

Guadalupe, September 15th ,2020



Dear Verein Guatemala-Zentralamerika Friends,

Please let me update you a little again about our situation here.

Recently my assistant Marco, decided to step back and dedicate more time to his law studies and career so and we hired Yolanda, a young very pleasant and smart woman (also a student of ours), who is now learning the basics here, so that I will have some help.

COVID-19 has really changed life for so many, obviously also drastically for us, as we normally visit the families, the schools, hold meetings with the women and the students, give special classes to children with learning difficulties, guide the students through their career and help them with their homework if so needed, cook for the poorest and supervise that they really eat the meals , treat and visit patients and so much more.

Many of these activities cannot be accomplished now but of course we have created bridges so that we can function, nevertheless part of our program will have to change for coming year.

We will hire less teachers, if at all, as it still is not certain when school will open its doors again and what type of activities will be allowed. Most likely in February school will start again, people say. COVID 19 continues to spread here, especially in Escuintla and there are still many restrictions -the airport remains closed but will open for 5 airlines on the 18th of September with protocols that have to be followed carefully-the passenger has to present a 72hrs valid negative COVID-test or accept quarantine for 14 days supervised by the Ministry of Health. Public transportation has been activated in some areas in Guatemala but most local committees do not allow busses to run yet. It is up to them to give out permissions in their area. Escuintla is in the red zone and even more limitations apply here compared to other areas. The Guatemalan president decided to ease Guatemala's coronavirus health and safety measures in mid-August, type "traffic light" system. Municipalities and regions are classified as red, orange, or yellow to indicate how many people are infected in an area and which measurements are required to be taken by the local and regional governments. The goal of this is to re-open the country little by little, including restaurants, stores, and public transportation and start to get the economy back on track.

Vamos Adelante follows strict hygiene and safety protocols to prevent contamination among ourselves and the population we support.

Vamos Adelante is at this point receiving many applications for scholarships for 2021, but due to the restrictions we cannot do any direct and personal social-economic studies, therefore we have decided to only work with the students we already support and their smaller siblings who are initiating school next year as we know the families well and they are complying with our simple conditions when receiving a scholarship.

As an alternative to a full scholarship we thought that we can give the poorest children who are applying for help one school bag filled with the basic needed education materials.

We will not be able to do our usual interviews and little academic tests in the following months, nor donate shoes to the students for the following school year as both activities involve much close contact, so unfortunately coming year the children will not receive shoes.

Of course, we will buy the needed education materials and books and pay the school fees. We doubt though that there will be scholar excursions during the year.

Probably many students in the higher grades will continue to receive certain classes via Whatsapp as the schools also prepare for changes.



All of our students have received books we kept in our schools so that they can train their reading skills at home.

We will of course continue to help the elderly and our health program will continue, just with many more precautions.

The crime rate has shot up even more in our area and it has become very dangerous to travel back and forth between the villages. The strong volcanic activity also keeps us on our toes.

Despite of the very difficult circumstances we have been and are still helping very poor families by handing out the much needed food packages. Your very generous donation is going directly to Ceylan, mostly to the participants of the Olla Nutricional but also to some families who have COVID 19 and who cannot leave the house. Here we receive help from the local committee who is in charge of the delivery. All the recipients are extremely thankful for this special support during this time of crisis and send you their

blessings, as they say!!

We can for obvious reasons not offer our daily usual warm nutritious plate and vitamin drink but the hand-out of food packages work very well.

What more the coming months will bring nobody really knows but we remain positive and full of energy. If things should get worse we will have to react accordingly.



Many warm and thankful regards from the Vamos Adelante team, Nina

