci worked with a global nonprofit called Soles4Souls. The organization fights the impact and spread of poverty. Soles4Souls collects new and used shoes and clothing from schools, organizations, churches, and people like Traci. They then give those shoes and clothes to people who need them. They also work to provide small businesses with programs that help create jobs in poorer communities.

Traci was not only inspired by her gratitude for her family and life in Rochester. She also had great compassion for the people in her native country. Her grandfather inspired and encouraged her to be compassionate and kind. He helped her want to collect shoes. His encouragement is part of what helped her to be so encouraging to others. The family says that the 25,000th pair of shoes donated was her grandfather's in honor of his contribution to Traci's integrity to do the right thing for others.

"It feels really good," said Traci, "because I know that I can help others in need in other countries and here in America to get shoes and something to put on their feet." Traci and her family also feel great gratitude toward their community in Rochester and the support they gave for her shoe drive. Gratitude is contagious, as shown by the way Traci's community responded. Everyone has the ability to show gratitude, whether it is in big or small ways. How can you show gratitude in your life to help you write your own best *True Success*™ lifestory?

QUESTIONS LEAD TO UNDERSTANDING

M2/5

1. What evidence is there that Traci felt gratitude?

2. How has Traci's gratitude affected her life and others?

3. What can you learn from Traci's lifestory about gratitude? What can you do in your own life to show others you are grateful?
