

*No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of others – Charles Dickens*



April 23, 2022 was a special day for United by Friendship. It was the day that UbF volunteers returned to the Guatemalan highlands after a two-year absence during Covid. It was exciting to see our Guatemalan partners and learn how they had continued working on some of our projects.



This year our focus was education. We completed the construction of a kindergarten for the village of Joya Larga, a community hidden in a lush ravine, encircled by steep mountains. Due to the lack of electricity in this region, the classroom was designed with large banks of windows which provide plenty of light and look out onto fields and trees.

In the Mayan community of Saqixpec, located in the tropical lowlands, UbF is working with school administrators to provide a Junior High computer classroom. This will enhance remote learning, and will give students greater opportunities for work. Saqixpec also lacks electricity. We plan to install solar panels and provide a generator. We continue to be so grateful for your support that makes projects like this possible.



*In Memoriam* – We recently lost our dear friend and colleague, Mayor Victor Hugo Figueroa, in a tragic automobile accident while he was returning from an inauguration of a new village school. During his 4 terms as mayor, he worked tirelessly to improve the conditions of the 183 communities in the Uspantan. He worked closely with UbF to prioritize community needs and ensure good outcomes for our projects. His dedication to the people of Uspantan will be greatly missed.

## Focus on Education for 2023

- The tin roofs of the school of Chipaj have large holes, causing the rain to fall into the classrooms. Additionally, the noise of the rain pounding on the roof is very loud, making it difficult for the 250 students to hear the teacher. We would like to replace the rotted beams, provide a new corrugated aluminum roofing, and add ceilings in each classroom. The projected cost is \$29,317.



- School kitchens in most schools are woefully inadequate. The kitchens are simple, unprotected shacks with dirt floors where the women cook soup on a campfire. There are no stoves, electricity, or ventilation for the smoke. Rodents and insects get into the bags of meal. Several communities have requested UbF's help to construct sturdy hygienic kitchens with cement floors, cabinets, and well-ventilated wood stoves. The cost per kitchen is estimated to be \$17,193.
- We want to complete the computer center at the Saquixpec junior high by adding access to internet. This service will allow the students to learn more about the world and receive advanced remote classes, leading to more opportunities. Estimated cost \$10,000.
- We will continue our annual sponsorship of the Guatemala City dental team. They will spend a week providing important oral hygiene care in villages with no access to such services. Estimated cost \$7,000

## The Small Organization with a BIG Impact

We are 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. All donations are welcomed, tax-deductible and deeply appreciated.

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