Sixty-year-old Desideria Sutuj was born in Cruz Nueva, but has lived in El Naranjito for 40 years. When she arrived in this community, there were only ten families and they had no electricity, road, water or school. Times were very hard. The country was in turmoil and there were no paying jobs available. Families survived on the corn and coffee they were able to grow themselves. They hauled water from springs and rivers three kilometers from the village. The kids had to travel a long way to attend school in another village. Finally, a road was built 17 years ago allowing access to the village and bus service to the market town of San Martin Jilotepeque. Then, the
The challenges facing Guatemala are enormous but thanks to our generous donors BPD is making a difference improving the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities in the central highlands of Guatemala. Family by family, and community by community BPD partners with men and women—and sometimes children, too—in activities and projects that change lives. In this issue of the newsletter, our 2010 annual report, you will read about the year’s achievements, as well as the challenges, related to healthy homes, strong families and sustainable communities from the perspective of Paco Enriquez, our Executive Director. In addition, we’re pleased to share the story of Desideria, a 60 year old woman from El Naranjito, describing the “incredible” changes she’s seen in the community thanks to the support provided by BPD. I can assure you that there are similar stories of improved health and well-being from Cambalcol Alto, Choabajito Alto, Choatalum, Chonoxte, Chuisac Varituc, La Cienaga, La Pila, Los Tunayes, Mocolic Xot Bajo, Pacoxpon, Patzocom, Sacala las Lomas and Xetzizi—the other communities in which BPD worked in 2010.

Thanks again to our generous donors of 2010. You are important partners for women like Desideria, and thousands of other men, women and children in rural Guatemalan communities in which BPD works to improve lives. Thank you for your continued support.

With appreciation,

Narra Smith Cox.

Letter from the Executive Director

Last year, 2010 was my first year as ABPD executive director. It was a time for challenges and learning, trying to fully understand the work BPD has successfully delivered in the villages for so many years and to learn about our strengths and weaknesses.

We have followed the development strategy designed by the BPD board and the previous directors, focusing on “Healthy Homes” (water, gray water filters, safer stoves and improved latrines), Strong Family Centers and school construction. In spite of the current world economic crisis, ABPD built two water systems in 2010 and installed gray water filters in those villages. Working with the villagers, we constructed almost 300 safe, efficient stoves in five villages and 165 latrines in three. Training, focusing primarily on nutrition, continues in the eight Strong Family Centers. We built two new schools and repaired one. These projects were great achievements, improving health and providing educational opportunities in rural communities in Chimaltenango.

Malnutrition continues to be a serious problem among indigenous children and women of childbearing age. Therefore, at the Strong Family Centers we focus primarily on nutrition education for women and children under age six. Our educators provide information and answer questions on the preparation of locally available nutritious food. Other activities include talks on early childhood stimulation and family planning, and training in handicrafts.

Our main goal for 2010 was to improve our quality of work and its impact on the communities and we have developed a strategy to do this. We designed a monitoring and evaluation system which will allow us to collect baseline data in the villages, learn how they progress and know their status compared to expected goals. We hired a new staff member specifically to do this work. Additionally, we conducted an internal water system evaluation and an external Strong Family Centers evaluation—both important sources of learning and improvement.

To improve staff performance BPD has invested in training in various administrative and development issues. As an organization, we will see the results of these new capacities in the communities. We have also improved the performance evaluation system and are holding monthly staff meetings to identify successes, solve problems, and develop teamwork.
There were four main challenges for this past year:
• A water filtration plant is needed for Colonia Choatalum as they have no other way to get water in this village. A good design of a plant like this is complicated and construction is expensive.
• Water quality in our projects did not meet our standards and we needed to explore ways to improve it.
• Strong Family Centers need to start relying less on ABPD staff and become more self-sustaining.
• Many communities had problems with water, hygiene and food security because of damage during a very hard rainy season.

Fortunately, most of our achievements are related to these challenges
• Although we have not yet raised all of the funds needed for the water plant for Choatalum, we have a good design in place and hope to raise the remaining funds.
• BPD has found a strategy to provide high quality water to the communities for only $1,000 per water system using whole-system chlorinators. One of them is already installed in a community and another nine will be installed soon. We are also evaluating different, safe and more economical possibilities.
• The agriculture technician is working at the Strong Family Centers on sustainable food production. This will allow women to produce or purchase the necessary materials needed for their family gardens without our support.
We have also reduced the number of children with slight malnutrition from 69 to 12 (the 12 are new children who started their participation at the centers during the year). We had four cases of acute malnutrition in January and now have only one (this one child is also new to the program).
• After the water systems evaluation, we found that the 100% of the communities we visited manage their own systems with no need for external support, so they are sustainable. This is a huge achievement for the communities’ water committees originally supported and trained by ABPD.
• Finally, we have established a very important partnership with Oxfam International to support communities damaged by the tropical storms, helping 15 communities with safe water, hygiene, food security and reforestation. Over 8,000 people have received support from this partnership.

We are very proud of the work we provide to rural Guatemalan families and have plans in place to improve on our successes. Now that we have a model and the staff to continually monitor and evaluate our work, we know that we can do an even better job in 2011. Thank you for your ongoing support and confidence in the work we do. We will continue to share our accomplishments with you in newsletters and emails, on our web site, and on BPD’s Facebook page.

Paco Enríquez
Executive Director
ABPD
Problem Solved!

In our last newsletter, we told you that many villages were having problems with water quality for a variety of reasons. We evaluated ways to improve water quality and decided to test a chlorination system. Here is an update.

Three years ago, BPD helped the village of Choabajito Alto build a new water system, which supplies water for 60 families. It is one of the 40 communities where BPD has helped local people bring running water to each household, thereby greatly easing life for every family and improving health. A year ago, we did an evaluation of the water projects with which we’ve been involved and learned that, in general, the maintenance of the water systems provided by the villages has been excellent. Unfortunately, we also learned that the quality of the water people are actually drinking is not sufficiently high, and in most cases is more polluted in the household than at the source. After studying the problem and doing numerous tests, we initially provided 1,000 home-based water filters, but it did not solve the problem satisfactorily.

To our surprise, the water committee of Choabajito Alto asked BPD to install a chlorinator at the holding/distribution tank. (There is great resistance here to the taste of chlorine.) After researching how this could best be done for a reasonable cost, our staff installed the chlorinator, without anyone in the village knowing about it except the water committee. We were anxious to learn if there were complaints about the changed taste. There were none! The system cost just $1,000, and is easily maintained locally with minimal cost for the chlorine tablets.

In coordination with the village water committees, BPD is now proceeding to install this chlorination system in all of our water projects. In fact, we have become the “go-to” organization for other non-profit organizations, including Oxfam, which is part of a Humanitarian Network that shares this kind of knowledge. BPD stands ready to help and advise in how to proceed, and of course we are always happy to share our new-found knowledge.

This pump delivers just the right amount of chlorine to all of the homes in Choabajito Alto, keeping this boy and his family—and all of the families in this village—healthier.

Our donors are saying...

It is so great to see something that one was a part of long ago given continuity thanks to all of you at BPD! More power to all of you in your most important mission to bring a better life to the deserving Guatemalan people you serve. —Wayne Haag, Donor and former Peace Corps volunteer
electricity arrived. Eventually a school was built. The community grew little-by-little and there are now 46 families.

Conditions in the village were better, but the main problem was the lack of running water. The community development committee started to look for support for a water project. They visited various government institutions and NGOs, but never received a positive response. Then, three years ago they sent a water proposal to ABPD. Within 18 months, the project was approved and construction started in June 2009. In addition to running water, gray water filters were provided to each family as well as improved stoves. “We didn’t believe them at the beginning, but then we saw it was true,” said Desideria.

They were very worried when the construction started because the three components were going to be built almost at the same time, and the villagers were already very busy tending their crops. However, thanks to the whole community’s hard work—the women and children worked as well as the men—the work was completed in the agreed time.

Desideria expressed her gratitude to ABPD. “ABPD gave us training to build our own stoves and gray water filters. It was three months of very hard work and sacrifice, but worth it. It’s a bit longer than a year since we finished our work, and I realize how the village has changed. We have running water in our homes 24 hours a day and we don’t need to walk to bring it; we have stoves and don’t need to cook on the floor, and at the same time we save firewood; the gray water filters work great, there is no water on the floor. There are even fewer insects. Thanks to all of these projects, we don’t get sick as often as before. This is incredible! I thank ABPD very much for changing the village and our families’ living conditions. I know God will reward them.”

Projects Lead to Healthier Lives Continued from page 1

BPD board member, Barbara Yost, spends a joyous first day of school in Choabajito. With the help of 2009 tour participants, Barbara funded this school in honor of her mother, Alma Yost. The village told Barbara that they were “muy contentos” for all of the help BPD has provided—running water, a chlorinator, gray water filters, latrines and their Strong Family Center.
2010 Financials

Income: $425,606
Expenditures: $420,224

2010 Expenditures
- Administration: 20%
- Fundraising: 3%
- Program: 77%

2010 Donations by Source
- Foundations: 39%
- Organizations: 13%
- Individuals: 48%

2010 Donors

$25,000 and Over
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Feed the Dream
Miracles in Action, Inc.

$5,000-$24,999
An Anonymous Family Foundation
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Laurie Goldstein
David Hearst
Celia Henerofsky
Peggy & Carroll Hills
Liz & Tom Kelsey

Silvia Rodriguez, Family Health Educator, reads to children at a Strong Family Center. BPD provides nutrition education for women and young children at the Centers, as well as promoting early childhood stimulation.
Paul M. Kempff  
Linda Keyes  
Judith Lidsky  
Terri & John Lyons  
Manchester Rotary Club  
Hugh Matheson  
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Middletown Rotary Club  
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A dollar goes very far in Guatemala and BPD is truly grateful for all donations, large and small, received in 2010.
Newsletters are occasional publications of Behrhorst Partners for Development, 2411 S. Superior St., Milwaukee, WI 53207. The nonsectarian, nonpolitical organization is a network of friends dedicated to continuing the labor begun by Dr. Carroll Behrhorst in 1962, promoting health and development, especially among the rural poor of Highland Guatemala.

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Community members are saying...
Now we see a change. There is no lack of water. I will no longer suffer from throat or eye problems because there is no more smoke at the kitchen. My children don’t have to go to the coffee plantation and use it as a bathroom because now we have a latrine. I am grateful for these changes. We provided the unskilled labor, but the organization provided the construction materials and training. We are poor people and the financial support we have received has changed our lives.

Maria Rumualda Castellanos – Chonoxte

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ABPD Staff: Bottom row, left to right: Agriculture Technician, Ismael Higueros; Family Health Educator, Silvia Rodriguez; Family Health Educator, Lidia Curruchich; Monitoring and Evaluation Technician, Jose Ajuchan; Top row, left to right: Program Director, Natanael Jochola; Accountant, Cesar Alonzo; Family Health Educator, Rosa Elena Buch; Administrator, Marily Giron; Gray Water Filter, Stove and Latrine Technician, Melvyn Xicay; Executive Director, Paco Enriquez.