

Becoming an Agent of Change

Dear BPD Donors,

My name is Ruth Aracely Raquec Sitán. I am seventeen years old, and I live in Saquiya with my parents, two brothers and three sisters. Before BPD came to our community, I spent my time helping my mother with the housework, hauling water, and caring for my nieces and nephews. I finished primary school, but I did not have the opportunity to continue studying—my job was to work with my mother.

As a family, we did not think about nutrition and the kind of food we were eating. We got sick because of the smoke from cooking over the fire, and it made us cough a lot. We also got diarrhea because of the water and the lack of sanitation. This changed after BPD came to work with us. Now, my siblings and I are healthier and feel better. We have better living conditions in terms of health and hygiene.

For me, when BPD came, I participated in the youth empowerment class. Since we are not hauling water anymore, my friends and I have more time. We decided to do an environmental project, because we are very concerned about what is happening with our mother earth. We saw that no one is doing anything to stop this. Perhaps we are not going to change the world, but the fact that we are doing something is a change itself that will make a difference. We have encountered obstacles, but that will not stop us thanks to the support of BPD, who helped us to undertake this project.

Our Group Mission: We are agents of change who have organized to do our part for our community and our planet, focusing on education around consciousness-raising and planting trees, and introducing recycling techniques to eradicate at least a fraction of global pollution.

I thank BPD donors who brought this support to my community because without this help, it would not have been possible to complete these projects. I would like other communities and young people to have stoves, latrines, and potable water so that they can be healthier too.

Sincerely,

RUTH RAQUEC

Ruth Aracely Raquec Sitán

