

KGAP newsletter

Summer Greetings to All!

by *Connie Vanderhyden, KGAP Coordinator*

It is my pleasure to send you updates from our beloved Chaculá in this Summer 2022 newsletter. We are so happy to report that the schools in the community have been having in-person classes since the beginning of the school year in February. They are working with smaller groups and taking COVID precautions but report that things have been moving along well for the students and teachers. The high school scholarship students have also returned to in-person classes within the last few months. They all have to travel outside the community to obtain their high school education and many live in the towns or cities where they attend classes during the school year.

Juvenal Carrillo Funes, Director of the Chaculá Instituto Básico (grades 7-9), has written a letter. I hope you enjoy his update as well as the photos included.

We also have received a letter from Natalio Vicente, a member of the local Healthcare Organization, APROSUVI, and employee of the community clinic. In addition, he is currently the president of the Nueva Esperanza-Chaculá board of directors and has given us a brief update of some of the challenges in the community. KGAP has been donating to an emergency healthcare fund for many years and we are also hoping to collaborate with the community soon on a project specifically to support

women's healthcare.

One more project KGAP is currently supporting is the Chaculá Center for Adult Literacy. I have included a letter and a few photos from the project coordinators, Eulalio y Humberto.

We are hopeful that we can visit Chaculá in the winter of 2023. It is possible that we will have a delegation of women healthcare professionals to assist in determining the direction of a new project for women. In addition, plans are in motion for a Youth Initiative High School student trip. It has been 3 ½ years since we have visited the community because of COVID and we miss the personal connections and strong sense of solidarity we gain on these journeys.

As always, please accept our deep gratitude for your ongoing interest in and support for KGAP and our projects in Chaculá. There are so many worldwide needs calling for our interest and support and we are humbled by your steadfast collaboration. Together we have been able to sustain our solidarity and friendship with Nueva Esperanza-Chaculá for over 28 years!

In peace and gratitude, Connie

Update from the Chaculá Adult Literacy Center

by *Eulalio y Umberto, (Translated and edited by Connie Vanderhyden)*



Adult Literacy Program Students

Note: KGAP has been supporting the Adult Literacy Center with a yearly donation of \$1200 for several years. This year we responded to the request in the following letter from the Literacy Center Coordinators, Eulalio and Humberto, and sent an additional \$1,000. They were able to purchase the computer and a printer with this funding.

We hope this letter finds you all in good health, together with your friends and families. The purpose of this letter is to let you know that we purchased the necessary supplies to finish our Center building with the funds you have sent. And we want to thank you, always, for your support. We would not have been able to complete our project without it. We also would like to tell you that we have many more students at the center this year so we have created two groups:

Continued on Page 4, Adult Literacy

A Letter from Jubinal Carrillo Funes

Instituto Básico Director, Teacher and Lawyer

(Translated and edited by Connie Vanderhyden)

Hello Connie and KGAP supporters,

It is a pleasure to be able to address you in order to thank you for the support provided for the 2022 school year. The \$25,000 KGAP contribution, along with the \$5,000 donation from the Pearson family, in memory of Jeri Pearson, are making possible the preparation of many young people from our community and neighboring communities. This year the fund is supporting 66 students in the Básico Institute (grades 7-9), 13 students at the high school level, and 4 university students. We know that this scholarship project in our community has been very effective, because thanks to your support, many young people from this community have already graduated in different professions. There are nurses, teachers, accountants, agronomists, electricians, graduates of the university and three lawyers. Thank goodness we all have jobs to be able to solve our basic family and community needs.

Connie and friends, as a community benefiting from such an important project, we thank you for your great hearts of solidarity and for always being with us in this process of reincorporation in our country after 13 years of refuge due to the internal war that we experienced Guatemala. In the past 28 years we have achieved many things as a community thanks to the accompaniment of KGAP, from the camps and in the evolution of our community. We hope to be able to count on your support for much longer, so that our community can continue experiencing a dignified and integral development.

We want to express our sincere thanks, for all your dedication to this scholarship project. We remember our dear friend Jerina Pearson, and send many thanks to her family. We also want to thank Shawn Lavoie and the many groups of YIHS students who have traveled to visit our community. Thank you all for your solidarity!

We send a fraternal embrace for all and we hope to see you soon!

Letter from Scholarship Student

Dennis Ubdaly López Jiménez

(Translated and edited by Connie Vanderhyden)

By this means, please permit me to extend my gratitude for the scholarship that you have granted me, covering 50% of the first year of my high school classes.

Thanks to the support I have received, I will be able to continue in this new phase of my education, and in a few years, graduate from high school and apply to the university to continue in my professional development. Without your generous support for my family, I would not have been able to stay in school.

Therefore, I would like to thank you again and let you know that if you have any doubts or suggestions, or if you need any more information about my grades, please contact me. I assure you that my grades will be very good and I promise to continue improving them in order to comply with the scholarship requirements and take advantage of this opportunity that you have given to me. Again, thank you and may God bless you and your families.



Name: Denis Ubdaly Lopez Jimenez

Age: 16 years old

Course of Study: Accountant

School: Colegio Intercultural Idea in Nentón

Graduation Year: 2024



Instituto Básico scholarship students



High School Scholarship Students

Report from APROSUVI

Local Healthcare Organization

by Natalio Vicente

(Translated and edited by Connie Vanderhyden)

Dear Connie and friends of KGAP.

We send our fraternal greetings to you, wishing you good health and success with your family and friends. All of us from APROSUVI want to thank you for all the accompaniment and solidarity support for our organization and for the rural communities where we work. Year after year we have benefited from your valuable collaboration in healthcare with our community clinic in Nueva Esperanza Chaculá.

Our situation is increasingly vulnerable to the state system that does not address the most basic causes of health problems in our entire population. It is worth mentioning that, in our region, we are the country in the most debt since the pandemic appeared. The Guatemalan government has made several million-dollar loans in the name of healthcare but nothing has improved and, in addition, the situation for the rural and indigenous population is increasingly affected by the high cost of the basic food basket. The pandemic and now the war in Ukraine have raised the cost of all products and it is increasingly difficult to survive. Also, according to 2021 data from the Reproductive Health Observatory (OSAR), there were 446 maternal deaths in the country and our state of Huehuetenango has taken first place for many years. Similarly, 9,686 rapes were recorded throughout the country, of which 4 out of 10 were girls and adolescents.

What is even more serious is that the justice system is inoperative in these cases. So far this year, from January through May, 30,131 pregnancies have been registered in adolescents between 15 and 19 years old and 508 of these are girls between 10 and 14 years old. It is regrettable and even shameful to comment on this data, but it is the reality that we live. The state system is inoperative in all areas of work and even more so for women who suffer all kinds of rape. There is also talk of extreme corruption, which hinders and sets back our development.

We also want to tell you that in Chaculá we are experiencing a tense time because of the problem with our neighbors in the village of El Aguacate. They have been invading our lands for many years in the location of our water springs and recently have built cabins and a road in the area and have taken away one of the springs. We have tried to negotiate but they do not budge in any way. We have filed a lawsuit with the Public Prosecutor's Office but it is not moving forward and our community has had enough. However, we are still trying to resolve it somehow.

Dear friends, thank you for listening to us and for your solidarity and, above all, for your valuable collaboration. We reiterate our greetings to each one of you. May the Creator be with you always.

Sincerely,
Natalio Vicente, APROSUVI Team

MANY THANKS TO OUR KGAP DONORS! from January – June, 2022

Kim Dowat

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Dan and Dianne Hendricks

Susan Pope

Robert McDowell

Sandra Stroo

Adult Literacy, continued from Page 1

Group 1: Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Group 2: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

We feel badly that Eulalio is paid so little by the government but we cannot reject anyone. We registered all who applied even though we know that it means a lot more work for us. We both also have to work in the fields to feed our families.

We would like to make another request because there are so many students now and it is difficult to write everything by hand and go to other places to print copies for everyone. We would like to buy a computer but we don't have any extra funds. This would be a great benefit for the Center, for us and for the students. We hope to hear from you about this request soon.

We say goodbye to you now, sending many greetings and hugs to everyone. We hope that you will come to Chaculá in 2023, since the pandemic has kept us apart. You will be welcomed with open arms!

Thank you so much for all the support you have given us year after year. KGAP is one of the pillars of the Chaculá Adult Literacy Center!



Distributing funds to parents of scholarship students

**Donations are tax
deductible & can be sent to:**
KGAP
c/o Connie Vanderhyden
E9048 Pierce Hill Road
Viroqua, WI 54665

KICKAPOO/GUATEMALA ACCOMPANIMENT PROJECT (KGAP) see kgap.org for more information. KGAP is a project of Youth Initiative High School, a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax deductible. In addition, KGAP 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. More information about NISGUA can be found at nigua.org

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