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## Road to Parque

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**Road to Parque** | Quetzaltenango, Guatemala - Parque Central is a resting space for young and old, residents and tourists, pigeons and street dogs. Mangoes, bubble machines, and handmade jewelry are sold beside the couples kissing on the benches and the activists shouting their truth. Some nights we even found ourselves walking along candlelit processions and floats of Jesus Cristo raised on the backs of congregations. However, Saturday mornings were much more tranquilo. At 6:30, breakfast would be served to anyone who needed a meal. While watching the street sweepers clean up the remains of Friday night, a few students and I would join our host families in sharing conversation and finding connection with strangers. These mornings permitted a stillness in the chaos of a foreign land and a sacred space to create a strengthened community. I ended up walking down this street countless times. However, my favorite moments were always following these men and their dog...never knowing where they were coming from, but knowing that we were all headed to the same place to be together.”

**-Hannah Kosel**  
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