

From: **Amigos de Guatemala** jean@amigosdeguatemala.org
Subject: Welcome Spring from Amigos de Guatemala
Date: March 8, 2021 at 8:19 AM
To: jean@amigosdeguatemala.org



Amigos de Guatemala
Investing in Latin America's Future

Dear Amigos,

An early spring is in the air. Daffodils are out and trees are starting to bud and flower.

This January was a first for Amigos de Guatemala. It was the first time that I know of that the volunteer team was not able to visit our students and friends in Zacualpa. As much as we missed this opportunity, health and safety is paramount. Thank goodness for the Amigos de Guatemala library and its strong Internet. We were able to interview the new students via Zoom. While it was a different experience, the interviewers and the students were able to meet. The Cloverdale Interact Club participated in one of the interviews as they are sponsoring a new student. It was fun to see them get to know each other while conversing all in Spanish with no translation. Several new and repeat sponsors participated in the interviews as well. It is a way more people can “meet” their new students. Making the best out of a challenging situation to study.



Director Jean and supporter Walter interviewing a new student.

The Cloverdale High School students interviewing their new student.

The food relief efforts are slowing as crops are starting to come in. Thanks to so many donors over 750 25 lbs. bags of staples were distributed to students and other families with food insecurities. With no food pantries as a safety net, we shifted our focus from education-based projects to helping those in dire need.

As a longer-term solution and support, Amigos de Guatemala has secured land to create a community garden for students whose families do not have land to grow their own produce such as beans, corn and tomatoes. A few years ago, our partner Fredy Argueta lamented that the Zacualpa variety of corn was disappearing in favor of generic hybrids. We are planning on revitalizing this indigenous corn to help preserve the area's heritage.



Entrance to the community garden



Land to be cultivated by our scholarship students

Students are starting to return to the classroom. There is an alternating schedule to reduce the class size. This hybrid model is a 50-50 split between online and in-class learning. The goal is to shift to more in-class learning as the year progresses and the pandemic is under control.

Despite everything, the students and the community are resilient. Their positive attitude is an inspiration to all.





One of our students queuing to receive her monthly scholarship funds



Another receiving her support.
Thank you sponsors!

If you know of anyone who would be interested in helping with our community garden, supporting a student, and/or project, please let me know. There is always a need. [Click here to help.](#)

Please stay healthy and have a wonderful holiday season.

Saludos,

Questions? Please contact me at jean@amigosdeguatemala.org or 707-332-9880.

Amigos de Guatemala
P.O. Box 940
Cloverdale, CA 95425
www.amigosdeguatemala.org



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Our mailing address is:

Amigos de Guatemala

P.O. Box 940

Cloverdale, CA 95425

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