

Dear District 7790 Rotary Clubs,

At the first Pre-PETS training session in Maine I was able to share information about DGE Tina Chapman's District Governor's Project.

For those of you new to District 7790 let me explain our tradition of District Governor's Projects. Each District Governor decides on a large project and inspire's the clubs to both contribute money to their project and to provide hands-on service. At PETS President Elects announce their club's pledge to the project. The actual donation checks can be given to DG Tina in her year when she visits your area, or anytime after your club has raised the funds.

**DGE Tina's District Governor's project:  
Decreasing Chronic Childhood Malnutrition in Two Villages in the Highlands of Guatemala**

Project Location: Comalapa, Chimaltenago, Guatemala

Project dates: July 1, 2023 to June 31, 2027

**Project Description:**

Over 50% of children under the age of five in Guatemala are chronically malnourished. In the indigenous Mayan communities in the highlands, the rate is over 70%. If children under the age of five are malnourished, it affects the rest of their life. Not only are they permanently stunted physically, their cognitive abilities suffer as well.

Chronic childhood malnutrition is a complex problem that requires a wide range of interventions. Many efforts to reduce chronic childhood malnutrition in Guatemala address only one or a few of the interrelated causes. In this project we will address all of the causes identified in two communities and have identified 33 necessary malnutrition interventions. Such an integrated approach in neighboring villages has been shown to have a much more dramatic impact of reducing chronic childhood malnutrition than projects using just a handful of interventions.



Improved latrines and clean water



Healthy babies



Productive family gardens

This project will be implemented in two Mayan Kachiquel villages in the municipality of Comalapa, in the Department of Chimaltenago, in Guatemala. The project will be based on a community empowerment approach to ensure that the changes brought about by the project continue after we leave. We will use a train-the-trainer methodology and use interventions developed, assessed and revised over the past 17 years in nearby villages by ABPD (a small Guatemalan NGO). During those years District 7790 and other Rotary groups have partnered with ABPD, Mayan villages and

municipalities to support projects to reduce chronic childhood malnutrition, and have seen success rates that exceed the goals set by the World Health Organization. By partnering with ABPD, we expect similar dramatic results.

**Estimated Project budget: \$235,100**

District 7790 Club contributions estimated: \$40,000;  
District 7550 (South Carolina) match: \$40,000;

District 7790 match: \$37,500  
District 4250 (Guatemala) match: \$54,000  
The Rotary Foundation match: \$63,600

**Service Trips:** All are invited to join Tina on one of two service trips to Guatemala (Feb, 2024 and 2025). Fulfilling work, increased understanding, and connections with the villagers guaranteed!

Sincerely,  
PDG Deb Walters (dr.deb.walters@gmail.com)



Find Tina on her 2017 service trip in Guatemala



Girl harvesting a root vegetable.



Men learning electrical skills and parenting skills



The elders are stunted from childhood malnutrition not from genetics