

LOS HERMANOS

Villanueva Brigadistas Newsletter — Volume 9

Fall 2020



It is hard to be poor

My name is Marta from the community Tololo, I am 28 years old, and I am a mid-wife. I am 8 months pregnant and have a 4 year old daughter. I also help my mom and sometimes take care of my younger sister. My husband and I live in a very humble house. I work selling fish on the street. My husband works on construction or whatever he can find. When he works I cannot work and vice versa because we (cont. page 2)



Last Year's Craft Sale at All Saints Church. See Story on Page 3



Marta with daughter and Geri Hall

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cannot leave the house unattended. We do not have transportation because someone stole our horse that was our way to get to places. Another day we woke up and found that someone stole one of our goats. We live very close to the border with Honduras and for that reason, someone always need to be at the house. It is very easy to steal animals and cross them to Honduras.

Right now I am not working because I cannot walk that much. For us to get to the main road and be able to take a cab we have to cross a creek and walk for an hour. If we do not have the money for the cab we have to walk more than two hours to get to Villanueva.

My skin is very dry because of the sun and my hands have calluses. It seems that when you are poor you are always working from early in the morning until late at night.

Being poor is really hard, but God always provides for us. We were able to have a Christmas tree for my daughter and are blessed because we are going to receive a Christmas basket from "La Fundación" thanks to "Los Hermanos" from St. Lucy's Church and All Saints Church.

I also have a beautiful family and good friends around me. I am also fortunate that I can help others in my community. We all work hard to survive and we hope for a better future for our children.



Interview with Ramiro Morales, Brigadista, September 2020

Good morning! My name is Ramiro Morales from the community of Obraje in Villanueva. I have been a Brigadista for over 30 years. I'd like to tell you about my experience as a Brigadista during this global pandemic.



It has impacted us psychologically and economically. At first, there was a lot of fear. We were worried about having any contact with doctors or nurses because we thought they might pass on the virus to us. Now, however, we've overcome that fear and are following all of the preventative measures. We are holding talks in our communities and discussing constant hand-washing, the use of masks, and physical distancing. We are also working in cooperation with the Community Network of Health Promoters and Midwives as well as the National Ministry of Health because it is only by working together that we will be able to get ourselves out of this situation. We also thank all of you for your unconditional support and for the kits you gave us that allow us to serve the families in our communities. May God continue to bless you and be with you always! Thank you!

Peg Barnett's behind the scenes support of Villanueva

I have known Peg and her talent as a seamstress for awhile but what many may not know is that her craft sales support of Villanueva span some 15+ years. She began at St Andrews and carried this project onto both St Lucy's and All Saints when St Andrews closed.

Peg had multiple surgeries on her knees, which left her with some time: I asked her why she does the sales for Villanueva. " I have the time so why not do something good with it. I do this because I can". In addition to contributing the sales of her crafts to Villanueva, she donates her time and all materials to the cause as well.

Her financial support has made a difference for the community we support. The time and expense to set up the craft sales each year in each church was no easy task. Volunteers helped to off set the manual labor. Her crafts are hand made and of high quality, some with special connections to a favorite sports team or college i.e. SU.

Due to COVID-19 she will not have the sales in either church, but from now through Christmas, folks can purchase her crafts at "**Upstate Vacuum and Sewing**" store located at **2628 Erie Blvd, Syracuse. All sales proceeds from now through Christmas will go to Villanueva.** If you are like me, I have family members who look forward to the aprons, potholders, pillows, Kitchen towels, wine bottle holders and other crafts as Christmas presents every year. So, get to the store in the upcoming months and buy a lot to support our special relationship with our sister community. During these hard times, they need our support more than ever!

The store hours are 9-4 Mon through Fri and 9-1 on Sat. If you do not see what you want at the store or have questions, feel free to email or call Peg at: pegbarnett1@gmail.com or 315 445-0248.

Eileen M Clinton, Villanueva Steering Committee



Peg Barnett's handiwork!

Interview with Naún Sunia, Brigadista, September 2020

Good morning, brothers and sisters. My name is Naún Sunia, and I am a Brigadista from the community of Rancho Panda in the town of Villanueva. I want to tell you about my experience as a Brigadista during this pandemic that is facing the entire world. At first, I was traumatized by fear, but then I began to assimilate to the situation and be less afraid. At the beginning, our Community Health Network had to put a halt (cont. Page 4)

on our activities. But, thankfully, the Community Health Network has begun its work once again. Today, we have practically returned to full activity.

In terms of Covid-19 prevention, we tried from the beginning to talk with the families by going house to house to ensure that the information reached everyone. The number one preventative measure is, of course, handwashing to eliminate any viruses we could be carrying on our hands. Furthermore, the use of facemasks is critical anytime we are in crowded spaces. We also practice social distancing.

These preventative measures have been important because even though we are in contact with the families, we are fortunate that, as of now, all of the Brigadistas have remained healthy. This is a great accomplishment for us because we have tried to faithfully carry out all of the recommendations in order to be able to confront this situation.

We thank you, brothers and sisters, for the decontamination kits which you provided for each of the Brigadistas. The kits contained various items including a bucket, hand soap, laundry detergent, bleach, a reusable mask, and a spray bottle with alcohol.

This pandemic has also affected us psychologically. We have been practically traumatized by this situation, but thankfully, we have been able to overcome it and carry on. Visiting the Health Center has been made more complicated. Fortunately, here in our community there have not been too many cases thanks to prevention measures people are taking.

The pandemic has also had an effect on the economic network. Many of our families have relatives that are working in other countries. But, during the pandemic, those foreign workers have not been able to work and send money home each month as they did previously.

Clearly, the pandemic has affected us in various ways, but we are glad that the Community Health Network has started up again. We will continue to work in our communities and be attuned to the health needs of our people. We are thankful for all of your support! We hope you stay healthy and that God continues to bless you!



Please Contribute!

If you wish to help support our Sister Community and their efforts, you can make a tax deductible contribution as follows:

Make checks payable to either

St. Lucy's Church, or

All Saints Church

Be sure to put in the memo section: "Sister Community"

Or place your contribution in the envelopes available in the back of each supporting church

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Peg's Crafts for sale!