



United by Friendship

News



Learn more online at: www.unitedbyfriendship.org

“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”
Emerson

Projects completed in 2011



Xejuyub School -Kitchen & Fence



El Porvenir— ambulance repair



Los Regadillos— Potable Water

Photos by John Giglio, Brian Lemke, Tim Salazar, Luis Lopez and Deborah Simon

BRINGING CLEAN WATER & DEMOCRACY TO A VILLAGE

We have exciting news to share. Thanks to you, the Guatemalan village of Los Regadillos now has both clean water to each home AND a democratic system of government.

Last year we wrote about a small village left in turmoil after the coffee plantation which had offered the only employment for generations closed down. The villagers had no experience in self governance and were floundering in destructive feuds. Their situation was desperate, made worse by rampant illness from contaminated water.

In 2010, the village requested assistance from United by Friendship to construct a clean water system. However, efforts by other organizations to help this village in the past had failed due to bickering and lack of leadership within the village.

UbF agreed to assist with the water project under the following conditions: The villagers must 1) participate in self government classes taught by the

county of Uspantan, 2) establish community leadership through the voting process, 3) establish a water committee with bylaws and 4) agree that all men would participate in building the water system.

To our amazement the villagers united and quickly complied. They recognized the value of clean water and referred to it as “our vital liquid”. Self government was established and all villagers, men and women, hauled sand, rock and gravel and dug trenches for the pipe. The county provided the engineering and UbF provided the

construction materials. Buoyed by their success with the water project, the villagers have worked together in harmony to build a new school and are optimistic about their future.

Funding for this project was possible thanks to your generosity and a major gift from Larry Campbell, a founding member of UbF. Larry recently passed away but his memory is honored in Los Regadillos.

Like the people of Los Regadillos, UbF has found that by working together we can make a lasting difference.

By Margie van Lent



Clean water system for Los Regadillos family



HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

United by Friendship is a 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. Please know that all donations are welcomed, tax deductible and deeply appreciated. For those who donate \$500 or more, a special recognition marble tile with your name, or the name of whomever you would like to honor, will be placed in the village of Laguna Danta.



United by Friendship

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It would be nice to solve all the problems of the world, but we just can't. UbF works with communities to solve problems one village at a time. Come join with us and experience the joy of helping others live a better life in their own country." *Greg Chalmers, President United by Friendship*

CLASSROOMS FOR LAGUNA DANTA

Laguna Danta is an idyllic mountain village of the K'iche Maya, nestled in the western highlands of Guatemala. The weather is cool and fog rolls in and blankets the lush village each day. Its 67 families endured much suffering during the protracted civil war in the 1970s and 1980s and the villagers are wary of outsiders, especially since most past requests for assistance have not come to fruition.

Fortunately United by Friendship recently formed a warm and trusting relationship with the community following the successful construction of a washing station for the women.

The village has experienced a surge in elementary school students. To provide these additional children with an education some classes are being taught outdoors, very uncomfort-



Photo by John Giglio

able in this high mountain cloud forest where it rains 10 months of the year. Not only is it cold and damp but the outhouse used by students and teachers is completely inadequate. It is a testament to their value in education that they endure these hardships.



UbF would like to assist Laguna Danta with two additional classrooms and two bathrooms to accommodate the expanding student population.

We ask for your help in raising \$16,823 to bring improved educational opportunity to the families of Laguna Danta.



United by Friendship would like to express our sincere appreciation to the ACAD Foundation for World Health for major funding of water projects for the villages of Chipaj and Lagunita. These projects are currently under construction with anticipated completion by December 2011. More details will be coming in the next newsletter or on the UbF website.