

Guatemala Stove Project

Volunteer Meeting Minutes

Tues., Dec. 7, 2021

Location: via Zoom

Attendees:

Janet Allan, Rob Bowyer, Tom Clarke, Rita Redner, Norah Hall, Livio Persi, Bill Gardner, Terri Henderson, Liz Ballantyne-Jackson, Judy Field, Ishim Yac, Ian Gibb, Bob Klatt, Romaine Honey, Diana Dolmer, Joni Seligman
Regrets: Ken Morin, Marcia and Irwin Pencer, Leslie Rowe, Erika Johner

1. Greetings and selection of chair and secretary

- a. Norah Hall volunteered to chair and meeting called to order at 7:05. Norah's zoom connection was accidentally cut so Terri Henderson volunteered to complete the meeting as chair. Rob Bowyer volunteered to be the secretary for the meeting. Norah eventually returned.

2. A Presentation from Guatemala by Ishim Yac

Since last meeting Ishim received a request from a school to build 2 stoves and these two stoves have now been completed. The two stoves will feed over 300 children. Before the build, Ishim and her eldest daughter (also Ishim) went to the school to meet the parent group, mostly women, who were organizing a variety of tasks and projects. These women are committed to helping the school in a voluntary capacity for one year. They go out and purchase food as well as looking for projects that would be of benefit to the school. It was then that they heard about Ishim and the stove building projects and from there everything fell into place.

Ishim has also been supervising the building of 50 family stoves. Like the school stove projects, Ishim and her daughter travel beforehand to the site to meet the recipients, families in need, where they will check out the home situation, take measurements, create material lists, and generally plan accordingly. When the time comes the stove building materials are delivered in several large trucks. At the site the materials are unloaded by the families themselves and the materials are taken to each home. As of today, 22 of the 50 stoves have been built.

Ishim reports that poor nutrition is the cause of below normal growth of

at least 42% of Guatemalan children. It is good that we are building stoves.

Hyper-inflation is a concern across the country. Inflation has already affected the costs of building materials, especially steel.

This year's corn harvest is not as good as last years and the harvest last year was not very good either.

Vaccination rates remain low, but surprisingly Covid cases have decreased.

The weather is currently colder than normal for this time of year.

Liz requested of Ishim a copy of the letter received from the school mentioned in the presentation, as well as a photo taken of the families unloading building supplies. The letter and photo will be posted on the GSP website.

3. **Review of Minutes: November 2, 2021 volunteer meeting**

Janet proposed a change to item 8, re the donation of \$3000 by Wee Waifs foundation should include the money will be distributed between the building of 4 school stoves, encaparina, bursaries, and family stoves.

Janet accepted the minutes and Rita seconded. All in favour.

4. **Grant Advance Report**

by Liz: to date the GSP has received donations from two foundations. Wee Waifs Foundation have donated \$3000. Trinity Jubilee Foundation have donated \$4000. The generosity of these foundations have resulted in a feeling of success by those who have participated in all the work over the past year.

The GSP's contract with Grant Advance will expire at the end of February. This gives us a little time to do more research and follow up.

Liz will organize a team meeting early in the new year. More volunteers are always welcome to join the team.

5. **Online Auction Report**

by Ian: The final tally for the 2021 auction came in at \$23,574. Up from last year's final amount, \$21,701.

Overall donations and purchases were up from 57 to 62.

Tom reports a \$1000 donation arrived out of the blue from a company called Siteworks Hosting Network from Connecticut.

A discussion followed pointing out the difficulty of attracting new donations when we do not have the ability to do in-person presentations within the community. It is indeed a challenge to fundraise in these times.

Terri proposed we hold future Online Auctions a little earlier in the autumn to avoid end of the year competition from other organizations. This could be looked at at a later date.

6. **School Stoves, Family Stoves**

A proposal to build 4 school stoves and 50 family stoves has been submitted by AMI and the proposal has been accepted. Tom and Nancy Maynard have forwarded the funds to AMI as of today.

AMMID is next in line to build 50 family stoves. They have submitted a proposal.

Ishim offered to send the GSP an updated price list of various building

materials.

Terri will send Ishim the latest schematics of the newest school stove design.

7. **Other**

Next BOD meeting January 11, 2022, 7pm, held on zoom. Anyone is welcome to attend.

8. **Next Volunteer Meeting**

January 18, 2022, 7pm, held on zoom.

Meeting adjourned 8:16 pm.