

Friends of Guatemala

PO Box 33018 ~ Washington DC 20033

September 30, 2022

Dear Friends,

Great News: PCVs will return to Guatemala in October!

During FOG's over thirty-year history supporting students and families in Guatemala, one thing that we hope sets us apart from other organizations is our personal connection with each student. By having scholarship applications and funds processed through current or former Peace Corps volunteers and our associates in Guatemala, our donors can be sure that funds are getting where they are intended with limited overhead.

The challenges we have faced over the past two years with the COVID-19 pandemic, including travel restrictions and remote learning, are easing somewhat. Because high levels of COVID are still reported in many areas and many Guatemalans are not yet vaccinated, it has become very clear that many more medical professionals will be needed to get through the current pandemic and manage the inevitable future ones. The scholarship applications that we receive reflect this need.



Enma in San Juan

Enma (above right) is a 22-year-old scholarship recipient in San Juan. She was not able to study due to her parents' serious health issues. When she started receiving a FOG scholarship, it changed the lives of her entire family. This October she'll be completing a nursing program, and in the photo she is holding her course materials which are appropriately named "Florence Nightingale: Curso de Enfermeria & Instrumentos." Now she is motivated, happy, and helping her parents, and she is very grateful to FOG for supporting her dreams.



Another FOG scholarship recipient, Lesly, (circled left) is celebrating a "jornada de salud" with fellow students in Loma Alta in San Juan. They spent the day with visiting doctors providing free medicine and consultations. Many people in the aldea are not able to read and thus not able to follow instructions for their medications. Students like Lesly are the link to ensure better health outcomes for these people. Lesly will start an internship this fall.

Your donations provided over \$21,000 in Category 1 grants to 47 students for the 2022 school year. RPCV sponsors raised an additional \$50,000 for 121 Category 2 students. We have already received applications from students who hope to follow Enma and Lesly's example in pursuing health care professions this year. Your continued donations will create the reliable support base these students need to take on their studies.

In addition to scholarships, we have received encouraging updates from students in Sansare, El Progreso. Thanks to their FOG Category II sponsors Diane and Royce Smith, a new school (below right) was completely renovated, furnished, and inaugurated in the aldea of El Jute. The people of El Jute finally have a staffed and equipped school in their community. This is wonderful news for the students in this aldea, some pictured below, who will no longer need to travel outside their home communities to pursue their education.



Lastly, we encourage you to support the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) as they work to rebuild their leadership team and continue to advocate for Peace Corps funding and returned volunteer services. Basic membership in NPCA is free. To get more information and signup visit: www.peacecorpsconnect.org. As always, we are happy to pass along donations for them.

On behalf of the entire FOG board we thank you for your continued support of students and families in Guatemala as they navigate a post-COVID future.

With gratitude,

Valerie Burton, President

Meg Rice, Treasurer

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