



FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

Annual C2C Report

Country:	Guatemala
Name of Community:	Visiquichum, Chajul, Quiché
Reporting period:	September 2017 to October 2018

Greetings from the Community-Facilitator

Dear brothers and sisters from Riversgate Foursquare Church, receive a warm greeting from Visiquichum, people in the community are very grateful for your support and the time you invest in families and children. I (Aura) am praying for you and your next visit, I wish you many blessings.

Prayer requests and answered prayers

- Pray for the visit the upcoming Team's visit.
- This year we have elections for new leaders; please pray that everything goes well in the communities and for unity during this process.

United States' Church impact

We thank the team for their visit; it was the first time that a group from abroad visit the community. They are very excited to spend more time with you and we hope that was not the only time you visit them; they will always receive you with open arms. With your humility and kindness, you have showed them the love of God and love towards our neighbor.

The community and church leaders said: "As leaders of the community, you have influenced us to visit school children frequently and to support teachers as needed"

The church in the community

The church leaders we were able to improve Sunday schools. In some churches they have agreed to collect a bag of groceries and give it to the families in need.

Politics, Government, and Associations

There will be elections soon in the municipality of Chajul, and the leaders of the community are committed to stay united and avoid typical problems, such as divisionism, which often happens in electoral years. They are willing to fight for quality education for their children in collaboration with FH.

Changes in the community

The leaders have been part of the FH training for institutional strengthening and health and nutrition. Thanks to that, they have noticed behavioral changes both in the families and in the community, having a context of kindness and mutual support.

They have achieved the participation and involvement of the entire community in the decision making and / or activities that take place in the community.

Staff changes / Update

The FH multi-sectorial facilitator is working on Institutional Strengthening and Health and Nutrition program.

The education facilitator works with the school-aged children giving biblical principles and values talks and carrying out the kindergarten program.

Updating critical issues in the community, regarding to the Community Transformation Plan

- In the Community Transformation Plan, it is determined that the participation of community leaders in the training FH carries out in the community, promotes peaceful coexistence and decision-making among them.
- The Volunteer mothers of the Cascade group have influenced and impact other women in the community through the trainings in homes on the health care of children and appropriate nutrition, as well as Immediate and Exclusive Breastfeeding in their first 6 months of life to avoid chronic malnutrition.
- The Volunteer Mothers of Promotion and Growth Monitoring Team have also been working at the health clinic on the monthly weighing sessions, they register the weight and height of each child and advise them on a good diet if they need it.
- The Principles and Values talks have contributed with the behavior of children in school and at home. They now know God's love for them and are constantly encouraged to show gestures of humility and respect towards their classmates.
- Parents are enthusiastic and community leaders want to support and do what is necessary for the benefit of the community.

Story of success in the community

The community of Visiquichum is located in the north of the town of Chajul, approximately 30 km away with a population of 338 people, 68 families and 95% of them are Ixil speaking and 5% speak Spanish.

FH is training the Volunteer Mothers of the Cascade Group on the series Immediate and Exclusive Breastfeeding as well as the volunteers of the Growth Promotion and Monitoring team in order to empower them to promote behavior changes on health and nutrition and, at the same time, become leaders in their community.

One of the objectives Cascade Group strategy is to strengthen the sustainable development in their community and contribute to eradicate chronic malnutrition. After receiving the trainings, the mothers follow up with home visits to families, mothers in childbearing age, pregnant women and post-natal mothers.



María Gallego Rivera, member of the Cascade Group, is 25 years old and lives in the house number 20, sector 1. She has four children, two girls and two boys; her husband is Don Domingo Ví Caba.

Before FH started working in Visiquichum, María's house was not clean and things were not in their place. Her animals were not in a suitable place, the food was prepared in inappropriate conditions and the lack of cleanliness and hygiene in the household was affecting the health of the members of the family. "I'm a little embarrassed to tell you this, but thank God and FH for these ideas that helped me change my way of living," says Maria.

As time passed, Maria was invited to attend the trainings that FH holds in her community. When she received the training, she decided start working as a volunteer mother for the Cascade Group on 09/22/2018. She took advantage of the opportunity that FH gave her to be part of the group of volunteers and now receives trainings on Hygiene, Health and Nutrition, Immediate and Exclusive Breastfeeding and Early stimulation to improve the quality of life of her family and families around.

With all the new ideas, Maria begun to reconsider and make commitments to have a good hygiene in the home, cleaning, organizing, and having the animals in a suitable place: a chicken pen, a stable, a pasture, among others. "It is one more achievement in my life as a mother, to be able to see my house more and more clean, thanks to the support of FH" says Maria.

She keeps in mind that a clean home is a safe place for her children. She has also been an example for the other families telling her story and encouraging the others to have good hygiene practices and have a healthy family.

"First of all, I thank God and FH, because through the visits and training I received, I have been able to improve the hygiene of my home. God allowed us this opportunity to work with FH and I've committed to take care of myself and my children, giving them a healthy diet. I am committed to help my community and other people" - María VÍ Gallego.



María sharing her experience and replicating the trainingsn she has received from FH to Jacinta Asicono, one of her neighbors.



Manuela training other mothers from her neighboring circle.



Volunteer mothers at the end of an activity, finishing another working with FH.



Ivan Soto getting his school supplies from FH.



Gaspar Caba Canay community leader, is drawing the vision for his community.

Activities in the Community.

- **November 2018** - Community leaders and volunteer mothers were trained on *Institutional Strengthening* and worked on the Community Holistic Assessment to prioritize their needs.
- **December 2018** - 12 Volunteer Mothers attended FH's special activity to encourage them and thank them for another year working with FH.
- **December 2018** - 7 Volunteer Mothers were trained on Exclusive and Immediate Breastfeeding to improve their children nutrition.
- **January 2019** – Students received a bag of school supplies donated by FH and took the first class of biblical principles and values facilitated by FH.

Children currently sponsored by your church

We are blessed to let you know that 25 children are currently sponsored by members of Riversgate Foursquare Church! We are sure these relationships are going deeper and we pray that both ends will be touched by God's Holy Spirit.

Greetings from Kimberly Illescas, Church Representative

Hello friends! 2018 was a great year for Visiquichum and our office in Guatemala! We are grateful for your partnership, sponsored children, relationships, advocacy efforts but mainly for how God is working in our lives as we walk together through this friendship. I pray that you continue growing and learning from each other.

Look forward to seeing the amazing plans God has in store for Riversgate and Visiquichum community!

Grace and blessings,

Kimberly Illescas

Food for the Hungry