



Esperanza De Guatemala

Building Hope and Relationships

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Esperanza de Guatemala is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

MISSION STATEMENT

Esperanza de Guatemala works to create life-changing opportunities in rural Guatemalan communities.

2019 Annual Report January 28, 2020

PRESIDENT'S REPORT *(submitted by Medora Hix)*

2019 has been a year of growth for Esperanza de Guatemala on many fronts. As a fledgling nonprofit, we accomplished much. In conjunction with our mission partner, Cary Presbyterian Church, we made two trips to Guatemala in 2019. Here are the highlights.

Projects

Please see the separate reports on these projects in this Annual Report.

Esperanza de Guatemala worked in three main areas of service this year. These include:

- The Water Project. Our goal is to have all 8,000 residents of Nimasac have access to clean, or purified, water. We worked with the committee from the Monte Sinai church (our main contacts in Nimasac), local Rotary clubs in Cary and Apex, North Carolina, a local Rotary club in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, and Engineers Without Borders, headquartered near Quetzaltenango, and all of the various water committees in the town of Nimasac..
- Education and Literacy. We continued to build the relationship with the local school in Nimasac, providing more resources for teachers and administrators, discussing the needs of the school staff and the children, and investigating various nonprofits working in this area located in Guatemala and who have proven records of success.
- Women's Economic Project. After input from the women themselves, we have concentrated on teaching them to sew, with the intent of providing them with a supplemental income.

Organizational Matters

Board

The Board met monthly during the year. In February, we expanded the Board by one, adding an Assistant Treasurer. Rhonda Carlile accepted our invitation to serve and began at the March meeting. All Board members are active participants and give generously of their time and talents. Generally, we ask board members to record their volunteer hours.

Contract Staff

After some difficulties with communications, particularly relating to our bank account in Guatemala, we terminated our relationship with our first Business Manager in Guatemala and in November, contracted with

a new manager with more experience in finance and higher education. Estefani Jacobs has been very responsive with all tasks.

Additionally, we have an arrangement with a student intern in graphic design from Wake Tech, Yelitza Maldonado. She has updated our logo and posted on Instagram.

Administration

We applied and received a Guide Star rating of Bronze.

We have Benevity certification and we have PCI compliance.

We have kept the website, www.esperanzadeguatemala.org up to date and posted regularly to Facebook as Esperanza Guatemala Missions. We have an Instagram account but decided mid-year to not use the Twitter account. We have grown our social media presence. Board Vice-President Sherry Bradsher created a calendar with monthly themes to use with social media.

We purchased Servant Keeper as a data base.

Finances

Fundraising

Our fundraising efforts in 2019 included:

- Two events with Cary's City Barbeque restaurant, bringing in about \$800 and some community contacts. Esperanza also received funds from Cary Presbyterian's Fat Tuesday pancake supper, as well as funds from the sale of Fair Trade items.
- Additionally, Esperanza partially sponsored board member John Hansen's booth at the Cary Lazy Daze event, who donated a portion of the proceeds of sold photos about Guatemala. This event produced a greater awareness of Esperanza and its mission.
- Our biggest fundraising effort was participating in Giving Tuesday. We ran an extensive campaign that tripled last year's efforts, partially due to a matching grant incentive.
- We sold Guatemalan handcrafts through the Fair Trade sales team.
- Personal donations from various individuals and groups.

This report does not reflect one of the major accomplishments for 2019, that of building trust between the people of Nimasac and our nonprofit. We are now beginning to be known for making a difference in their lives and for respecting their desires and ways of working. We look forward to increasing the connections and the benefits of these relationships.

PROJECT UPDATES

Water Access/Purification (submitted by Duane Hix)

In October of 2018, Esperanza de Guatemala initially inquired about gaining clean drinking water for the area of the town around Monte Sinai church, expecting to help dig a well and provide a filtration system to distribute water in 5 gallon jugs. As we learned more about the already existing water systems in Nimasac, that strategy was replaced with one that addressed the water needs of the whole town. Currently two local committees supply water from wells and cisterns to about 1/4 of the town, with expectation of expansion. However, lack of money has diminished prospects for expansion and has hampered repairs of current systems.

In August and again in October of 2019, we met with representatives of the local water committees, discovering that they often competed with one another and duplicated services, but were both eager to expand if money were available. Consulting with a Guatemalan office of Engineers without Borders and a Rotary International chapter there, we determined that the existing inefficiency and competition would hinder our ability to receive grants from outside agencies. Currently we are seeking Guatemalan mediators that can go to Nimasac, discuss more cooperative options with the water committees, and move beyond this challenge so we can apply for grant money to address the full water needs of the community.

In the meantime, Duane Hix, a volunteer with a commitment to helping Esperanza, is visiting Rotary chapters in the Cary/Apex area to seek funding on a smaller scale that would allow us to complete

temporary projects, like bucket filtration systems, for smaller groups of people in Nimasac. Already we have provided such clean water household systems for 21 families.

Education and Literacy (submitted by Medora Hix)

Benefitting the Nimasac Elementary School

[Note: the elementary school is the only school in Nimasac, a town of 8,000 people. It has two separate sessions, each with their own staff and principal, morning and afternoon. Each session has 400-500 students each, grades K – 6.]

Resources:

Continuing our practice of donating resources for both teachers and students to the both schools (sessions) in Nimasac, we supplied whiteboards for three classrooms, consumable but necessary products such as reams of paper and dozens of markers, pencils, pens, and teacher helps such as educational games and reference books. We also provided equipment for the physical education teacher at his specific request. The specific resources were in response to lists generated by the two school principals. Part of these resources were donated in August, and the other part on the October trip down to Guatemala.

Teacher Development and Improvement of School

Throughout the year, we conducted extensive explorations of nonprofits who work in Guatemala in the field of education development. We approached FUNDAP, which has extensive experience in Guatemala, and which has its main office in Quetzaltenango. They advised us on possibilities for two different projects, one short-term and one long-term. After some discussion, the morning session principal was interested in the long-term project. While meeting with the school principal, the District Superintendent arrived and gave approval to pursue this. One participant on the October trip was Nicole Smith, a professor of education at East Carolina University. Nicole's input and evaluation of educational matters has been invaluable.

Library

As a support to increasing literacy in the community, the library project has been initiated and maintained by Esperanza's partner, Cary Presbyterian Church. A grant was applied and approved and implementation is underway. Esperanza is acting as advisor to Cary Presbyterian and is working to promote community and school personnel and students to be involved and use this resource.

Women's Development (submitted by Barbara Carew)

In 2018, the women of Monte Sinai Presbyterian Church in Nimasac, Guatemala, expressed a strong interest developing a sewing-related business to generate income to help support their families. In 2019, Esperanza applied for, and received a \$3,000 Memorials & Endowments Grant from Cary Presbyterian Church to help fund the initial establishment of this project.

During our mission trip to Guatemala in August, 2019, we met with over 18 women and teenage girls to discuss women's health issues and sewing projects, and agreed on plans for both. We purchased and delivered two refurbished sewing machines, one electric and one treadle, which are set up in an upstairs classroom at Monte Sinai. We established a sewing team, discussed rules monitoring the sewing machine use, demonstrated all options on the machines and made suggestions on how the team leaders could teach the other women to sew. We also provided them with sewing notions, fabric and patterns.

When we returned on our second mission trip in October, 2019 we met again with the women's sewing group. The women had made good progress on learning basic sewing skills. They shared their sewing projects and talked about the challenges of learning a new skill with their limited time and competing demands. We also provided patterns, supplies and instructions needed to make reusable, washable menstruation pads. We also introduced and demonstrated a few new sewing tools and purchased other needed supplies to enhance the outfitting of the sewing room.

We're pleased to report that Phase I is complete. We periodically check in with the sewing team to assess progress.



