

Stove Builders of Guatemala Newsletter

Fall 2018

Great news!

By the time this newsletter reaches you, over **1400** stoves have been built for Mayan families in Guatemala! This means that approximately 5,600 family members have benefitted by having a stove in their cook house. Many more families are waiting for their stove, so please participate by sending your gift now!

Kingwood UMC Vacation Bible School supports Stove Builders of Guatemala with their gifts

During this summer's VBS at KUMC, more than 300 elementary school students and 75 adult volunteers participated in a week-long set of traditional activities, including visits to the *Missions Room* for 30-min sessions to learn about special ministries supported by KUMC. One of this year's featured ministries was Stove Builders of Guatemala.

A full-size cardboard stove model was used by KUMC Staff member, Gladden Lawrence, to explain why the Mayan people needed a stove. He explained the stove's built-in health and safety benefits, the stove's fuel efficiency, and how each stove is precisely constructed by a master stove builder to keep the wood fire smoke from escaping back into their home.



"We raised \$2600 so that families could have a stove!"

KUMC has sent 2 volunteer teams to the central highlands in Guatemala, adopting the community of Paquixit and working with the United Methodist Church of Guatemala.

A work team is scheduled to travel back to Guatemala January 19-27, 2019. If you're interested in joining the KUMC team, please contact Gladden Lawrence, KUMC 1.281.358.2137, or email him at gladden.lawrence@kingwoodumc.org.

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The Second Time Around

Guatemala is a country in Central America bordered by Mexico to the North and West. It is the most populous country in Central America with around 15.8 million people residing there. More than 75% of the population lives below the poverty line. The extent of poverty is even more severe among the indigenous population, the Mayans, who make up about half of the population of Guatemala. Of the Mayan people, 91% live in extreme poverty with limited access to good health care, safe drinking water and adequate food. Most of these families cook their meals over a wood fire on the ground of their home. As a result, one of the leading causes of death and other diseases for the Mayan families is the smoke from unvented cooking fires.

It is an amazing experience to help build a stove for a family. On my last trip, as I was hiking to the top of the mountain, I began to recognize the path I was on and quickly realized that I had been in this exact spot the year before. I



At the top of the mountain, the man of the house, an elderly gentleman, was in his field hoeing his corn. First of all, I was extremely happy when I saw him because most Mayans do not live to be his age.

He came over to greet us and as he shook my hand; he looked me straight in the eye. In that moment, I knew he remembered me from the year before. He kept patting my hand and repeating something to me in his Mayan language. He took me by my hand and led me to his home and straight to his stove. I was overwhelmed with joy to see his daughters cooking on their stove. I showed him the photo we had taken together the year before and before I left, we took another photo. We exchanged a big hug, waved goodbye and I continued my hike. No language barrier was big enough to come between my friend and me. We both have made a difference in each other's lives.

January 5-13, 2019 and March 9-17

"We need a few more team members!"

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

For more information, contact Bonnie Laycock at sblaycock18@gmail.com or call 316-207-0883

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Fall 2020 continued

Transition



Bonnie Laycock helps a family build their new stove.



Joy Anderson helps build a new stove.

Bonnie Laycock, who was instrumental in the start-up of Stove Builders of Guatemala, retired from FUMC, Wichita as the Director of Missions and Outreach. With her retirement, the SBG Advisory Board voted to seek help from a “partner church” to act as the administrator of the program. The Reverend Joy Anderson, who has a similar role as Bonnie, with First United Methodist Church, Richardson, Texas was approached and agreed to accept the responsibilities as administrator of Stove Builders of Guatemala. *Contact Joy at janderson@fumcr.com 972-235-8385.*

This past May a new Advisory Board for SBG was established and met for the first time to provide the needed transition. In addition, Bonnie agreed to continue her efforts with SBG as a volunteer, serving on the Board and as the coordinator for partner churches. The new Board is made up of 13 individuals representing eight different churches from four different states.

The goal and the mission of Stove Builders of Guatemala has not changed and continues to be to build relationships with the Mayan people and to help them help themselves by providing a better environment in which to live and raise their families.

For additional information about Stove Builders of Guatemala or to donate to this project go to www.stovebuildersofguatemala.com/ and click on "buy a stove or donate". The SBG Advisory Board appreciates your continued support.

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#GivingTuesday ! SAVE THE DATE! November 27, 2018.

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 its recognized shopping events: Black Friday and Cyber Monday. This year it will be held Tuesday November 27th.

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



Special Article for Online Newsletter readers

"I will soon be going back to Guatemala for the 6th time. I have been asked numerous times why I keep going back. The main reason is that I enjoy working with the team members of Stove Builders of Guatemala while helping to improve the life of the people of Guatemala who are in such need. A simple thing such as a new stove brings great delight to these loving people who are so appreciative and it gives me pleasure and is an honor to work with SBG which I hope to continue."

Submitted by Mary Cave St. Paul UMC, Omaha, NE

Remember Felipe?



Some of you will remember Felipe as one of our first "master stove builders." He has built many stoves for Mayan people and has trained other young men to build strong, fuel-efficient stoves. We are proud to say that he has found a full-time job now.

He has built his own house, married and now has an adorable daughter, pictured here. Congrats to this special young man!



