



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



Teachers pleased with new Computer Center



Volunteers check out the new computers



Refurbished Clinic for Cloud Forest

Impacting Guatemalan Communities in 2010

United by Friendship is a small nonprofit organization that is committed to international community focused projects.

Therefore, it gives me great joy to announce that, thanks to you, United by Friendship was able to support three community projects for K'iche Mayan villages in Guatemala in 2010.

Project 1

UbF donated funds to help the villages of Xepequen and Quizachal *procure water rights* to a spring that borders these neighboring communities. By securing the water rights, the villages have taken the first step toward the future implementation of a potable water system for their respective villages. UbF contribution- \$6,660

Project 2

UbF received a request to repair a shabby rural clinic in the village of Caracol. Despite its leaking roof, lack of water and lack of medical equipment, the clinic serves the health needs of the eight villages of the cloud forest. UbF, in collaboration with the local government, was able to *repair the clinic* and bring hope, improved

health and joy to the people of the region. UbF contribution- \$2000.

Project 3

A group of Guatemalan school teachers requested UbF assist them in *building a regional computer lab* for eight villages of the cloud forest. This rarified beautiful area was the site of great suffering during Guatemala's recent civil war and the survivors have managed to rebuild their communities. They are participating in civic life and are looking for ways that their children can have the same educational and job opportunities as the rest of Guatemala. The computer

center became a reality this year when UbF entered into a 4-way organizational partnership. The villages donated the land and worked on the construction, the county government provided the engineering and skilled labor, UbF provided the construction materials and Rotary clubs of New Mexico provided the computers. UbF volunteers were pleased to attend a big community sponsored festive celebration of the inauguration of this project which included traditional Mayan prayers, folkloric dances and a feast of turkey leg soup. UbF contribution- \$14,550. Thank you for making this possible.



Celebrating the Completion of a Project



HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

United by Friendship is a small nonprofit 501C(3) organization composed entirely 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

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 honor, will be memorialized in the village of Los Regadillos

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



United by Friendship

Contact Us

www.unitedbyfriendship.org
 email: sprky309@aol.com
 phone 505-753-5841

336 Camino Santa Cruz
 Espanola, New Mexico 87532 USA

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CLEAN WATER FOR LOS REGADILLOS

I recently went to Guatemala as a United by Friendship volunteer to see what UbF was all about and how I might help.

I would like to tell you about the village of Los Regadillos, located in the highlands of Guatemala, where assistance was requested to construct a potable water system.

At dusk we drove down a steep rutted road into a valley of scattered shacks and a one room schoolhouse with dirt floor, holes in the walls, roof and no chairs. We were already drained from a grueling schedule. I was hoping for a quick visit but that thought vanished as I saw the desperate yet hopeful faces that appeared out of the dusk.

Members of the community explained that they had been squatters on a nearby plantation where their parents once worked. When the plantation closed they were left with nothing, but had acquired their parcel of land. Disorganized and with no governmental structure to elect formal leadership, quarrels were common. The women haul contaminated water each day from a nearby spring so illness is rampant and threatens to drain this beautiful rainforest community of hope. After we left the village we could not get Los Regadillos out of our



minds. I wondered what it would take for these villagers to have a self sustaining water project.

With much debate we developed the following requirements for Los Regadillos: 1) All adults must participate in a formal, county developed training program on how to organize and unite as a community. 2) They must elect a leader. 3) They must form a water committee. 4) All adult males must provide the manual labor for the project. Once these conditions were met and certified by the County government, UbF would supply the funds to purchase construction materials. The

County would provide expertise and design.

Today, the amazing news from Los Regadillos is that they have already completed the first 3 requirements. The women have even volunteered to help with construction. Now it is our turn to raise the \$26,000 to complete this water project.

UbF partners with villages to obtain clean water and improved health and in the process helps them to become a unified community. Please join me in bringing clean water to Los Regadillos by supporting UbF with your donation.

By UbF Volunteer & Physical Therapist, Margie Van Lent

" I am constantly amazed by how much United by Friendship has been able to accomplish in a short six years with almost all dollars donated going directly to the projects in Guatemala. The administrative overhead is minimal and dramatic changes are being made. This is the kind of organization that makes it easy to support."

*UbF Volunteer
 Brian Lemke*

