Celebrating Our 10-Year Anniversary

We are celebrating the realization of our mission to partner with villages to achieve sustainable healthy change. We now have 3 village partners that illustrate our 3-phase model: build relationships, develop interactions with key organizations, and multiply impact among villagers.

We need you to join us to continue this work. Consider giving $10 or $20 per month to celebrate and maintain our partnerships in Honduras. Your donation can multiply our impact.  

Donate to Village Partners

Multiplying Impact

Our First Village Partner: Embarcadero

We visited Embarcadero during our May 2018 trip and were amazed at the changes in this village. Last year, we helped them purchase a concrete cinder block making machine through a generous donation. They now have a thriving concrete block business and all of their wooden homes are being replaced with concrete homes. Their church also now has concrete walls. This enables them to lay claim to the land where their homes are situated. We provided start-up funds for a small store in this village. It now employs at least 2 young women and is selling tilapia from our second village, Matagua.

Rice production is the newest venture for our Embarcadero partners. They were hosting engineers and students from UNAH-CURLA, our university partner in Honduras, to develop plans for a 17-acre rice plot that will be irrigated from the adjacent river, to allow for 2 crops per year. Embarcadero paid all the costs for this visit, including hotel stay for the university team.
Engineer Sarahi Zeron, our Honduran project director, was instrumental in connecting the villagers to the needed experts at UNAH-CURLA. They plan to buy equipment to refine the rice before market to increase their market price. We hope to help them with micro-financing.

Embarcadero hosted members of our third partner, Boca del Toro, to discuss and model good leadership and teamwork within a village to achieve sustainable, healthy change.

**Developing Interactions**  
*Our Second Village Partner: Matagua*

During our May 2018 visit to Matagua, we saw the villagers’ excitement as they marketed their second crop of tilapia. They have learned how to raise tilapia that are a marketable weight. More trouble-shooting is needed to keep from losing fish to birds when they are small and to aerate the pond more effectively. Simple solutions have been implemented, including a nylon cord barrier to prevent birds from diving for fish and a sprinkler fashioned out of perforated PVC pipe to increase aeration.

Key interactions with UNAH-CURLA engineers and student interns, cooperative development organizations, tilapia production experts and municipal government officials have provided training and funding for needed equipment. Our funding has provided some needed micro-financing for reconstruction of a collapsed harvesting structure.

We will be offering more micro-lending as we continue to support this community as they nurture their third crop of tilapia. This is a critical phase of learning and growth for this community and Engineer Sarahi is actively encouraging and supporting the people of Matagua to continue their progress.

You can view more photos on the [Village Partners Facebook](https://www.facebook.com).
Building Relationships
Our Third Village Partner: Boca del Toro

We spent more time with our newest village partner during our May 2018 trip and saw evidence of the impact of our funding for dental children’s clinics in Boca del Toro. An UNAH-CURLA pediatric dentist used her expertise to perform dental evaluations during the first clinic, then followed this up with cleaning and fluoride treatment during the second clinic. A workshop was also provided to teach parents about the impact of dental care on their children’s health. A third clinic is planned for dental x-rays and application of dental sealant to diagnose significant dental problems and to prevent further dental problems.

We signed a letter of agreement that enables us to partner with UNAH-CURLA and the municipal government that oversees Boca del Toro. Clare Kimmis, Jewell psychological science major, used her Spanish skills during a TV interview while we were at the university. Through this interaction, the municipal government has helped shuttle children to the dental clinic in the nearby municipality. Our focus on the village children provides a way to build relationships.

Engineer Sarahi is visiting house-to-house, building relationships, listening and learning about this newest partner. She is focused on increasing village member participation and providing opportunities for villagers to voice their priorities for future development. Our students shared meals with village members during our May trip.

Sarahi is busy, alternating travel between our 3 village partners. Your donation can help fund her added travel expenses. We will need to fund interns this fall to support our work in Boca del Toro as we begin to develop key relationships.

Visit our web page to find out more about Village Partners. Thank you for your support!

Village Partners Web Page