

KICKAPOO/GUATEMALA ACCOMPANIMENT PROJECT
K/GAP c/o Connie Vanderhyden
E 9048 Pierce Hill Road
Viroqua, WI 54665

December 9, 2024

Dear KGAP Friends and Supporters,

I hope this letter finds you in good health, looking forward to a lovely holiday season with friends and family. I wanted to send out a quick update at this time, anticipating that we will have more news to share after our January 2025 visit to Guatemala. I have been in touch with friends in Chaculá every few weeks in order to follow the progress of meetings and negotiations regarding the land issue that was described in the summer KGAP newsletter. In addition, we have received many updates from scholarship students and news from the teachers regarding the school year that has just drawn to a close. **(Please note: previous KGAP newsletters can be found at www.kgap.org).**

LAND NEGOTIATIONS: Over the last months, leaders from Chaculá have attended a series of meetings with state and federal government authorities. Leaders from the neighboring community, Aguacate, have attended a few of these meetings but continue to refuse to share any documents with maps and/or descriptions of the land they own. They have asked for delays and have not agreed to a survey to establish the legal boundaries between the two communities. Because of this, leaders from Chaculá have traveled frequently to meet with the Governor's office and the Federal Office designated to help resolve land conflicts in the department of Huehuetenango. They continue to impress upon the authorities the importance of following through with these negotiations until the conflict is resolved. The authorities agree and have called a meeting with the leadership of Aguacate for December 15th. In the meantime, things are calm between the villages and the community of Chaculá feels hopeful that the authorities are committed to supporting the process to reach a resolution of this 30-year conflict.

EDUCATION PROJECT: Two scholarship students have graduated from their high school programs this year and will be looking for employment or continuing on to university programs. Ten high school and two university scholarship students have completed their first or second year and will continue their programs after the holidays. Thirteen students graduated this year from the Instituto Básico (Middle School) in Chaculá. They are all eligible to apply for a KGAP scholarship to attend a high school program, either university preparation or a technical degree. So far, six of these students have applied for the KGAP scholarships for 2025.

Teachers, parents and students of the Instituto Básico have been raising funds for a new classroom to house the computer lab. There is a request for KGAP to contribute to this effort through the Education Project if enough funding is available.

You may remember KGAP has been supporting an adult literacy program in Chaculá for a number of years. It is a very humble project that offers primary education for adults who never had the opportunity to go to school during childhood. Recently the directors of the center have shared the good news that they have received authorization to offer middle school classes for adults starting in 2025. They hope KGAP can offer more financial support for this new effort as well.

As I mentioned above, we receive 3 or 4 letters throughout the school year from all of our scholarship students. Here is an excerpt from one student's letter about what his education means to him:

“It is with deep gratitude that I wish to express my sincere appreciation for being selected as a recipient of this scholarship. This support represents not only a financial relief, but also an invaluable boost to continue pursuing my dreams and academic goals. Your generosity demonstrates a firm commitment to education and to the formation of future professionals, something I deeply value. This opportunity motivates me to strive even harder, to overcome challenges and to give back, in the future, to society with the knowledge and skills I will acquire through this support. I pledge to honor this scholarship through outstanding performance, demonstrating that your confidence in me is well-founded. Thank you for being an essential part of my personal and professional growth.”

Pedro Antonio Ros Gómez

MANY THANKS TO RECENT DONORS:

Michael Wright and Kate Walters

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Dan and Dianne Hendricks

Tamsen Morgan and David Ware

Special thanks to Maureen Karlstad for the many years of work on the KGAP newsletter and website! Many thanks to Shawn Lavoie for taking on the KGAP website. Look for some additions and changes in the near future!

I wish you safe and peaceful holidays and thank you for your interest and support!

KGAP is able to continue moving forward because of your collaboration!

**Sincerely,
Connie Vanderhyden**

KGAP is a project of YIHS, a 501c3 nonprofit organization. In addition, K/GAP is affiliated with the Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NISGUA) a national non-profit organization that supports many projects and efforts in Guatemala.