Finding light in the recent uncertainty of the world, this month Esperança provided care packages to Maricopa County residents after receiving a $25,000 emergency COVID-19 grant from Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust.

Packages consisted of toilet paper, paper towels, disinfectant and activity books, and were disbursed to 250 seniors living in 9 different HUD housing facilities and 250 low-income families around the Valley.

“With the current health pandemic impacting our ability to provide our Phoenix program classes in-person, we knew that this grant would give us another way to continue to serve our community,” said Esperança President & CEO, Jeri Royce.

“You have brought them so much more than a supply bag,” shared Francis Aprile, Resident Services Coordinator for one of the HUD housing facilities. “Their faces full of gratitude and kind words for you really make us believe that we are all in this together. Some residents saw it as a miracle since they were almost out of resources in their homes. You brought light to them.”

Esperanča’s Phoenix program staff realized that it would be a challenge to continue providing in-person health education to the Latino community when COVID-19 hit the Phoenix-area. After brainstorming how to stay connected to this group, the staff began conducting weekly mental health check-ins with 250 former class participants.

Through these calls, they were able to provide the seniors with community resources, give them someone to talk to, and identify the household and medical supplies they needed.

Continued on page 2
Esperança’s Manager of Family Programs, Xochitl Wilson, spoke to Margarita, a senior in Esperança’s DEEP – Diabetes Empowerment Education Program – who was afraid to go to the pharmacy for insulin due to being in a high-risk category for COVID-19; in addition to recently losing her job and therefore unable to afford the next prescription.

"After hearing about Margarita’s situation, I immediately advocated for Esperança to pay for the prescription. I picked up the prescription from the pharmacy and safely delivered her insulin,” said Wilson.

“We are committed to providing hope now more than ever.”

Esperança’s Phoenix program also continues to share oral health and nutrition education to the Latino community through its Spanish Facebook page, Esperanca en su Comunidad to not only its past participants, but a new larger audience.

Seniors living in nine different HUD housing facilities, as well as 250 low-income families, received Esperança care packages of toilet paper, paper towels and disinfectant supplies.

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See Hope Being Shared In Phoenix!
To view a video of the hygiene supplies being packaged and delivered, visit our Facebook page or scan the QR Code with your mobile device.

Hope Pivots During a Pandemic
Just some of the ways your support is making a difference in a COVID-19 world:

**Bolivia** Food packages containing rice, flour, sugar, oatmeal, and oil, were delivered to 770 families

**Peru** Regular radio announcements are now reaching 20,000 families in rural communities, providing updated information and best practices for COVID-19

**Nicaragua** New, modern toilets were installed in 20 homes in Jinotega, increasing sanitation and separation for those who were previously sharing one latrine in poor condition. Medication from postponed primary care brigades was repurposed to care for 250-300 chronic disease patients

**Mozambique** Discussions have begun to build quarantine huts, where community members can isolate for the necessary time before rejoining their families

**Ecuador** PPE biosecurity suits, protective glasses, N95 Masks, and Virkon (a broad-spectrum disinfectant) were provided to frontline workers of Esperança’s partner hospital
What a Difference Water Makes!

Thanks to you, Erlinda’s water troubles are over

Erlinda is a humble woman and homemaker. She’s lived in the community of Aguas Rojas, Nicaragua all her life, raising her children alone in the same small house she shared with her parents as a child.

Each day she takes the long path to the closest water source available – a well roughly half a mile from the family’s home. **Erlinda fills her plastic jugs and struggles home with as much water as she can carry.** There is no help, her girls are too small, and her son works on the outskirts of the community. She has been filling those jugs once a day her whole adult life. **That’s almost 7,000 miles just collecting water!**

When Erlinda heard of Esperança’s potential of a water project in Aguas Rojas, she became involved immediately.

“I attended a community meeting to discuss the water problem. They explained the process and I thought it was a very good opportunity to have water in our house and not suffer anymore.”

In true Esperança fashion, **each household that would benefit was also required to help with construction** – giving everyone involved a personal stake in the project and the know-how to maintain and make any necessary repairs in the future.

Erlinda and her son participated by helping transport pipes and other construction materials. After roughly a year of work and dedication, Erlinda’s dream was fulfilled. **She now has fresh, running water to her home,** thanks to you and to a mini gravity aqueduct built to serve her and the 130 other families of Aguas Rojas.

“I am happy because now I see how the community has improved our lives with this water project that we needed so much, and like me, the whole community is very grateful. This project is a great blessing!”

Erlinda is grateful for fresh, running water; no longer having to carry water half a mile to her home.
Virtual Hope Breakfast a Success!

“Our annual Hope Breakfast is our largest fundraising event of the year,” said Jeri Royce, Esperança’s President and CEO. “Cancelling it was not an option, so we knew we had to make the shift to an online event.”

More than 250 of our friends logged in from 26 states and helped raise over $72,000 – thanks to everyone who made it a huge success!

But the shift to virtual wasn’t seamless. Since events like these are planned months in advance, there were bound to be some challenges to overcome. Thanks to some quick negotiation, we were able to turn those problems into positives:

COVID-19 caught everyone by surprise and we were unable to get our catering deposit for the event refunded. So instead, we worked with our caterer, Santa Barbara Catering, and were able to provide 5 days worth of groceries for 250 seniors living in HUD housing!” said Royce. “We were thrilled that we could do this for the participants in our domestic program who are especially vulnerable during this time.”

The funds raised from this year’s Hope Breakfast will be used to upgrade the technological capacity of our partners, both locally and globally. These gifts will also allow Esperança to hire two additional community health educators, expand our health education and the new youth development program, and support additional volunteer surgical teams for seven new missions each year.

Thank you again for making our first ever virtual event a real success!

If you weren’t able to take part in the virtual Hope Breakfast in real time, you can still experience the event by scanning the QR code with your mobile device.

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