



United by Friendship

News



Learn more online at: www.unitedbyfriendship.org

“You may only be someone in the world, but to someone else, you may be the world’ -

-Unknown



Photos for newsletter by UbF Volunteers ,
John Giglio, Brian Lemke & Greg Chalmers

Irrigation System for Loma La Cal

As the United by Friendship volunteers arrived in pick-ups on the newly cut road to the village of Loma la Cal, they were warmly greeted in the typical rural Guatemalan way- with fireworks and music. But, in addition, on a hill a little distance from the town center the team could see a commercial sprinkler watering a field that had recently been barren.

Seeing the new sprinkler system in action was the highlight of the trip to Guatemala for the volunteers, who along with many other UbF donors had contributed toward the cost of the materials to construct the system. The villagers proudly told them of the 7 miles of trenches they had hand dug and how their boys had carried cement on their backs to the construction sites. They spoke of their plans to expand their crops from simply growing corn and beans as in the past. Now they had the water to grow tomatoes, peanuts, cucumbers, and much more. They had even

joined a co-op to export the new crops. Thanks to the availability of water and a new road to transport them, the vegetables from the newly irrigated fields of Loma la Cal could very well end up on our dinner table back home.

After touring the fields, the volunteers were led to the school house to attend the formal project inauguration. In their speeches, the community leaders repeatedly expressed appreciation for the partnership with UbF and for the opportunity for economic development that this project had provided. The village then unveiled a large free standing wall with a

fountain and a small garden beneath it, symbolizing the relationship of crops and water. The wall was embedded with marble plaques with the names of those individuals who contributed \$500 or more toward their project. It was indeed a lovely tribute.

To all who support the efforts of United by Friendship, board members and donors alike, thank you and congratulations for making this project possible for Loma la Cal.

You can be assured you have made a lasting positive impact on this corner of the world.

By Greg Chalmers



Wall commemorating the irrigation Project



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

United by Friendship depends on the generous gifts of people and organizations who have an interest in community development in Latin America. We invite you to help make a lasting difference in the lives of deserving people.

For those who donate \$500 or more, a special recognition marble tile with your name, or the name of whoever you would like to designate, will be embedded in the wall of the computer center in the village of Caracol.

Please know that all donations are welcomed, tax deductible and deeply appreciated.

Please complete and mail back the enclosed donation card and make a difference for the Cloud Forest Villages.



United by Friendship

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Computer Center for Cloud Forest Villages

In the highlands of Guatemala, at the edge of the cloud forest, small villages dot the mountainsides and meadows. The mist hangs heavy in the air. The trees we just saw are suddenly gone as the clouds close in around them. This is a land where the Mayan traditions are still alive in the local language of Kiche and in the colorful woven clothes worn by the woman.

This beautiful region is the site of massacres and profound suffering during Guatemala's long civil war in the 1970's and 80's. The survivors are rebuilding their communities and participating fully in its civic life. They are now looking to provide opportunities for their children to become contributing members of their ancestral villages and in the community life of the region.

To that end, the largest of these villages, Caracol, constructed a new Junior High School where the students in this region trek miles over the mountains each day to attend classes. The

leaders of Caracol met with United by Friendship to ask for their assistance in constructing an internet

pay the monthly satellite internet fees. Their county of Uspantán will provide the engineering and skilled labor.



Volunteer Shelley Kramer reads to the children

computer center that will provide their students with computer training and access to the outside world so they can compete on equal footing with other Guatemalans in their chosen vocation.

In order to make this a sustainable project, UBF and the cloud forest villages have agreed to a partnership whereby Caracol will donate land and unskilled labor for the construction and will

Rotary clubs will provide the computers. United by Friendship will provide the building design and construction materials. I invite you to join us in assisting these special villages in their vision for a better future for their children. In advance, thank you for generously supporting this worthy project.

By Deborah Simon

CROSSING BORDERS

United by Friendship is a small nonprofit 501C(3) organization composed of volunteers whose mission is to strengthen communities in Central America by partnering with them on projects related to water, education, health and economic development. UBF visits the communities and with them determines which projects to support. Friendships, understanding, trust and goodwill are built as we work together.

