

APRIL 2023

Project El Salvador

U P D A T E

The Mission of Project El Salvador is to support the people of El Salvador in implementing their own vision of justice. We express our solidarity and deepen our relationship with El Salvador by creating awareness in the United States of the plight of the marginalized in Central America and by supporting grassroots community development through funding of projects in El Salvador.

Visit us at www.projectsalsvador.org!

Communities Taking the Lead

Grassroots Organizing in El Salvador

For the past several years, Project El Salvador has funded various community organizing projects in collaboration with Communities of Faith Organizing for Action (COFOA). For fifteen years COFOA has provided assistance for grassroots organizing around the identification, implementation and evaluation of community-led projects. Our mission statement aligns with that of COFOA around our mutual commitment to help implement the local community vision for progress and justice.

In November last year we received requests from three communities for funding for much-needed projects. Each community submitted a proposal outlining their situation and proposed action along with a detailed budget. Because of the continued generous support of our donors, the Project El Salvador Board decided to fund all three projects. We are excited to share them with you in this newsletter:

- **Access to Potable Water** in
Las Neblinas, Panchimalco, San Salvador
- **Community School** in
Plan del Rancho Citala,
Chalatenango
- **Access to Health Care** in
Comunidad La Planta Canton El
Suncita, Acajutla, Sonsonate



Access to Potable Water--Las Neblinas, Panchimalco, San Salvador

“Un siglo de ausencia” (a century of absence)...so the song goes.

It hasn't quite been a century, but for seventy years, while other communities have gained access to potable water, the people of Las Neblinas have lacked potable water service in their homes. Those who are able pay up to \$100 per month (a huge expense) for private delivery. Those who can't pay make do with rain water or whatever ground sources are available, with serious consequences for their health.



At the beginning of last summer 150 families began organizing with the intent of compelling ANDA, the governmental body responsible for providing water, to comply with its obligations to this community.

Project El Salvador happily approved \$10,000 to support leadership training, transportation, administrative and communication materials for this essential community project. Completed, the project will markedly improve the lives of 2000 people including 700 children.

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Community School in Plan del Rancho Citala, Chalatenango

Currently twenty children from this community must travel four kilometers each way in order to attend school. In recent years, the journey has resulted in the deaths of two children due to dangerous environmental conditions or outright violence.

In order to keep their children safe, the community has resorted to setting up a classroom of sorts in the community. The space is inadequate and not suitable to the children's educational needs. Here again, the community is

organizing to require the local Department of Education to live up to its duties and to its agreement with the community to build a school, support a teacher and provide adequate educational materials. Currently the families are paying for this themselves, but the situation is not sustainable.



Based on their proposal, the Project El Salvador Board approved \$9,900 for this project. More than 25 families stand to benefit from this project.

Access to Health Care in Comunidad La Planta Canton El Suncita, Acajutla, Sonsonate

For seven years La Planta and ten other nearby hamlets have been fighting for a local Unidad de Salud (health clinic). Based on government census data, such a clinic would benefit 7000 persons, including 2,600 adults, 1,200 seniors, and 3,200 children. Currently, medical personnel arrive once per month at the Catholic church to see patients, but there are no additional educational, diagnostic or treatment services in place.



Their proposal provides for the formation of at least 30 leaders to focus attention on development of a permanent community organization to push for the construction of a local health clinic and to promote community health education and campaigns to raise awareness of preventative health measures around chronic diseases.

Project El Salvador approved \$10,000 for this project.



*****WAYS TO GET INVOLVED*****

JOIN THE BOARD, 5 meetings/year via Zoom or conference call

- * Please contact Mary Alice Bramming, bramming@earthlink.net if you are interested

DONATE:

- * Make a one-time donation to cover mailing costs of this newsletter.
- * Make a one-time / monthly donation to Project El Salvador.
- * Make a one-time / monthly donation to a specific project:
 - *Microlending, Radio Victoria, Center for Arts and Peace, Community Organizing, or the Fr. Dean Brackley, S.J. Scholarship Fund*
- * Include Project El Salvador in your will.

Checks payable to Project El Salvador can be mailed to Project El Salvador, PO Box 300105, Denver, CO 80203-0105.
or donate on-line: www.projectsalsvador.org

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Project El Salvador Board members look forward to visiting the projects highlighted in this newsletter and meeting with community members when we are in country. In the meantime, COFOA will support these communities in project implementation and progress evaluation. We look forward to sharing with you in future newsletters the updates we receive. Below are several more pictures we received from COFOA.



Left:
Communal
Water
Access in
Las
Neblinas



Líderes de COFOA en el terreno, que será destinado a la construcción de la clínica en El Zuncito. Puerto de Acajutla

Right:
First 600
adobe
bricks for
school
construction



Ya se fabricaron 600 adobes para iniciar la construcción de la escuela en Plan del Rancho, Citalá.

Above: Land set aside for the construction of health clinic
Below: Several community members have to perform dialysis in their homes because of there is no community clinic. Francisco Espinoza, age 62 is pictured below.

