

# Individual Project Report

## Community Learning Center and Garden Project (CLCG) - Guatemala

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### Project Description

1. Describe the project. What was done, when, and where did the project activities take place?

Since Lancetillo La Parroquia did not have a community learning center, garden, or public trash receptacles, District 5930 banded with the Peace Corps and another organization, United by Friendship to help this community construct a learning center and put in trash receptacles as well as plant crops.

The project started in August 22, 2018 after funding. The walls, doors and Windows were installed the week of November 11, 2018. The learning center was constructed first and was completed in the month of February. The Rotary portion of funding saw to the purchase of all garden components, and building of fencing, shed, and the septic system. The builder began construction of the wall/fence encompassing the 40 x 50 meter space that the community granted for this project in November.

Local high school teachers carried out a sustainable organic gardening and food security curriculum and local nurses taught nutrition and health classes to reduce teenage pregnancy numbers. After educating approximately 180 high school students, they then planted a garden on the adjacent lot. After the harvest, students will be taught economics and life skills by selling the vegetables at market.

April 3, 2019 was the grand opening to the community.

Future midwife and nursing trainings as well as mother and child health care trainings are planned for the near future.

2. How many people benefited from this project?

The community of Lancetillo La Parroquia with a population of 2,172 people benefited from this project. The populous is 96% indigenous and speak their local Mayan dialect and have Spanish as a second language. This community is located in the Western highlands of Guatemala, in the municipality of San Miguel Uspantan, in the department of Quiche and has limited resources. For instance, the community lacks paved roads and electricity.

3. Who were the beneficiaries, how were they impacted by this project, and what humanitarian need was met?

The direct beneficiaries are secondary students that attend the local, public middle school of INEB (Instituto Nacional de Educación Básico) and the local, private, secondary institution of Prodesa. Students were taught an Agriculture and Life Skills Curriculum which was developed by Prodesa in 2017. This curriculum alongside the resources of a learning center and gardening materials/seeds helped students learn about sustainable organic farming and composting as well as proper nutrition and economic life skills.

Other direct beneficiaries are the 55 nurses of the area who requested the learning center so that they could address the specific needs generated by teenage pregnancies in their community. Their focus on mother and child welfare and health care is of great importance because there were 97 pregnant women between the ages of 15-19 that visited the health center in Lancetillo La Parroquia in 2016. There were also four pregnant 14- year-olds

who visited the health center. Due to their ages, there was a great need to educate them in the areas of nutrition and mother/child health and welfare.

The grant served to meet the basic need of nutrition and focused on mother and child welfare. It also addressed the need of education in that it created an agricultural learning center where local teachers could train the youth on sustainable organic farming.

4. How many Rotarians participated in this project?

Five key Rotarians participated in this project, but it would not have been possible without the support of Brownsville Sunrise, McAllen Evening, and Port Isabel Rotary Clubs.

5. What did they do? Please give at least two examples, not including financial support provided to the project.

Deborah Simon, who represents United by Friendship had an active role in overseeing the project and coordinating with the various organizations involved. She was assisted by Art Zeitler who followed finances and coordinated the MOUS between the organizations and the community. Elaine Hernandez and Nianna E. Gustovich from McAllen Evening Rotary helped write the grant so that we could insure education on food security for the community of La Parroquia. Tricia Johnson of the Guatemala Coalition field trip provided photographs of the completed project.

6. If a cooperating organization was involved, what was its role?

The organizations, Peace Corps and United by Friendship assisted in building the agricultural learning center with labor contributed by the community. The Peace Corps contributed approximately \$10,000 to the project and the community provided approximately \$17, 100.

**Financial Report**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>%</b>
Aug 30, 2018	McAllen Evening	District Grant	\$3,400.00	42.50 %
Jun 11, 2018	McAllen Evening Rotary Club	Club/Other	\$600.00	7.50 %
Jun 11, 2018	Point Isabel Rotary Club	Club/Other	\$1,500.00	18.75 %
Jun 11, 2018	Brownsville Sunrise Rotary Club	Club/Other	\$2,500.00	31.25 %
<b>Total:</b>			<b>\$8,000.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>

  

<b>Description</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Local Amount</b>	<b>Currency</b>	<b>Tax</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Seeds, plants, materials for garden and learning center	Guatemala	\$8,000.00	USD	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
<b>Total:</b>					<b>\$8,000.00</b>	<b>\$8,000.00</b>