



Dear Verein- Guatemala- Zentralamerika Friends,

Once the rains calmed down Vamos Adelante was able to construct 6 more wonderful family houses, executed through the NGO ConstruCasa and financed through your generous donation, which were completed and handed over officially in the beginning of January in the villages of Lucernas and San Felipe. Providing a safe and dry house to a family means a huge positive change in their life and once having reached this standard they, of course, never want to return to having a mud floor and tin sheet walls. For this special project Vamos Adelante selected long- time affiliated families who are responsible, send their children to school and work hard. As you know each family has to donate a small contribution every month over the next 4 years and then the house belongs to them. They also have to help during the construction with manual labor. It is not easy for us to select the families as many would like to be in this fortunate group and several possible candidates said that they do not feel strong and responsible enough for such a big project. Before telling you more about the families and your food program in Ceylan let me inform you about some general news in our project.

Vamos Adelante continues helping donating good solid water filters and in some households with a Chispa wood saving stove. The filters last for about 2 years, depending on how big the family is, and then the inside filtering unit has to be exchanged. Most families save money little by little and then buy the unit. They are now available in most bigger towns. Elderly and some special family cases with basically no income we continue to support with donations, as clean and parasite free drinking water makes such a huge difference in the daily life. Many years ago, once we started to work with the filters, the diarrhea cases dropped drastically.

The Chispa stoves are excellent and a big improvement of the previous versions on the local market. They are not as clumsy and heavy as older models, can be moved easily and are simple to install, to maintain and really make a big positive difference saving big amounts of firewood. The women love them. Having a water filter and a stoves is like a dream come true.





Due to the Covid -19 crisis the dates for initiating school this year have been changed around several times and teachers, alike parents and students were plenty confused, also about the fact how the students would receive class. In school, via Whatsapp or Internet? A little bit of everything as it turned out. The older children, 7th grade and up started in January and the Primary school on the 18th of February and some schools a bit later.

Vamos Adelante knew that class would eventually initiate so we went ahead and bought all the educational material for a bag sufficiently equipped for either class in person or virtual ones.





Some of our affiliated families. Strong winds recently lifted the roof of our base and the volcano remains highly active. All families are supposed to have their 72hrs emergency bag ready just in case of a possible evacuation - recommended by authorities.

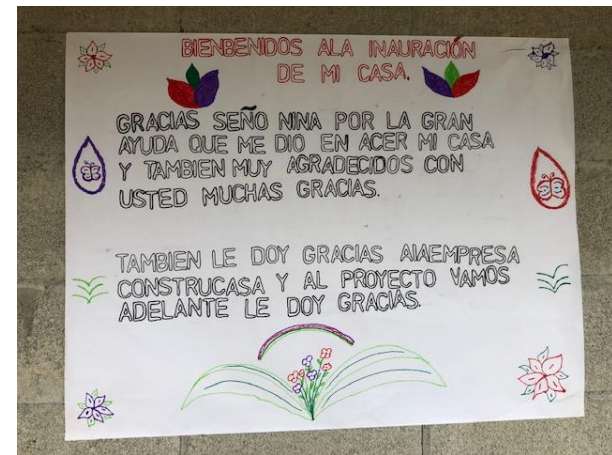




As we mentioned to you before we had to discontinue our food kitchen due to Covid 19 restrictions, but we did everything possible to purchase food instead and handed out bags with the most basic and needed food items to the participants but also to others who started drastically to loose weight as so many people were without any income. Last month, when Primary school officially started again, the government donated food for 3 weeks to each student: Kindergarten- 6th grade, which is a huge relief and help for the families. Supposedly this will continue each month.

The elderly without family still have it very difficult and we continue to help them, of course, as well as families who have small children not in school yet and who are at risk.





On January 8th the wonderful family houses were officially inaugurated in San Felipe (2 families) and in Lucernas (4 families) . The families insisted strongly that we all had to come to be present during this special day ,they also wanted to express their enormous gratitude. It was hard for them to believe that this fantastic project really became reality in spite of the Covid 19 situation. They had arranged meetings before the construction, helped each other and truly complied with everything we previously had asked them to do. Construcasa was also very happy and content. The 6 families only regretted one thing-that YOU could not be present when they invited us for a little lunch (with much distance between each table) after having inaugurated each house. They also signed the final contract with ConstruCasa.

San Felipe: Family Gomez Perez, 5 children, family Perez Garcia , 3 children

Lucernas: Family Rivera Rodriguez, 4 children, family Pirir Jeronimo, 4 children, family Godinez Luis, 4 children

Family Perez Vivas , 3 children

Gracias por nuestras casas y bienvenidos!!

