



UNITED BY FRIENDSHIP



2018 FOCUS PROJECT

AGRICULTURE EDUCATIONAL CENTER

When the village leader in the remote region of the Zona Reyna asked UbF founder Deborah Simon to check on a sick child, she grabbed her medical pack and followed him to a tiny home. Despite her years of being a nurse, she was unprepared for what she found. Hector, an eleven-year-old boy with Down's Syndrome lay with glazed eyes, a high fever, a distended abdomen, heart rate of 130 and a rash covering his body. Deborah immediately called an ambulance, which took Hector to the nearest hospital 5 ½ hours away, fording rivers on the treacherous road.

The next day Deborah and the team of volunteers visited him at the hospital where they learned he had nearly died the prior night of congestive heart and liver failure from complications of pellagra, which is caused by malnutrition.

A recent article in the Washington Post cites "Hunger, food insecurity, limited work opportunities and abandonment by the state are unfortunately the status quo in much of rural Guatemala, which has the highest rate of chronic malnutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean. This scale of food insecurity is certainly abhorrent, but we can't really call it a sudden crisis if it's already an entrenched condition."

The people of the Zona Reyna are no longer waiting for the government help to remedy their situation. They have donated land on which to build an agriculture education center where farmers will be taught to grow a variety of crops, such as green leafy vegetables and a wider variety of corn that will improve their nutrition. The center will be constructed through a partnership between UbF, the Peace Corps, Rotary Clubs from Corpus Christi and the local village population. UbF's commitment to the project is \$15,000.

And Hector? Thanks to intensive intervention by the hospital staff, Hector is now doing well and is back at his school. Let's work together to help the families of the Zona Reyna conquer malnutrition.

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2018

- In the interest of health and hygiene, latrines were provided for each family in the village of Joya Larga
- To promote learning and culture retention, marimbas and drums were provided in two schools in La Parroquia
- For clean water supply, a water retention system was provided to the Caracolito Health clinic
- To promote education, a Community Development Scholarship was awarded to a deserving student

SMALL NON-PROFIT WITH A BIG IMPACT



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THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO PROVIDE DENTAL CARE TO STUDENTS

The concept of dental care and dental hygiene is unheard of in most remote villages of Guatemala. Children often chew on sugar cane, unaware of the tooth decay it will cause. Toothbrushes are unavailable. As a consequence, most people of the villages are missing many teeth and suffer from painful dental abscesses. This in turn affects their nutrition. That was the case in the village of Saj Racan Chituj, located in the cloud forest region of Uspantan Guatemala.

However, thanks to you, this is changing. Your generous donation made it possible for United by Friendship to partner once again with a group of 10 dentists from Guatemala City who volunteered their services for a one-week intensive dental mission. They transformed the local health post into a dental clinic and set up their portable generator to power the instruments. Hundreds of students were able to get their teeth cleaned, sealed and restored. Dental hygiene classes were provided and each child was given a toothbrush.



HOW YOU CAN 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 donations of \$500 or more, a special recognition marble tile with your name, or the name of whomever you would like to honor, will be placed at the project site.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR FOLLOW US:

www.unitedbyfriendship.org

<https://m.facebook.com/UnitedByFriendship/>

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VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The United by Friendship Board has confirmed its commitment to remain an all-volunteer organization, which will allow donations to go directly to the projects with little overhead expenses. Thanks to you, we will be able to continue to be the **SMALL NON-PROFIT WITH A BIG IMPACT.**