

You may only be someone in the world, but to someone else, you may be the world"

— Unknown



One year ago we asked you to join us in adding to the medical resources of the Health Department in the county of Uspantàn, Guatemala, which serves 82 remote villages. Your generous response allowed United by Friendship to have a custom-made ambulance built that could perform on the rutted, narrow, dirt roads. Thank you! At that time little did we foresee how vital this ambulance would be as the Covid virus devastated Uspantàn.

Despite the restrictions imposed by the region's mayor, the virus spread. Many frontline medical personnel at the regional hospital developed Covid, causing the closure of the hospital.

Patients are now sent to the rural Health Department where the staff valiantly tends to the needs of the pregnant, as well as the sick. Additionally, they are responsible for all Covid testing and case-tracking. They are even

in charge of burying all Covid cases within 6 hours of death. Angel Sabin, Director of the Uspantàn Health Department, tells us that the ambulance is being used nearly nonstop, transporting patients from their villages to the Health Department and then on to better-equipped hospitals in Guatemala City, which entails an 8-hour drive from Uspantàn. We have been told that the death rate would have been much higher had it not been for the availability of the new ambulance.



Due to shelter-in-place restrictions, many elderly people became malnourished and sick. UbF sent funds to the Mayor of Uspantàn for the purchase of food to help sustain them. The fight to prevent the spread of Covid, the daily care for the sick and ensuring food security is ongoing. Thanks to you, our donors, we can improve the situation for those most in need.

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2020 INCLUDE:

Refurbishing a school, including the roof and ceiling in El Palmar

Construction of a safety wall to protect the Sabrinik school from a nearby river

Providing dental supplies for a team of 11 dentists in Joya Larga

Improved sanitation for Caracolito

United by Friendship is a vibrant nonprofit organization with an active board that works in partnership with communities in Latin America to improve the health, education, and economic development of its people. Volunteers visit the project sites annually to evaluate potential new projects, check on the status of past projects, and celebrate the completion of current projects with its Latin American community partners.

Help Us Continue Our Support of Rural Health Care

If this were a normal year, a volunteer team would have visited our project sites in Guatemala this past spring and conducted needs



assessments for potential new projects, but in this difficult year of Covid the 2020 trip was canceled, while Guatemalan needs increased. Plans to construct a kindergarten are on hold while UbF adapts to meet critical health needs with strong relationships in Guatemala.

The overwhelming issue in Uspantan continues to be the urgent need for medical services and personal protective equipment for members of the Rural Health Care team. As in many other settings, PPE is not easily obtained. Angel Sabin, Director of the Health Department in Uspantan, has sent us a list of the most urgent items, and our newest board member, Oscar Batres of Guatemala, is aggressively searching for leads to obtain the PPE required for the safety of health care providers.

United by Friendship needs all of us to protect the frontline workers in 82 villages. Prevention is the only tool Guatemala has. UbF can provide that tool with your help.



United by Friendship

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We are a nonprofit 501(c)(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. All donations are welcome, tax-deductible and deeply appreciated.

