



Dear Vamos Adelante Friends,

As you know we always write to you with great pleasure but the Christmas season has something special and the holidays bring a greater feeling to share and to spread happiness.

Many special thanks to you for make this world a better place and sharing with people in great need.

This is our third and last report of the year, I, Ingrid, will write some of the latest news in Vamos Adelante.

In August we had the visit of some dental friends from Spain. A great team from “Una Sonrisa para

Centroamérica” visited Vamos Adelante for two weeks.

Between the pediatrician and the dentists, they provided their free service to many children and their parents who needed it. No doubts this fabulous organization brought lots of smiles in our region.

Vamos Adelante works constantly teaching about preventive dental care and general health for both children and adults. We finally see improvements in affiliated families, the women and children have acquired the habit of brushing their teeth daily and most children are no longer afraid of the dentist and in addition the number of extractions has also been reduced. Of course, we still have a lot of work to do and there are still many who need to know the importance of brushing their teeth, mostly teenagers and men but at least we are not seeing the toothbrushes in a puddle any longer or a chicken picking on it.



During September we celebrated and commemorated all around our country our independence.



At school there are a lot of different activities, the most popular are: the parade, elaboration of didactic material to represent the traditions of our country and “la antorcha”. The torch is the big activity, students and teachers

make a trip, which can be to a place near or far, according to the possibilities of the students. If it is near they don’t spend money on transportation compared to a long trip. When they

return to their village everybody runs with a torch that represents our freedom. Everyone (spectators and participants) enjoys this activity a lot.





The second week of October the school year for Primary level ended. Most Junior High Schools and Colleges continued until the end of November, some until the middle of December. Students felt relieved and happy to have finished the hardest week of finals and now they have some time to spend with the family picking coffee beans. Whole

families go to “nearby” farms to pick coffee beans every day until the first week of January or earlier when the harvest is finished. Older students also cut sugar cane, very labor intense.

October-December is also the time for graduations. Since some years ago it is custom that students who are going to change to a higher stage have a graduation. It includes Kinder garden, Primary school, Junior High school, college to university. Of course, in most schools that is connected with big expenses and many parents cannot pay for it. Lucky are the students who have a scholarship!

October is also the time when the Vamos Adelante team starts with the interviews to give scholarships for 2018. We have now an average of six hundred students from Kinder garden to University, and each year we are open to accept new students (if they meet our requirements). It means that the interviews are a very

important and responsible task for the applicants.

During November our team continued with the interviews, home visits and so much more to help. Our health& education promoters have also been working selecting new families (that

meet our easy requirements) to form part of Vamos Adelante. We are trying to reach more poor families in the villages where we are already helping so we can improve their life conditions.







We continue working very hard in the area of health and nutrition. Not only providing food, vitamins and health services, but also giving important and easy information that parents should know.

I'm proud to say that we are finishing a year full of success. Our main goals: improving health, nutrition, education and living conditions for the affiliated families and elderly in the villages.

Now we would like to present four short special stories:

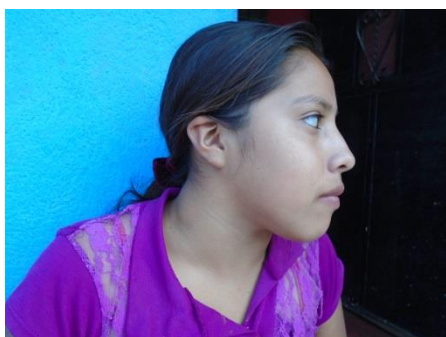


Rebeca came to our base in Zapote this year because she had

an ear infection. Sadly the doctor found something much worse, a serious heart disease. The moment we heard that, we of course took the decision to help Rebeca. Soon Rebeca traveled with us to Guatemala city to be treated by specialists. The doctors said that she needed an operation as soon as possible but need to have all her teeth fixed first. So we visited the dentist various times. The family lives in extreme poverty and they were not able to pay a surgery like this. Our team did the best to help Rebeca



and accompanied her to many clinics and laboratories. Rebeca is a little girl who deserves more from life and if she was going to fighting against death we were going to fight along with her, we decided. Rebeca has so much joy and wisdom in herself. To make a long story short-Rebeca survived the very recent operation and is doing well!



In the beginning of this year we noticed something strange growing in Yelena's neck. It was getting bigger day by day. The girl lives in a remote village and her life has been very



hard, her brother and mother have been sick and she has had the responsibility of the house when her mother was out. We took Yelena to a specialist and it turned out to be malignant tumor .With the support of Vamos Adelante Yelena started the treatment. Currently she lost her hair, is weak and it is very hard to go through this situation but Yelena is doing her best efforts. She is strong and she really wants to live. Her chances are very good.

Dany is a boy with severe problems; when he was 8 he had a stroke and since then has been struggling through life and school with our help. He just graduated from 9<sup>th</sup> grade!!! A truly huge achievement. One of his hands hardly moves and the way he talks and walks is very slow compared to others. We always believed in Dany ( sometimes more so than his family) and today he is a young man who wants to find a way to support his mother and siblings.



Maria is a woman who has had a life full of difficulties and due to the lack of information and education she got pregnant very early, had four children. She and her husband do their best effort to support them. Maria used to work in an office cleaning but two years ago when she got pregnant she was forced to quit her job. Things turned even harder when the father suddenly became sick and the children became malnourished. Maria is a fighter and she recently found a job again, here she cleans and she is allowed to bring her two little children. Fortunately her husband is much better and returned to work. Three children now go to school with a Vamos Adelante scholarship.



Most of our affiliated families can tell strong stories and thanks to your donations we can help them in many ways so that they with time can support themselves much better . **THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR MAKING THIS POSSIBLE !**







2017 has almost passed and we hope that you had a great year.

On behalf of the whole Vamos Adelante team and affiliated families we would like to thank you and wish you the best, during these holidays and all other days. We hope 2018 brings much happiness, health and joy to you, your family and friends.

# Feliz Navidad and Happy New Year 2018

