



Florida Rotarians Help our Students to Help Themselves

Can You Please Further Help our Students with your Donations?

This February 24th, Rotarians from Florida traveled to Guatemala and spent a week working with Ak' Tenamit's students building and varnishing school furniture, teaching English and CPR classes, and painting beautiful murals. The Rotarians, led by Rotary District #6930 governor Michael Walstrom and Guatemalan Tomorrow Fund board member Riccardo Boehm, flew from Miami to Guatemala City then embarked on an eight-hour journey by bus and boat to reach our Fr. Moran vocational high school in the jungles of eastern Guatemala.



Forty-five new picnic tables were built and many more varnished to outfit our new girl's recreation building (built by Chicago area Rotarians the end of 2021) that will be used during the day for school classes and in the evening for girl's study hall and recreational activities. Their first day on site, visiting Rotarians taught a group of girls (most without electricity in their home communities) to measure and cut lumber with power tools and how to build picnic tables. When the Rotarians arrived at the school site the next morning, they were shocked to see that the **girls had arrived early and had already built several tables on their own before the Rotarian "teachers" had even arrived.** None of students had ever done any woodworking prior to this, but they were so excited to get new school furniture that they quickly learned all the steps needed to transform a pile of lumber into beautiful new picnic tables.

Riccardo Boehm worked with fellow Rotarians to teach students CPR and life-saving first aid. **Most students come from communities that are many hours away from health care services so these new skills can help save lives in their rural villages.** These life-saving skills will also help our students advance to high paying employment as they graduate with a greater range of skills. Our students loved learning CPR, the Heimlich Maneuver and how to stop bleeding.