



BPD



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The first part of 2011 has brought interesting challenges and achievements to ABPD, as well as important benefits for our communities, thanks to support from our donors, friends and partners.

We have added staff and the organization is growing little-by-little. To achieve a better impact, we are providing staff training, especially in our new area of work—humanitarian response to help communities recover

Thanks to Healing Hands' continuing generosity, Asociacion BPD delivered 151 quintals of corn to 89 families in Chichoy Alto in July. The families provided six days of work on the village's infrastructure in exchange for the corn which will last about a month as corn is a diet staple. All of these families lost almost all of their crops during a tropical storm last September.

after natural disasters such as tropical storms, earthquakes, etc. Three of our staff have been attending regular training sessions with support from **Oxfam International**.

To strengthen the organization we have also developed

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends of BPD and ABPD,

Allow me to introduce myself, I am the new president of the BPD board, and a long-time supporter of BPD. I am a US citizen and live in Panama, but have a rich experience in Guatemala. Twenty-five years ago, while a graduate student at Tulane University, I worked with Doctor Carroll Behrhorst to strengthen work being done in community-based education on nutrition and health in the troubled period during the civil war in Guatemala, referred to now as “The Violence.” Three years ago I became more actively involved again as a board member.

Since my early involvement, I have worked in several countries in Africa and most of Latin America, as well as with Columbia University in New York. Those years brought a new appreciation for the importance of partnership organizations like BPD, working in concert with local villages to develop healthier communities and I am excited to be back.

BPD has made some very impressive progress in recent years. We have expanded to over 40 communities. More villages are seeking to partner with us than ever before. Rates of chronic malnutrition have dropped in the communities where we work and more kids are going to school in buildings we have helped build. We have reason to be confident that respectful partnership is an effective approach to building sustainable health and vibrant communities.

Our Executive Director, Francisco Enriquez has brought new vision and solid leadership to an experienced and committed staff. We are now embarking on an ambitious effort to review our work, focusing on what works best and what is most cost-effective. These explorations will be the basis of a new strategic plan to provide still better focus for our work.

In this issue of the newsletter we highlight the generosity of a very special Rotarian, share the life of a rural Guatemalan woman, learn about the valuable contributions of volunteers and donors and celebrate our dedicated staff.

Heartfelt thanks for your continued interest and support. All that we do is made possible only through the generosity of our donors—and so much remains undone. I would love to hear from you with ideas and comments via email at BoardPresident@behrhorst.org.

Best,

Victoria Ward
BPD Board President





LETTER... *Continued from page 1*

useful tools and strategies that improve our performance, help us focus on what we now do and want to do as an organization, and increase our effectiveness and efficiency in the villages where we work. We now have a work plan that includes a better evaluation strategy, one that includes internal and external assessments of the programs.

During the past several months, we have strengthened partnerships with other organizations such as the one with **Global Dental Expeditions**. They are now staying in Chimaltenango for four weeks a year instead of three, treating more children. **Healing Hands** and **Bridge Builders** are funding more projects for the communities and bringing very supportive volunteer groups. In addition to its usual family planning work with women, **WINGS** is now extending its work to include men from our communities. Alliances with US universities in Colorado and Milwaukee are generating important technical support.

These relationships together with our donors' financial support, have allowed ABPD to work on potable water using chlorination and Eco-filters, the construction of latrines and improved stoves as well as schools, while continuing work at the eight strong family centers. We are currently building all the components of the Healthy Homes program (drinking water, gray water filters, latrines and improved stoves) for 96 families in Popabaj, (thanks to the support of the **Guatemalan Families Association** and several **Rotary Clubs**, most located in Connecticut and other Northeastern states). In addition, our humanitarian intervention had an vital impact on the recovery of nine villages critically affected by the tropical storms last year.

One of our biggest achievements is the introduction of chlorinators in the communities. It has been very successful because of their low cost and effectiveness. In the last year, ABPD has installed 18 chlorinators, most of them during the past 6 months. We are providing Eco-filters in communities where chlorination cannot be used.

We are monitoring our projects carefully with an eye toward sustainability strategies. So far, we have formed six monitoring committees in the villages and provided them the skills to follow up their projects and report to us on a regular basis.

An important external evaluation of the strong family centers took place in June that has provided our staff very

valuable information about what is working well and what needs to be improved upon at the centers. With this information, we have developed a new strategy which is more focused on sustainability of the program, especially as it related to nutrition.

As at any other organization, ABPD has faced problems during these last months, too, and there are important challenges. The elections in September have put a lot of pressure on the villagers. The government and different political parties have forced or encouraged them to participate in activities with promises of quick benefits (such as corn, rice, sugar) that have no long-term impact, distracting and confusing the families. ABPD has a firm policy of political neutrality and keeping our focus on the work.

The big challenge this year continues to be the food crisis in the country. Even though ABPD has worked very hard to keep the access to food for communities in the area, we are afraid the situation is very complex and the families we work with are very vulnerable, so the follow up is constant.

We hope our organization and team are strengthened during the next six months so the impact in the communities is even more positive.

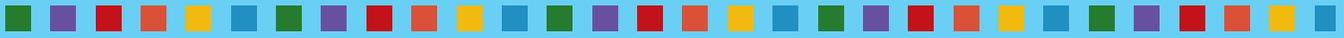
Paco Enriquez
Executive Director



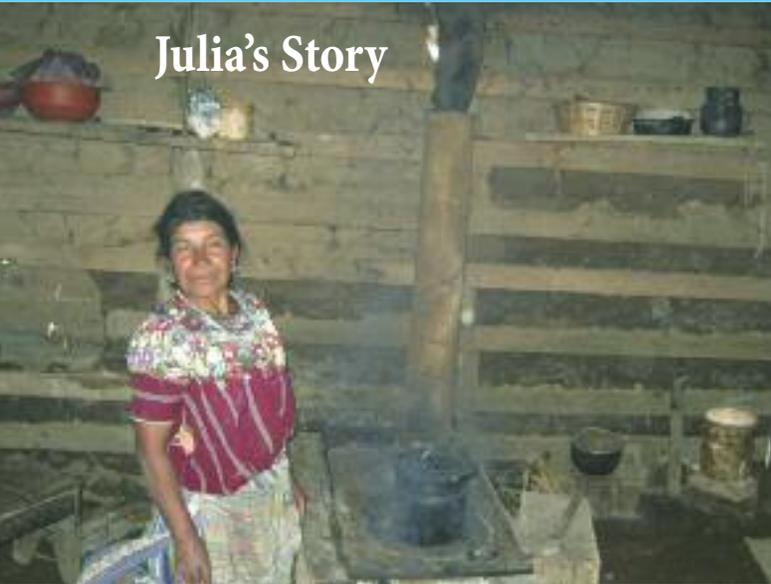
BPD donors are saying...

Dr. Behrhorst would be so proud of the work you are doing on behalf of "his" people. And, they are "our" people, too. They are dignified, delightful, hardworking, and loving. Let's hope they can remain safe and well in their country. We have so much to learn from them.

—*Judy Gustafson*



Julia's Story



Thanks to funding from several Rotary Clubs located in CT, MA and RI; several individuals associated with the Clubs; and the Guatemalan Family Association in the UK, the village of Popabaj is in the process of getting a chlorinated water system, gray water filters, sanitary latrines and vented stoves. We will interview Julia a year from now to see how her life has changed.

I get up every day at 5 a.m. because if I do not, I have no time to do all my housework. My first activity in the morning is to start the fire on the floor. I haven't got a stove to do this. I have a metal top that I bought second-hand, and this is what I use for cooking. I make breakfast and lunch for my husband. He goes to work at 6 a.m. and needs to bring his lunch with him because goes to a big farm far away from home. We live on his salary of Q30 [about \$4] a day. Sometimes I go with him but only get paid Q25 as women get paid less than men. I don't do this very often so normally we only have his Q30.

We are only 3 in the family: my mother-in-law, my husband and me. After he leaves, I go to haul water. I bring it in a 5 gallon container [this weighs about 40 pounds] and I walk to the nearest spring, 2 kilometers from home. I have to walk this distance 5 times a day because we need 25 gallons to make food, wash my dishes, and sometimes for personal hygiene. [Julia hauls 200 pounds of water every day!] It is not enough for anything else. I keep the water in a "tinajera", which is a clay container to keep water in, and I cover it with a cloth to keep the water clean. I do my laundry in a river 1 km. from the village, but it only has water during the rainy season; during the dry season I have to go to the spring. The situation with the water has been very complicated to me, nobody helps me hauling the water be-

cause my mother-in-law is too old and my husband is busy at work, so I am the only one hauling water and it takes me longer than 2 hours every day. I would like to do other things during this time. I think it is the same situation for all the families but at least in some of them more than one person can haul the water. My situation is quite unique.

We are in trouble not just because of the water; we also do not have any basic services (as ABPD staff mentioned during the first training workshop on hygiene and health). We haven't got a latrine—well, actually we have one at home. It was covered corn stalks, but we had to re-build it all the time so now it is covered with a plastic tarp. I have a toilet seat, but it is old. We bought it 12 years ago and it was second hand then.

About the firewood: we have to buy it and pay Q100 every 20 days, which is too much for us but we cannot live without it, we need the firewood to cook our food, boil the water and some other things.

We know ABPD is going to support our community with several projects now, and I think these hard conditions are going to change soon. As far as we know, we are going to build our own water system, latrines, stoves and gray water filters, and all this is going to help us so much; we are willing to work very hard to get this. Thank you so much for not forgetting about us, God bless you. ■





Bledlow Charity Ball – \$14,600 raised for Behrhorst!

By Sarah Moore

In Summer 2010 we visited Guatemala with our two Guatemalan children, then aged seven and four. We have always supported BPD through the **Guatemalan Families Association (GFA)** in the UK and were delighted to have the opportunity to visit two Behrhorst projects with the Smith family. These made a great impression on me. In particular seeing first-hand the huge difference that the projects made to the villagers' lives. So when, soon after our return, a friend asked me to join her in organising a charity ball in our village it seemed the perfect opportunity to help Popabaj, the second village that we visited. Little did I know what I was letting myself in for!

Our aim was to sell 200 tickets and to raise \$15,000 in total—mostly through an auction and raffle, with the money raised being split equally between Behrhorst and a local Child Bereavement Charity. We had been offered the use of a large paddock in the village, so we booked a marquee and a band and tried to work out the logistics of feeding 200 people in a field with no facilities.

The initial support from local friends and family was fantastic and gave us the confidence to continue. We formed a two-person committee together with the valuable help of our husbands. My friend Louise was fantastic at persuading all sorts of individuals and companies to give us prizes and holidays and by the night of the event we had over 50 items included in the auction, silent auction and raffle. My job was sweeping up a few details behind her!

We were delighted to sell 193 tickets in total, including to several members of the GFA. One of our neighbours' brother has a business that imports hand-made goods from Guatemala and together with photographs of Behrhorst projects and general Guatemalan scenes, and a color scheme of red and purple, the marquee definitely



Proceeds from the Bledlow Ball will bring running water to the homes of 90 families of village of Popabaj, saving women many hours each day now spent hauling water. Funding was also provided by several Rotary Clubs.

had a Guatemalan theme.

After a champagne reception we were served an Indian meal from a local restaurant which was excellent. We had recruited a team of nearly 30 helpers on the night, many of them local school children (backed up by some more experienced waitresses) and a small team of volunteers who did a fantastic job selling raffle tickets. After dinner two of us stood up to say a piece about each charity and were relieved to have a very attentive audience. This was probably due to the opening line from the Child Bereavement Charity – “when something so precious is lost in an instant”, which made a huge impact.

We realised quickly that the raffle tickets were selling well and that the silent auction forms were being filled up with some great bids. However, when the auction started





CHARITY... Continued from page 5

we were bowled over by the generosity of those making the bids but also those donating prizes. When one week's holiday in La Manga was generously increased to two weeks by the owner it immediately raised another \$3,000. We had nine items in the auction which raised almost \$15,000 – our target for the whole event!

After that it was time to relax. The band was fantastic and had everyone on the dance floor, and the feeling of goodwill and bonhomie was palpable (possibly helped in some cases by a very popular vodka luge!). The evening passed very quickly but everyone had a good time and the feedback has been fantastic. It was very important to us that everyone enjoyed the evening and didn't come away feeling they had been 'fleeced'.

When we took stock the next day, we were thrilled to realise that we had made almost \$30,000 to be distributed to two very worthwhile charities. I would like to record my thanks to Louise, my inspirational friend, and to all those who supported us in so many ways. ■



In late July, the people of Las Camelias inaugurated a new primary school that will serve 589 children. Construction began six years ago with funding from the government, but the money ran out and the school still needed a roof, windows doors and the electrical system. The families in this village are very grateful to Miracles in Action, Tim & JoAnn Williams and the Naples Council on World Affairs, who provided the funding to complete construction. Penny Rambacher of Miracles in Action accepted the thanks of the local children.



Behrhorst Partners Forever and Ever

Drawing up a will is one of those tasks that has a way of slipping to the

bottom of the "to do" list month after month, sometimes year after year. No one denies the importance of having a will, but getting the job done often seems less of a priority than other tasks.

Let's imagine that the task has moved to the top of your list. And when it's time to designate beneficiaries as you fill out the form, let's imagine that BEHRHORST

PARTNERS FOR DEVELOPMENT is among those benefiting from your earthly assets. This is what my husband and I have done and we encourage you to do likewise. What an effective way to continue to be a Behrhorst Partner no matter where we are!

For information on how to word a bequest, go to the "Get Involved" page on our web site at www.Behrhorst.org and click on "Ways to Give."

Patricia Krause

p.s. Wills can always be amended. If BPD is not yet a beneficiary in your current will, it's not too late to add us. Thank you.





Allen Ward Continues to Give Back



Pictured at left are BPD Vice President Zoe Kopp and Manchester Rotarian Allen Ward holding a tapestry made by the women from the village of Chonoxte in gratitude for his generous contribution.

Two challenging situations have made 95-year-old Manchester, CT Rotarian Allen Ward thankful for how precious good health and a long life can be. At the age of 19 he was involved in a serious motorcycle accident. The doctor considered amputating his severely damaged leg as one alternative. His mother asked the doctor what he would do if the injured patient was his own son. He replied he would try to save the limb. Although he walks with a slight limp, Al never regrets that decision which certainly contributed to the quality of life he has been able to live. He worked hard in the aircraft industry in the 1930's and 40's and started a metal fabrication company in 1945.

Al has been an active Rotarian since his retirement in 1968 and is a regular attendee at the Manchester Club's dinner meetings. After selling his business he kept busy in the spring and summer by growing vegetables, often bringing bags of extra tomatoes, cucumbers and string beans to the Rotary meetings for members to take home. His love of fishing did not stop in the winter as he took advantage of the numerous frozen lakes to participate in ice fishing.

In 1998 at the age of 83 Al was diagnosed with lym-

phoma and prostate cancer. He faced this seemingly insurmountable challenge with the same aggressive attitude exhibited by his mother after the motorcycle accident. He underwent a series of treatments including radiation and chemotherapy at the UCONN Medical Center and has remained cancer free since. Again, given a second chance and realizing that he has lived a long and happy life, he feels it is important to share some of his success with others who may not be as fortunate. He has made a very sizable contribution to the UCONN Medical Center in gratitude for another second chance at life.

After seeing the annual presentation prepared by fellow Rotarian Rick Lawrence to demonstrate the gratitude expressed by the indigenous Mayan from the completed water and sanitation projects sponsored by his club, Al has generously contributed to the last three of the six water and sanitation projects partially funded by the Rotary Clubs in CT, MA and RI.

Al is an inspiration to us all in how to face the challenges of life with dignity and respect for others. Thank you, Al! ■





Newsletters are occasional publications of Behrhorst Partners for Development, 2411 S. Superior St., Milwaukee, WI 53207. The non-sectarian, 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. Tax-deductible contributions to Behrhorst Partners for Development are forwarded directly to projects, except for the minimal amount required to provide for advocacy.

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Behrhorst Partners for Development

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Community members are saying...

It's a bit longer than a year since we've finished our work, and I realize how the village has changed. We have household water 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, which is dry for the whole dry season, and we don't get sick so often as before. There are even fewer insects. This is incredible." *Desideria Sutuj - El Naranjito*

BPD Board

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- Dale Gatz, *Secretary*
- Cameron Clark, *Treasurer*
- Jennifer Carlson
- Narra Smith Cox
- Donald Cruz
- Aimee Davis
- Sonya Fultz
- Carolina Gomez
- George Lamb
- Sue Patterson
- Barbara Yost

John Mike Barbee is a graduate environmental engineering student from the University of Colorado. He joined ABPD for 3 weeks and helped build a rain water tank in the village of Pacoxpon. His skills and knowledge allowed us to reduce the construction costs from \$1,133 to \$769, a 32% decrease even though the tanks are five cubic meters bigger than the old design. With his support we will be able now to build more rain water tanks in communities where no water sources are available. Thanks Mike and the University of Colorado!

