

## Association for Education and Health in Central America, Inc.

9240 Laurens Way, Laurel, MD 20723 November 14, 2025

A report for our supporters and partners:

We at AEHCA are happy to report to you that, despite being a challenging year, we have lots to celebrate! THANKS TO PEOPLE LIKE YOU! All of our programs have continued to either grow or at a minimum stay even, and that couldn't happen without you, our supporters. As we approach this year's Giving Tuesday we ask that you keep us in mind and give generously so that we can assist some of the poorest of Central Americans to build better lives for themselves and their families. Like last year we have a matching donation for the first \$2000 dollars contributed and I sure hope YOU make me and my brother Steve get our wallets out and pay up—Our donors sure did last year!

The easiest way to do that is using our giving options on our website at <u>eduhealthca.org</u> or mailing a check payable to: AEHCA, 9240 Laurens Way, Laurel MD 20723

NOW! Let's take a quick look at our projects and accomplishments:

★ We completed along with our partners in Ipala's diversificado the project to build two new classrooms (think of a diversificado as a vocational high school). This was a multiyear project and our first major undertaking designed to alleviate overcrowding. DONE!







★ We funded materials for 4 houses to move forward in a community designed to provide basic housing to displaced families. We continue to work with the broader community of Ipala to see everyone sheltered in a true house. I hate to say that goal probably lies many years in the future, but we are making real progress in league with the community and other organizations.







While every situation is different our typical strategy is to build around an existing abode, creating solid walls from which to build a house. Many houses then have sheet metal from their original shelter to put on for a roof, and at some point put in a concrete floor. Humble yes, but much better than the start.

★ Installing solar lighting/charging systems is underway for 22 more houses that lack electricity. This is up from 13 houses last year. All should be installed before Christmas—how will that be for a Christmas present?! A big shout out to Nelson Cabrera, manager for all of our installations, done right, and helping keep our prices down despite real inflationary pressures—and just a good guy to work with!







★ We rehabilitated 80 student desks, over 4 schools so far this year and will do 20 more before closing the year. This is a significant and ongoing need that we plan to continue to address in the coming years. We hope to be gearing up to do 200 next year!





Before and after

★ Food support for disadvantaged senior citizens and persons with disabilities is an ongoing significant need. This year we assisted 200 households and hope to increase that number next year.







★ We transformed our wheelchair program from years past into a more general medical support program this year. While continuing to support ambulatory aids our program is working to team with existing clinics to assist persons who can't afford medical tests, lab work, and short-term treatments. This is as you might imagine an enormous need in such a poor place, but our strategy is to develop a working program with a positive track record of the next several years and begin looking for outside funding sources.









★ Our coworkers in Ipala are working to coordinate our food and medical assistance work to get better outcomes while spending little or no additional funds. For example, they contacted the nutritionist at the Ipala Public Health Clinic to advise them on what foods to include in our seniors food program. They are also working to provide screenings and healthy living coaching at the same time food is distributed. I expect to have good news to share on this in the coming months and years.

**Before closing** let me share some important news with you: our founder and director Billy Earles has stepped down from his leadership role. Thankfully he remains active and on our board of directors. While Billy's idea to start a not-for-profit organization to aid the struggling poor of Guatemala was not unique in the circle of people around Cedar Ridge Church, or Riverdale Park's Sister Cities, Billy was the guy who did the unglamorous and hard work to actually incorporate such a company—AEHCA. He recruited family, friends and like-minded strangers to get us off the ground, get our 501 C(3) status, and help us continue to grow to the point we are at now. I can't express how fulfilling and FUN it has been to work with him over the last 6 years. Thanks Billy! You're the man!

Now, don't worry as Billy was thinking ahead and watching for a good and willing replacement. Such a person materialized on cue. Bryan Peterson from our board has agreed to be our new director and president of the board. For those of you who don't already know him, let me say he is very literally a God send! Bryan formerly was a pastor at Cedar Ridge Community Church in Burtonsville, MD where one of his important responsibilities was starting and then administering an outreach program to Guatemala! In fact Billy got to know the country through the program Bryan was responsible for. A great deal of AEHCA's work grew out of the program Bryan worked to buildup and administer. Bryan left Cedar Ridge (on good terms mind you) several years back and while continuing to pastor in an area church he joined our board of directors. We are indeed blessed by God and Bryan both to have him able and willing to take on our leadership role. Thanks Bryan and we look forward to working with you!





**Bryan Peterson**