

# Horizons

HORIZONS OF FRIENDSHIP

December 2018

Dear Friends:

Although terminally ill, Benjamín Nazera, an elderly member of the Indigenous Teribe community in Costa Rica, is filled with hope for the future. His face lights up as he tells me about the Horizons-funded fish farming project he is working on. The project will allow his community to rely once again on "machaca," a freshwater game fish, for income and sustenance. "This project brings me such energy. I have to do this!"

I met Benjamín during a recent visit to several Indigenous communities in the Térraba River territory situated in the mountainous South Pacific region of Costa Rica. Life here is very difficult, with a systemic lack of employment and paid work. Families have survived by fishing for machaca in the magnificent Térraba River and by growing and raising products to sell at market.

But the river is now contaminated by the pineapple plantations and pig farms located upstream, threatening the fish species and food security of the communities surrounding the river. The Indigenous families in the region are living in vulnerable circumstances and know something must be done.

"We need to cultivate our roots and learn how to protect the land and native species we have inherited from our ancestors," says Benjamín. "As a family we have talked about what we can do to improve our lives. For five years we have had the dream of fish farming but we didn't have the means to carry it out."

That's when Horizons' new partner, Mujeres Manos de Tigre Orcuo-Dbön (Tiger Hand Women) stepped in. "When Elides from Manos de Tigre



*Benjamín Nazera describes what the new fish farm project means to his community.*



*Benjamín, Daría and others dig the wells for the fish tanks.*



**HORIZONS**  
of friendship • d'amitié • de amistad

*strength*

*partnership*

*commitment*

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

## Gift Payment Options

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

approached us to see what we needed to improve our lives, we told her about our desire to raise shrimp and machaca to provide income for our families." Horizons quickly agreed to support the project.

**With your support, Horizons joins forces with local grassroots organizations like Manos de Tigre to partner on locally driven projects that empower marginalized people to improve their lives and propel social change.**

Horizons is providing the materials, tools and training to enable Benjamín, his family, and four other families to build tanks to raise the shrimp and fish. Once complete, the project will increase family income by allowing the families to sell their fish locally, improve family and community nutrition through increased protein consumption, and protect a species that has traditionally been part of their local diet.

"It is a dream for the four families involved in the project," says Benjamín. "We dreamed how we could move out of poverty, how we can preserve our way of life using Mother Nature's resources and give our future generations a better chance in life." His wife Daría agrees, "I like to see all of our families working here. We unite all of our strengths."

As you can see, the will, the energy, the ideas and the determination to move forward are all there – it is often the inability to access tools and material that's a barrier for the people in the South. Your generosity allows us to provide these critical resources.

When I visit the communities and their people, I see the hope and opportunities your generous gifts bring to struggling families. I witness the resolve that drives people to create a better world for their children. Benjamín typifies this resolve. "I want to see the completion of this project," he tells me. "I want you to come again to see the fish jumping in the tanks and know that we accomplished this."

**Please join us in helping lift families and their children out of poverty. Help us bring light and hope to our brothers and sisters in the South this holiday season with a generous gift of \$50, \$75 or \$100.**

I promise you that your donation will make a world of difference to the families – like Benjamín, Daría, their kids and grandkids – that Horizons and its partners support in Central America and Mexico. On behalf of them all, I want to thank you for your generosity.

I wish you and your loved ones a holiday season filled with joy, peace and prosperity.

Warm regards,



P. Rebolledo

Patricia Rebolledo, Executive Director

PS You can meet these community members on our next Educational Tour to Costa Rica and Panama in February 2019! They will welcome you into their community with open arms.



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Benjamín and Daría(left) pose with some of the families working on the fish farm project and with Elides and Claudia from Manos de Tigre.

