

Food to Puebla, Mexico

I want to share this story and these photos with you so you could see the happiness of the people who both served and were served by Rotary International Matching Grant #19136 Matching Grant through Hunger Plus, Inc. between the Rotary Club of Puebla in Mexico Rotary District 4180 and Rotary Clubs Phoenix Camelback & Tempe in Arizona District 5510.

On April 7, 2005, District 5510 Rotarians PDG Greg Podd from Four Peaks Rotary, Sharon Johnson from Tempe Rotary, Gary Tannenbaum from Phoenix Camelback Rotary and myself, PDG Barb Feder from Kyrene Corridor Rotary and representative of Hunger Plus, Inc. departed Phoenix International Airport for Mexico City. We were greeted by Puebla Rotarians Alejandro Gomez Leal and Horacio Hildago Mena who became our liaisons to the people of the Sierra Norte and within hours our newest friends. Over 2 days we provided approximately 36 tons of rice and beans purchased from Compania Arroceria Cavadonga S.A. de C.V., a major food packer in Mexico City. The food was distributed to 8 villages of the Sierra Norte (Cuauneutla, Paciotla, Tlacuilotepec, Xolotola, Mamiquetla, Altaltongo, Atla and Tlatacruz) feeding about 3000 families for one month.

It is impossible to put into words the thoughts and emotions one goes through in a project like this! We bonded to our friends in Puebla and to those lovely people of the villages in such a way that we have all pledged to return and continue our support to serve them in the future. Funds for Rotary House #100 are almost put together through pledges of individuals and Rotary Clubs who want to see Norma Taylor Roderique's dream of 100 houses come true this Rotary year. Norma began her housing project, the Heather Kinross Village, almost 7 years ago, realizing that 100 houses might not ever come to pass. She has remained focused and now with the help of those who believe in her dream, 100 houses will be built. We will also be working on procuring computers and a screen for the high school, possibly through another Matching Grant and will investigate our options for a greenhouse project to help provide a stable income for the villages.

These little mountain villagers have seen first-hand the magic of Rotary and its dedicated volunteers and come out to show their appreciation and love with flowers, letters, proclamations, food and most of all, they ask for God's blessings on those of us who come to help them. Thanks to all who helped make this trip possible, it was an honor to serve

At Your Rotary Service and Respectfully Submitted,
Barb Feder