Esperança brings peace, prosperity and safety in Nicaragua

It’s amazing how little value we place on water in the U.S. We couldn’t live without it, yet it’s rarely a concern in our day-to-day lives. But what if water were scarce? How far would we go to secure this vital resource for ourselves and our family – to survive?

The town of Santa Ana, a small community close to the border with Honduras, has been struggling with water scarcity for years.

“When we did not have water, we would have to steal it from a well from another person,” admits Zenaida, “so that my family could drink and cook. They would scold us, fight us, but out of necessity we had to do it.”

Clean water is so valuable in Santa Ana because the only reliable source comes from creeks and hand-dug wells that are contaminated with dangerous pollutants – a result of the runoff from farms and the lack of local latrine systems. Consuming such water can lead to a whole host of deadly illnesses, especially for Zenaida’s youngest nephew, Eder, who is three years old and her father Jose, who is 72.

Thanks to friends like you, Zenaida, her family of eight, and the rest of Santa Ana no longer need to

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worry where to find clean water – for the first time ever, it’s available right in their kitchen!

Your support gave them the materials and the know-how, the community provided the labor, and in the end, they were able to provide clean, safe water to each of the 98 homes that make up Santa Ana through the construction of a life-saving mini aqueduct system.

“I was always present at meetings and helped with the trenching and laying down pipes,” says Zenaida, “and if the committee told me to help with something, I gladly did it because it was a benefit for the community. We’re happy now because we don’t have to go to the creek, which we did when I did not have water. I am very grateful!”

Since that day, Zenaida has used her new resource not only to keep her family safe, but to provide for them in a new way. She no longer spends hours hauling heavy buckets of water back to her home. Even better, the clean water allows her and her family to make corn tortillas (up to 380 per day!) and sell them at market, improving her family’s future considerably.

“We were consuming contaminated water for so long; it is very pleasant what Esperança has done. I hope they will continue to help more families in other communities that need it so much!”

Just $33 per person provided safety and limitless possibilities for the future of these Santa Ana families.

Always a hard worker, Zenaida helped with the trenching and laying of pipe to bring clean water to her community.

The new clean water source has allowed Zenaida to provide for her family in a new way, making corn tortillas to sell at market.
Hope in a Changing World

In Mozambique, there is very little work to be had, causing families to survive on what they grow themselves in tiny plots of land called machambas. Flora, a mother of five, works hard each day to get her machamba to produce enough to keep her family fed.

“We live off the machamba. All we eat is the machamba. My husband is a mason’s helper, but here in Maciene there is no business, people do not build. The little money I sometimes get is when you make a little more machamba to sell to families that pay. Most of the time the payment is not in cash, it’s in salt and other things. Few people have money.”

But the climate in Mozambique is changing. The weather is getting hotter, the rains aren’t what they used to be and the grains that families like Flora’s plant can’t take the heat.

“We were lucky with the rains of October, November and December, but then the strong heat burned our corn!”

Thankfully, your love stepped in just in time to supplement Flora’s staple crop with one that loves warm weather.

“Esperança gave me and the other families two kilos (5 pounds) of peanuts to serve as seeds. The seed was good. Of those two kilos of seed I received, I managed to harvest 50 kilos (110 pounds) of bags full of peanuts already peeled! It’s true, it’s true! I’ve produced well this year!”

In addition to the seed, your support gave Flora the education she needed to produce this plentiful crop.

“Knowledge is difficult to come by here in Maciene. We cultivate in the same way that our people and women have always done. But times are changing. The weather is changing. We need to adapt, learn to deal with the land now and Esperança is helping us with that knowledge. And with the seeds to do it!”

The best part? 62 households benefitted from this seed distribution and education for just $13 each!

Thank you for the partnership that keeps families fed even in the most difficult of circumstances!

In spite of the heat that has destroyed crops, Flora has produced well this year thanks to the seed she received from Esperança through your support.
Baby Blues in Bolivia

Amalia found health and hope, thanks to you!

When Amalia started gaining weight during her pregnancy she was concerned, but thought it was to be expected.

“I thought I should be eating for two, so I satisfied my cravings.”

But when the pain started, she knew something was wrong.

“I began to feel back pain, stomach heaviness, gallbladder pain... then I went to a health center where I was given medication and told that I was overweight. I needed to change my diet.”

Amalia started exercising and adding more chores around the house to burn calories but was getting nowhere. Then she saw a poster at the hospital that changed everything.

“I started participating in Esperança’s chronic disease support group and I’ve learned a lot! I don’t miss any sessions. I used to eat to feel better, but the support group helped me understand myself. They taught me and my family how to eat healthy foods. Even during the pandemic, I never felt alone,” says Amalia with a smile.

Unlike most of us who have picked up a few pounds during the pandemic, Amelia found herself losing weight little by little. Today she’s lost 20 pounds, the pain has disappeared, and she has friends like you to thank for it!

“I thank Esperança for the guidance and for connecting me with the colleagues in this group. We rely on each other to cope, to encourage one another, and to take care of our health!”

The cost of this lifeline service - improving physical and mental health - is just $20 per participant for an entire year. We have you to thank for letting Amalia know that she is not alone.