



INTERNATIONAL

AMIGOS DE GUATEMALA

~from a letter by Bob Hatmaker, Groveland Rotary -

Groveland Rotary began Amigos de Guatemala with the building of a school kitchen in Jaibalito, Guatemala, a poor Mayan village that needed a school kitchen to qualify for food monies.

Following this project Amigos de Guatemala was formed initially with 7 partner Rotary Clubs from the Mother Lode area of District 5220- Groveland, Sonora Rotary, Sonora 49er, Sonora Sunrise, Twain Harte, Tracy Sunrise and Angels/Murphy Rotary Clubs. Other clubs are Marina and Soledad in District 5230 and Blythe, CA in District 5340. Each club contributes \$1,000 to support hands-on projects in Zacualpa, Guatemala in the Highlands of Quiche District of Guatemala, where the majority of people in the area are very poor Mayan people.

In January, 2005 a group of 14 Amigos traveled to Guatemala to help build a two-room classroom at Tunaja in the Zacualpa area with the financial support of the original 7 partner clubs. Amigos de Guatemala paid for the materials and all the labor was provided by volunteers. Although most of the Guatemalan men make less than \$10 US a day on their regular jobs, they took time off work to volunteer with this project. Kitchen cabinets, school supplies, desks and other school supplies were provided by a Rotary Foundation matching grant

In January, 2006 eleven Amigos will travel to Guatemala to help with building a two-classroom building at La Vega primary school, finish a stucco type school building in Las Joyas primary school that does not have a floor, doors, windows, or electricity, and finish the building at Tunaja that we built in 2005 with the addition of a cement patio.

In addition, Mel Hansen (North Stockton Rotary) provided a large number of high quality seeds from his Seeds of Hope project for school and community gardens.

There were many other projects sponsored by District Simplified Grants and the Amigos de Guatemala including replacing the water pump and electrical system for the water well at Fe Y Alegria Jr. Hi. School in Zacualpa, Guatemala, and a computer and printer system with email connection to facilitate a sponsorship program at the school. The sponsorship is for 10 students to go beyond the free public education level of the sixth grade. Only \$400 a year sponsors a student.

In this last year, Guatemala was hit severely by Hurricane Stan which killed 258 people across Central America. Amigos de Guatemala is looking for more support for their extensive projects. If your club would like to help, contact Robert Hatmaker, Groveland Rotary.



Rotarian Bob Hatmaker, is presented a check by Treasurer Stephen Date for the Guatemala project

Shelter From the Storm ~from *Rotary.org* - The past year has witnessed a string of natural disasters that stunned the world. Each time, Rotarians were among the first on the scene to help the survivors. Hurricane Katrina was no exception, from New Orleans, Louisiana, to Biloxi and Waveland, Mississippi, USA.

The storm, which hit on 29 August with a 30-foot tidal surge and 135-mile-an-hour winds, nearly obliterated Waveland, a historic seaside town of 7,000 that was ground zero. All that remains of the 130-year-old Waveland City Hall are a flagpole and a plaque thanking those who helped rebuild the city after Hurricane Camille in 1969. Read more about this effort in the December issue of *The Rotarian*.