

HORIZONS OF FRIENDSHIP

Horizons

December 2017



strength

partnership

commitment

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Dear Friends:

As the holiday season approaches and we stand at the threshold of a new year, I want to look back at the past few months and share some thoughts with you.

Recently, I have been in touch with community members Horizons supports throughout Central America and Mexico and have heard and witnessed how our partners' work is having a positive impact on the people of this region. I have seen how people are growing in both their personal lives and community life, how community members are working together for change and how citizens are holding their governments accountable. These are all hopeful indicators of a better life for future generations.



The communities of Lower Lempa, El Salvador, where Horizons partner ACUDESBAL supports programs for at-risk youth, come together to organize and prepare for the approaching Hurricane Nate.

This year, Horizons and its partners have worked with the people of the region to:

- **save the lives of thousands of Indigenous Maya K'iche' women and their children in Guatemala**
- **protect workers' rights in El Salvador and Nicaragua**
- **care for children in Panama, Nicaragua and Honduras**
- **provide essential support to rural peasants in Chiapas, Mexico and El Salvador, and**
- **enact large campaigns to protect women from violence and end femicide in El Salvador and Nicaragua.**



Hurricane Nate resulted in heavy flooding in Nandaime, Nicaragua, where Horizons partner ACOAR is located, leaving many homes destroyed and families without access to clean water, food and electricity.

These accomplishments speak volumes about the power of your support and the dedication, resourcefulness and resilience of the people of Central America and Mexico.



I want to help Horizons empower people in Central America and Mexico.

Gift Payment Options

- I'd like to make monthly gifts
 - \$25 \$50 \$100 \$ _____
- I'd prefer to make a one-time gift
 - \$25 \$50 \$100 \$ _____
- I've enclosed a void cheque to start direct withdrawal for monthly giving
- I've enclosed a cheque made out to Horizons of Friendship for a one-time gift

Visa MasterCard AMEX

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
account number _____ _____ _____
expiry

NAME ON CARD _____

SIGNATURE _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

Please send me updates about Horizons' programs via email at:

Support and resilience are needed now more than ever in the wake of multiple, devastating natural disasters afflicting this region over these last few months. Two deadly earthquakes ravaged Chiapas, Mexico, where our partner DESMI works with impoverished and rural Indigenous populations. At 8.1-magnitude, the largest earthquake killed over 90 people throughout the region, levelling 41,000 homes and leaving thousands of Mexicans sleeping in shelters and the streets.



Homes, schools, offices and churches were levelled by the 8.1 earthquake that struck off the coast of Chiapas, the poorest state in Mexico, leaving thousands of families in shelters and on the streets.

Central America and Mexico also suffered catastrophic damage from back to back hurricanes. Hurricane Katia bore down on Mexico's Atlantic Coast, just days after the country experienced a 7.1-magnitude earthquake. Hurricane Nate wreaked havoc in Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala, where Horizons support dozens of communities. Many people lost their lives, and many others lost their homes, crops, and livelihoods as a result of intense flooding and mudslides.

2017 was a sad and heartbreaking year for people in Central America and Mexico, particularly the vulnerable populations Horizons supports. Yet, despite their dire circumstances, community members are working hard to rebuild their shattered lives after these events. I am humbled by their courage and tenacity to change their circumstances. They are determined to undertake reconstruction efforts and resume their struggle to achieve basic human needs.

We are proud to accompany them on their journey. You and I play a key role in providing solidarity through moral and financial support at this most difficult time.

I ask that you keep these community members in your thoughts during the holiday season. A gift of \$50, \$100 or \$150 will help people with real and pressing needs, and send a message of hope and love. That's what our Holiday appeal is all about.

On behalf of our partners and the community members of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama, I want to thank you for your generous support.

Thank you so much for your commitment and trust, and our best wishes to you and your loved ones for a joyous holiday season and a healthy and peaceful 2018.

Warm regards,



P. Rebolledo

Patricia Rebolledo, Executive Director



HORIZONS
of friendship • d'amitié • de amistad

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