



Dear Beat and helping friends ,

The weather really surprised us this year with late heavy thunderstorms destroying most final school activities and presentations, which students and teachers had prepared with so much care and efforts. Trees fell and crashed down, electrical lines were torn into pieces, roads turned into small wild rivers and the volcano Fuego joined this activity spitting out much lava and ashes everywhere over the villages. The students and their families tried their best to find a dry spot but many got totally drenched in their finest outfits and finally just ran home. This weather continued for several days, very unusual. Finally the disappointed students ended up picking up their diplomas from the teachers without a ceremony but most will receive their final grades until the beginning of the coming year.



During the last few years Vamos Adelante taught affiliated mothers how to plant the very nutritious plant called "Chaya" , highly rich in protein and iron and this year we focused on using these leaves not only in soups but also in the daily eaten tortilla , beans, and nachos for the children plus a few other recipes. The children love the nachos and nowadays many mothers give them a little bag as a school snack , which of course is very healthy. In addition several mothers sell "tamales" or "chuchitos" filled with Chaya in the afternoons to improve their income.



Many women also received a course on how to make delicious jams with fruit found in the local area and most jams, once ready, were eaten very quickly by the children and participants. Luckily even here some women took advantage of their new knowledge and now sell bread filled with jam or just plain jam.





This year we were able to build 6 more houses in Ceylan and instead of being surrounded by tin sheets, plastic and broken wood planks the families today feel most fortunate to live in a nice little cement block house. It is of course a major improvement and changes their lives in a most positive aspect. Thank you !!!!!!!!!!!



Clean and good drinking water is a huge step towards better health and we are happy to tell you that most of our affiliated families now have a water filter. After about 4 to 6 years they need to be replaced completely and the filtering unit needs to be replaced after approximately one year, depending on how many people are using the filter.

A filter costs 45 US \$ and the filtering unit US \$ 30. We always recommend to put a bit of money aside for this purpose but that is hard for the women as every penny is needed.



The 15<sup>th</sup> of September is much celebrated, especially among the school children as it is Independence Day and each village has its own traditions. Basically nobody studies for at least one week. It is a very happy time and connected with much music and dance.





In the last months we have successfully installed 60 rainwater collecting systems in Ceylan where the people suffer heavily of lack of water. The water container holds 1100 liters and is an enormous help for the mothers, who are responsible for finding and bringing water to the home. In this particular area rain is scarce in January, February and March but during the rest of the year they receive enough rain to fill the container several times per month.



With much pride many of our students graduated from Primary school, Junior High School and college, others terminated their vocational training successfully and thanks to their good grades have already been offered a good job such as Ingrid here to the right who now has a degree in accounting and Guadalupe to the left who will start teaching in Pre-school.

Hundreds of students just passed our test for a scholarship . We are especially content to see that more and more girls decided to continue to study higher grades.







In October we started with our little exams for the students who applied for a scholarship 2017. The students need to understand from an early age on that this is important and requires responsibility. For the coming year we will sponsor approximately 550 students. Students who are lazy and do not understand the importance of the scholarship we recommend to return next year with a different attitude.



We just started a project called "Mi Escuela Alegre", my happy school, an awareness project for the whole village, which consists of painting their school colorful with images and colors they like, to improve the student's daily environment in a positive way. It was received very well and in the next report you will see the first finished school.



In addition we also try to raise the awareness about the tremendous garbage problem in Chuchu and will soon place garbage bins and have found a place, thanks to the village committee, where the garbage can be buried or burnt instead of throwing it in front of or behind the school. This project will be a rather difficult task but we will start with the Primary school area.

Guatemalan children can play forever with one little toy and have enormous fun. The playgrounds we constructed have been received very well!



Thank you so much for your generous help and trust over the years. We hope that you are satisfied with our results and if you perhaps plan a visit to Guatemala, please feel welcome to us any time.

We all wish you very Happy Holidays.

Warm regards from the Vamos Adelante team and affiliated families

