

Mid-Year 2026 Report to Our Supporters

Time passes so rapidly! It's difficult to believe that we are already well into the second half of 2026, but I'm happy to write about good things happening! As well as positive expectations for the rest of the year!

Desks and Books for Ipala Schools

Guatemala's schools are chronically underfunded and in ways you don't need to be an educational professional to see. Most schools don't have sufficient desks and what they do have are all too often in terrible condition. We and our partners are working to get that turned around in Ipala and in ways that put students first! Already this year we have delivered 210 refurbished desks and will get in 40 more by the year ends in October.



We collect the old unusable desks, refurbish them and then bring them back to the schools.



Just FYI, the AEHCA logo stenciled on the desks are at the insistence of our partners to reduce the risk of fraud. They say "clearly, most people are honest, but enough aren't that we have to take precautions."

School Library Pilot Project

Individual books—monographs—like we in the US are accustomed to having in abundance are in fact very rare in Guatemalan schools. Classroom and school wide libraries are extremely rare, especially in the rural areas. I had long dreamed of a way to start to change this, and that prayer was answered when a teacher (Seño Leydy Ramos pictured below) in a small school asked us to help her get a

classroom sized library going! Well, there are only two classes in her school so we decided to make it a test case for starting school wide libraries.



Working together we got the pilot started in February and I'm happy to say it's a success. We will continue to assist Seño Leydy to grow her collection next year and also reach out to other schools in the area and hope to get three or four more going during the 2027 school year. I have faith that we will be reporting more successes in the coming years.

Food Aid for Senior Citizens and Disabled

Our community food aid continues to be of real assistance to senior citizens and disabled people. Our local partners are always looking for ways to improve and build toward a better future for all their neighbors. This year they started asking families with children who receive scholarships to help with the food distribution. Because many of the students and food assistance recipients live in the same villages scattered around the area, it is a perfect fit to get the young people into helping their elders and disabled. After 2 distributions this plan seems to be working well and a lot of the kids are taking pride in helping out.



Solar Lighting Program—(pardon the punn)—But the Light at the End of the Tunnel is Visible!!!!

The program to get clean, dependable electric lights into every home in Ipala, no matter how humble it might be, started in 2022. The need then was more than 300 houses. By our current count we have 68 left to finish, and we have 30 budgeted to install by the end of this year. That leaves only 38 to finish, and since our partner Cedar Ridge Community Church has been doing about 30 each January that means we will probably only need 8 next year to finish!!!! This will mean that our adopted Municipality of

Ipala will be—to the best of our knowledge—the first rural municipality to have 100% of the houses with electric lights.

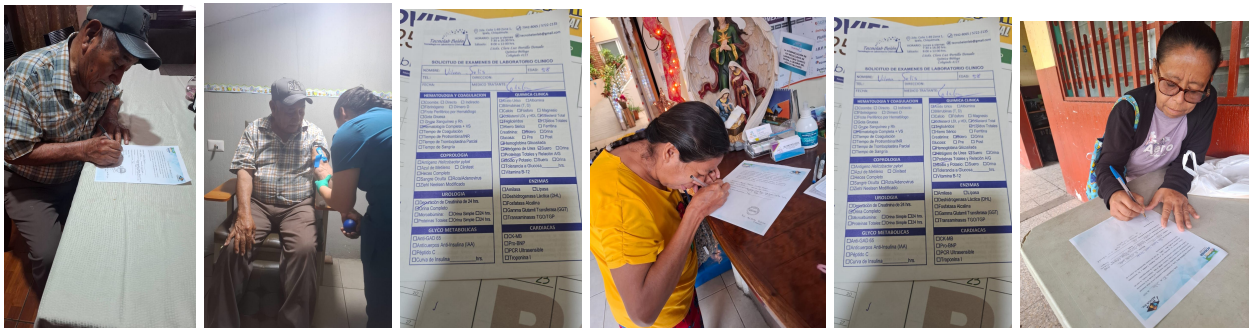
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Medicine, ambulatory aids and Laboratory Assistance Program

A few years back we supported our partners in Ipala to get a wheelchair loan program going. They now loan chairs to those in need for as long as the need continues, and I must admit I'm surprised how good the clients have been about returning the chairs in usable condition. Last year we expanded the program to start subsidizing persons who were clearly identified in need of laboratory exams and medicines that were financially beyond the reach of patients. I'm sure you are not surprised that we are only able to finance a small amount of the need in this area, but we increased our contribution this year by 50% and expect to do the same increase in the upcoming year.

We (AEHCA and Ipala's ACIDHER) are carefully building a track record of thoughtful planning and assistance so that we can start to approach larger funders and God willing we can then start to meet a substantial part of the community's overall need. We are also working to build our negotiating power with local labs and pharmacies so that we can get lower prices—and thereby help more people.



Assistance for Healthy, Safe Housing

I've reported numerous times about our program to assist people who are struggling to construct decent housing for themselves and their families on lands recently made available in the neighborhood Nueva Reforma. This program has moved forward painfully slowly, but non-the-less advances. One frustrating thing is that we are also learning about other people who have the land to securely create a home on, but also lack the funds to do so. Our solar electric project has helped us to better see the real breadth and depth of poverty in the municipality—clearly the poorest of the community are the ones who don't have electricity in their houses.

We are currently exploring different strategies and funding sources to try to speed up our efforts in Nueva Reforma but also to address problems and opportunities in other parts of the municipality. While there are many similar examples to share, below you see Doña Zoila, her daughter and 4 grandkids. We met her because she had no electricity and therefore was signed up for a solar light system. She owns the land and now has a nice solar lighting system, but the rest of the house represents how she has lived most of her adult life. Dirt floor, black plastic walls and 2nd hand tin roof. We are working on plans to help this family all live better soon. Pray for her, and us. And give financially if you can.

