Projects Underway in our New Village Partner Boca del Toro

Our investment in building relationships in Boca del Toro this past year is creating positive changes in this small village. The villagers and their local school teachers agreed on a priority project at the village school. Students needed a sheltered walkway that would provide access to the bathrooms in rainy weather. Sarahi recognized this as an opportunity to develop leaders and a teamwork attitude in Boca del Toro starting with the Parent Association. This was also an opportunity to work with the municipality in achieving the village’s first objective. The project was funded by Village Partners and the school’s Parent Association. Parents contributed $5 from each family to pay the mason and then contributed their own manual labor to construct the walkway. The average family income in Boca del Toro is $2-$5 a week, so this was a significant investment from these families. The municipality provided vehicles for hauling materials, including gravel and sand dump trucks.

Continued leadership development is continuing in Boca del Toro. Village Partners is funding an intern, Yeimy Rivera, from UNAH-CURLA, our university partner in Honduras. She has been implementing meetings with the women in the village, along with organization of a fishing tournament as a village business enterprise. In Honduras, Children’s Day is a national holiday. Schools host events to celebrate the next generation of Hondurans. We donated cleaning supplies for the school as our gift to the village’s children.

We invest in the next generation in Honduras by focusing our resources on university interns and village children.
Community Development Challenges in Matagua

Community development is not an easy process. We are learning that oftentimes victories are followed by a new set of challenges. This has proven to be true in Matagua. Our partners in Matagua seeded their 4th crop of tilapia in August. They have showed continual progress in developing good practices to improve tilapia yield with marketable weights.

They built a shed to store feed and instruments, along with harvest tanks. But, we did not foresee an infestation of giant beetles that preyed on the fish fry. Catastrophic events like this reinforce the need for us to maintain our relationships with our partners. We are seeking methods to address this new challenge and we plan to support them in restocking this latest loss. Your donated funds give us the opportunity to encourage and support these villagers as they struggle to build this new enterprise. We are hoping for the village to be resilient in the face of this latest challenge.

Reading Partners and New STEM Partners Interaction at Primitivo Garcia School

Jewell students have begun another semester of reading with students at that Kansas City Primitivo Garcia Elementary school. An eager group of kindergarteners were waiting for us in the library after school on our first Monday. Students use reading journals to read and draw about their reading topics. Their favorite books include Pete the Cat and The Pigeon books. We invest Village Partners funds in purchasing books and journals for our afterschool reading, and books for children to take home.

This year, we are beginning monthly science interactions between older students in the afterschool program and Jewell science students in the aquaponics laboratory classroom that we created last year (with grant funding from the Hall Family Foundation and MO Campus Compact). Students will be keeping science journals to record their experiences. We will be figuring out what works best for these students this fall and adapt our practices as we partner with these children to have fun with science.

Thank you to our monthly Village Partner supporters.
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$10 a month can make a difference.
Contact us at vp@william.jewell.edu
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