

Rotary Club: Jasper

Project Title: Guatemala Sewing and Cooking Project: 2013-14

Project Description

1. *Briefly describe the project What was done, when and where did project activities take place, and who were the beneficiaries?*

The project took place in San Juan Alotenango, Sacatepequez, Guatemala, Central America.

The project helped families break the cycle of poverty and ignorance by offering an enhanced and on-going cooking and sewing program offered through Asociación Bendición de Dios School, a third-party, non-profit organization in Alotenango, In 2013-14, this project helped more than 300 poor families and their 475 students attending the school by providing sewing and cooking equipment and skills enhancement to students and adults, skills necessary for improved nutrition, clothing and economic opportunities.

During the 2014 project:

- Purchase of cooking supplies, primarily food, to support the educational development of 80 students (sixty school students and twenty mothers), who receive a three hour class two times a month from a full time teacher employed for the project and a volunteer teacher from the United States (May to October);
- Provided funds for the purchase of daily snacks for approximately 400 students;
- Contribute to the monthly food hampers given to five (5) poor families that have children attending the school.
- Sewing supplies to support sewing classes for 128 students (93 school students, 32 mothers and young people, 5 young students that are sponsored by way of scholarships through donations); and
- Purchased five (5) smokeless stoves for families who have children attending school and which will help prevent respiratory diseases, as well as more efficient burning.

The project delivery in 2013-14 took place during the entire Guatemala school year (September, 2013 - June, 2014), although the efforts of the project volunteer from Jasper (Donnelly Hart), with the financial assistance of Rotary International, took place between January 5 - March 30, 2014.

See photos in Annex 1 of this Report for visual images related to results achieved.

2. *How many Rotarians participated in the project?* 30

3. *What did they do? Please give at least two examples.*

Rotary Club of Jasper (District 5370) - while the RC Jasper did not have hands on support for the delivery of this project in 2014, it has provided financial support for the past 3 years, provided Ms. Hart with a Rotary International Banner for use at the project site, and all 25 RC Jasper Club members have helped to raise the profile and benefits of the project at community and fund-raising dinners (for which funds have been earmarked in the past years for this project). The international chair of the Rotary Club of Jasper (Libby Weir) also met with the incoming President of RC Guatemala Vista Hermosa in March 2013 during their District Conference to discuss the merits of the project and feasibility of continued support by both Clubs into the future.

Rotary Club of Guatemala Vista Hermosa (District 4250) - while not able to provide financial support to this project in 2013-14 as a result of being overcommitted with other projects, the Club did confirm that the project was beneficial and met needs of the community. They also committed to checking on project progress and possible financial support in the future.

Both Clubs felt this is a worthwhile project and merits consideration of future Rotary International support.

4. *How many non-Rotarians benefited from this project?* 500+

Students, their families and the community within which they live.

5. *What are the expected long-term community impacts of the project?*

By providing funds to purchase the necessary supplies to operate the cooking and sewing program which allows students and their mothers to learn valuable life skills that may lead to employment and self-sustainability. Sewing projects for the production and sale of school uniforms is an example of sustainability of the project into the future. Food hampers for needy families with children attending the school, ensures greater health and nutrition of children and greater ability to learn. Additionally, by purchasing smokeless cook stoves to a number of families who have children attending the school, there is both more efficient use of fuel and a reduction in the possibility of contracting respiratory diseases.

6. *If a cooperating organization was involved, what was its role?*

Asociación Bendición de Dios, a NGO, non-profit, with no political or religious affiliation, and recognized by the Guatemalan government, continues to be integral partner in this project. It operates the school and provides both regular and after school education to more than 400 children, most from very poor families. It also rents a large property for the cooking and sewing classes, a grade six classroom, a playground, soccer field, presentation stage and garden. It was also responsible for delivery of the food hamper program for families of students who attend the school. Website: <http://www.bendiciondedios.org/>

Donnelly Hart, a member of the community of Jasper, has been volunteering her time in Guatemala for the past 7 years, the 4th year working with Bendicion de Dios to deliver the cooking and sewing education programs, assist in fund-raising for cooking, sewing and school programming and provide advice to the Director of Asociación Bendición de Dios in the use of other donated funds.

Financial Report (District must retain receipts of all expenditures)

7. Income	Amount
1 . District Simplified Grant funds received from the District	\$1,500.00
2. Rotary Club of Jasper	\$1,500.00
Total Project Income	\$ 3,000.00 CAD

8. Expenditures (please be specific and add lines as needed)

1 . Cooking supplies - food for cooking classes	\$800.00
2. Sewing supplies - fabrics, notions, iron	\$1,000.00
3. Smoke-less stoves for homes to reduce respiratory diseases	\$600.00
4. Monthly food hampers for five families	\$600.00
Total Project Expenditures	\$3,000.00 CAD