

Stove Builders of Guatemala Newsletter

Issue #2 Fall 2015

76 unique visitors view our web site each week!
www.stovebuildersofguatemala.org

Great news!

By the time this newsletter reaches you, over 529 stoves have been built for Mayan families in Guatemala! Many more families are waiting for their stove, so please participate by sending your gift.



Celebrating our Stove Builders...March 2015 While we had a work team in Guatemala last March, we took the opportunity to have a very special celebration dinner for our trained stove builders so we could show them how much we appreciate all the work they are doing and have done for the Guatemala stove project. There are currently 10 young men who have been trained to build stoves in 5 different villages. Seven of the stove builders attended the celebration dinner.

The dinner was held at Pinquino's, in the city of Panajachel. The work team decorated the restaurant with crepe paper, balloons, party favors and gift bags for the stove builders. A delicious dinner was enjoyed by all. Speeches of gratitude were made and the stove builders enjoyed all the special touches in their honor.



Miguel showed a special video he had made of the families who have received stoves and then his daughters played the marimba. Their new 'rock' band played as well and some of the stove builders and team members even got up and danced a bit.

(Photo: 1 to r, back row: Daniel, Juan, Josue, Connick, Diego, and Pedro. Front row: Nicholas and Miguel)

What a wonderful dinner with a great group of people! We appreciate our stove builders so much – this program would not exist without them. They do an excellent job of building stoves and they are as passionate about this program as we are. Thank you to our fantastic stove builders!



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Who is Miguel Tzul?

Born into poverty in a Mayan community in the highlands of Guatemala, Miguel Tzul is acquainted with hardship. Today as an owner of a restaurant and the Toliman Excursions travel agency, he has not forgotten his Mayan roots and heritage. Miguel's past and present combine to make him the perfect fit for working with the Stove Builders of Guatemala project.

Miguel had seen many U.S. work teams arrive for their work days and then leave – never to return. So his trust and confidence in the Stove Builders of Guatemala teams was not there from the beginning. But teams from 1st UMC-Wichita kept returning to build stoves for his people. His trust began to grow and his commitment took on greater proportions. After several teams had been to the highlands of Lake Atitlan, Miguel began staying with the teams and working the whole week – even when his father was having surgery. We marvel at God's work that brought us together as a Guatemalan-U.S. team.



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Miguel is invaluable in helping each team's stay in Guatemala go as smooth as possible and in helping maintain the Stove Builders of Guatemala project at the highest standards. He is our Guatemalan point person: coordinating the receipts and disbursement of funds to our Guatemalan stove builders; arranging transportation to the highlands for each team; securing interpreters for the health classes; helping select the families who will receive stoves; and sharing with each team his Mayan culture and tradition. He prays for us and welcomes our return. How fortunate we are to have him as part of Stove Builders of Guatemala.

(Story submitted by Karen Fieser, Norwich, KS)

2016 Work Team Dates

Come join us for 9 days of work, fun, cultural exchange and abundant blessings !

January 9-17

February 13-21

March 12-20

November 5-13

For more information, contact Bonnie Laycock at bonniel@firstwichita.org or call 316-267-6244

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Trinity United Methodist Church Is a New Stove Builder Partner!

Bonnie Laycock and Linda Ortman met with Rev. Brenda Beaver and Sue Sappington, co-president of the United Methodist Women at the Trinity United Methodist Church, Arlington, TX. on July 6th to explain about the Stove Builders of Guatemala.

They were excited about the project and wanted to partner with us! On August 9th, we were invited to participate in their “Mission Fair.” Agencies and projects the church supports were set-up in the lobby of the church so that members could learn more about these mission outreach opportunities. Linda took a model stove, brochures and photos to display. These were well received. Bonnie will be presenting programs to various groups in the church on December 5, 2015.

Next issue: another new partner: Lakin, KS.

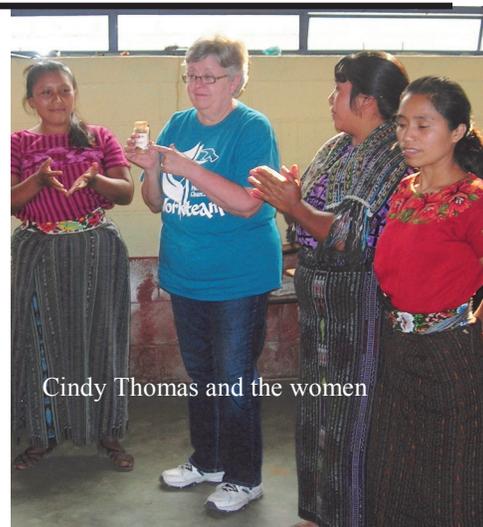


L to R (Linda Ortman and Rev. Brenda Beaver at the Mission Fair.)

More than building stoves

During a five day trip to the Mayan villages to build stoves, three afternoon classes are held for the women who are receiving the stoves. The classes are in English, Spanish and the Mayan language of the village.

During the hygiene class, we ask for two women to demonstrate the benefits of hand washing. After rubbing Vaseline on their hands, we sprinkled cinnamon on their hands to represent dirt.. After smelling the cinnamon and giggling, we passed a bucket of tap water and asked them to wash their hands. The cinnamon does not come off their hands. We then give them a bar of soap and asked them to apply and rub in the soap, then again passed the bucket of water. Their hands are now clean demonstrating the importance of using soap to remove dirt and germs. Other classes focus on nutrition and health. All the women go home with gifts of soap, toothpaste, tooth brushes and shampoo.



Cindy Thomas and the women

Story submitted by Jean Baumann, First UMC, Richardson, TX

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#GivingTuesday ! SAVE THE DATE! December 1, 2015.

What is #GivingTuesday? Founded in 2012, #GivingTuesday was launched as a global movement and has engaged over 30,000 organizations worldwide. It's a "giving event" timed to occur on the first Tuesday following Thanksgiving and it's recognized shopping events: Black Friday and Cyber Monday. This year it will be held Tuesday, December 1st.

Friends, we know there are many charities you can choose to support, so it means the world to us when you include us in your charitable giving. The **Stove Builders of Guatemala** project is becoming more and more successful through caring people like you.



Global Ministries will allocate matching funds dollar for dollars up to the first \$1 million in gifts to Advance projects received online on Dec. 1, 2015, between 12:00 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. CT. **(Past experience tells us you should go online at midnight or soon after!)**

How to give: Go to the United Methodist Global Ministries web site www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/3022040 . This link takes you directly to our project; when you're there, just click on "GIVE NOW."

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