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**COME CELEBRATE
XELA AID'S
20TH ANNIVERSARY!
RSVP by Sunday,
November 25**

DATE: Sun, Dec. 2, 2012
TIME: 1-5 pm
WHERE: 246 Canon Dr.,
Santa Barbara, Calif.
HOSTED: By Tim and
Ashley Snider

FRIENDS, FOOD, FUN!
Join us for a Summer
Trips Reunion,
reconnect with past
volunteers, and
celebrate 20 Years of
Xela AID! Space is
limited and your **RSVP**
is required. [Reserve
now](#)



LIVE.LEARN.THRIVE!

Xela AID News - November 2012

Greetings!

We are pleased to welcome **Kathy Logan** and **Sue Rikalo** to Xela AID's Board of Directors. Kathy and Sue bring many talents, and we are extremely fortunate to have them join us. Look for more about their work with Xela AID here and in future news!



*Kathy Logan (left) and Sue Rikalo (right)
with Weaver Luciana Perez*

This edition we wrap up our summer trip reports and share updates about the continued fruits from those trips. We hope you will visit the associated Facebook **PHOTO ALBUMS** and "Like," "Comment" on, and "Share" photos to cheer on our progress!

In this time of Thanksgiving, we give our thanks to all of you who have supported Xela AID during its first 20 years as volunteers, donors, and in other capacities. It is you who make it possible for Xela AID to support the many children and families of San Martín and surrounding communities as they work to better their lives. A **Fall Appeal** for funding for 2013 Clinic operations and our dedicated staff in Guatemala is in the mail, which you'll receive if we have your street address. If you are not on our mailing list and wish to support next year's operations, you can [donate online](#) right now. Join our mailing list by [sending your address by email](#).

SEEKING ADDITIONAL SILENT AUCTION ITEMS. Have one to donate? [Contact Leslie](#)



Make a difference this summer!

2013 TRIPS ANNOUNCED!

TRIP 1 * May 31-June 12 - "Proyecto Educativo" - Education-focused trip. Information/ Reserve Space: [Contact Sheryl](#)

TRIP 2 * June 21-July 1 - "Special Projects" - Projects to be determined. Information/ Reserve Space: [Contact Leslie](#)

TRIP 3 * July 1-July13 - "Special Projects" - Projects to be determined. Information/ Reserve Space: [Contact Leslie](#)



Light streams in over brand new bunk beds in tiny Casa Azul

A warm Thanksgiving wish from our Xela AID family to yours,

Leslie C. Baer

Leslie Baer Dinkel, President
Xela AID Partnerships for Self Reliance



Veterans Group Rebuilt Casa Azul, Teamed with Weavers, Invested in "Sausage Ladies," Launched Leaders' Micro-business

The third Xela AID volunteer group to travel this past summer, dubbed the "Veterans," included 15 return participants, and three newcomers.



Several of the Weavers of Xela AID's Tesoros del Corazón Fair Trade Cooperative. See our weaver's art featured and support them at [JOJI BAGS](#)

A cultural presentation by Xela AID's **Leaders**

of the Future Group got the trip under way, and over our stay, these young trailblazers wowed us with a business presentation that was ultimately funded by a generous micro-business loan by new Board Member **Sue Rikalo**. (See related story, "Leaders of the Future: In Business!" this edition).

Capacity building with the *Tesoros del Corazón* Weavers on this trip continued under the leadership of new Board Member **Kathy Logan**. Kathy and others are working with the women to develop new product lines and fine-tune the quality of finished goods. (Watch for the full story in an upcoming issue!)

Our "Sausage Ladies" micro-business got a boost through a gift of a refrigerated display case by **Lance**

Casa Azul: The House that Love Built

By Carlos de la Rosa, Member, Xela AID Board of Directors

The story of the Blue House, *la Casa Azul*, is a story that needs to be told. Living there are four women touched by tragedy, and six children lacking the most basic needs, like food, clean water, a bed to sleep in, or a toy!

The eldest boy works in the fields. His young brother, Eduardo, is the only one in the family who goes to school. One baby died last year.

The women sell produce and make small weavings. They all crowd into a tiny, one-room block house.

Born out of the hearts of a group of village youth, Xela AID's Leaders of the Future, and sponsored by participants in Xela AID's summer Volunteer Vacations programs, the remake of *Casa Azul* transformed this family's living experience from abject poverty to healthier and



A new freezer display will save energy while selling more sausages!

Robinson. The project began a year ago with help from Lance and is thriving! See more photos [HERE](#).

Xela AID's "Project Connect" was launched with Xela AID's first two [online computer labs](#) (as reported in last edition), under the leadership of Xela AID Advisor **Cliff Hague**, and made possible, also, by **Don and Kathy Logan** and the spontaneous generosity of *numerous* members of the group and other friends and fans!

The "Change a Life" project in which Xela AID's **Leaders of the Future** select a family living in extreme poverty to receive sorely needed assistance, turned an extremely poor living space into a comfortable, light-filled home. (See story at left and photo album, "*Casa Azul*.")

Xela AID thanks veterans and newcomers alike who participated in this trip: **Monica Behunin, Dove Benari, Claudia Nocke, Janet Taylor, Ron Truppa, John Douglass, Jill Onken, Justin Flint, Shelby Churchill, Xela AID Advisor Cliff Hague, Don Logan; and Xela AID Board Members Kathy Logan, Frank Long, Pat Maxwell, Sue Rikalo, Carlos de la Rosa, Mel Dinkel and Leslie Baer Dinkel.**

For a window into the trip, browse Part 1, ["Veterans" Summer PHOTO ALBUM](#)

Leaders of the Future: In Business!

*This summer, Xela AID's **Leaders of the Future** youth group presented a proposal for a*

dignified living.

Xela AID and "Veterans" trip volunteers donated paint, furniture, utensils, building supplies and labor, alongside the Leaders. Negotiations with local authorities by the Leaders and mentor, Xela AID Guatemala Executive Director Luis de León, and a heartfelt donation by Xela AID volunteers John Douglass and Jill Onken, made it possible for the family to have running water which is making a huge difference in this lives of this struggling family.

When Xela AID volunteers and the Leaders joined efforts, they moved this family from quiet desperation, to hope!

Visit the [Casa Azul PHOTO ALBUM](#)

End Note: As a result of this project, Eduardo was sponsored to help him overcome the many challenges he faces and stay in school. Thanks to Ron Truppa for sponsoring Eduardo.



business. With mentoring from volunteers including Ron

Leaders of the Future, 2012

Truppa, Sue Rikalo , and Cliff Hague who have many years of business experience, the Leaders tuned up the plan. Add seed funding and they launched their business AND are getting additional computer training!

By Sue Rikalo, Xela AID Board Member and Chair, Leaders of the Future & Micro-business Committee

If only a few words could convey the excitement the *Lideres del Futuro* have for their new venture! They put a lot of thought into creating a business that will allow them the flexibility and income to continue their studies: they aim to be THE group to contact whenever there is a party.

A micro-loan from Xela AID enabled them to purchase tables, chairs and decorations. In the future, a clever twist to their business is that there will be the opportunity to have a child's photo taken with a Hollywood character like Spiderman, Superman and the Little Mermaid.

To promote their new business, the group has committed to selling tickets for a raffle. The winner of the raffle gets a free party - which will be more than covered by the proceeds of raffle ticket sales. The Leaders' raffle ticket plan is only one example of the creative and effective ideas for marketing generated by the group.

The Leaders are also building their capacity by taking a series of computer and business classes which they began this month. The lessons learned are timely because the students can apply them to their own business situation.



Xela AID Volunteer Tessa Dewell at right, stylin' with Catarina, and Catarina, Lake Atitlan

**CALL FOR PHOTOS:
BECOME PART OF
XELA AID'S RECORDED
HISTORY!**

We're putting together Xela AID's history in photos. We're asking past participants and those who have attended Xela AID events over the past 20 years to send your favorite photos to add! The history will be shared along our Facebook timeline, and kept in hardcopy for posterity.

Please send digital photos to us [by email](#).

Tell us WHAT'S GOING ON in the photo, IDENTIFY those in the photos if you can, and INCLUDE THE YEAR you believe the photo was taken!

The Xela AID team both in the U.S. and Guatemala is working closely with the students to ensure that this first venture is a success. We'll keep you posted!

*Cheer the Leaders on by Liking, Commenting and Sharing photos of their **First Party PHOTO ALBUM***

Clean Water Project Aims to Significantly Improve Health

By Xela AID Board Member Dr. Carlos de la Rosa and Volunteer Jill Onken



Carlos at left, accompanied by Jill, en route to deliver a locally made water filter

What's the value of clean water? We open the tap at home and out it comes, clean, potable, healthy. We take for granted that the water we get at home is going to be clean and potable.

However, this is not the case in most of the developing world.

A regular day in the village of San Martín Chiquito sees people moving water from a "pila" (concrete or plastic basin normally outside of the house) into plastic containers shaped like round amphora. The water comes from one of



several places, either a spring capture up in the mountains several miles away, or a nearby well.

A plastic pipe (one can see bundles of them strung overhead across

roads in the countryside) arrives at the *pila* and provides water irregularly, often only a couple of hours a day or every other day. The water is collected in the open basin, which is often outside in the sun, covered in green algae. The basins are used for water storage as well as for washing clothes. All of the water is untreated for bacteria or other contaminants, even though it looks "clean" to the naked eye.

Inside the house, the water sits in various containers, to be used for cooking, drinks and washing. Through education in the area provided by Xela AID and other help groups, many people have learned to boil their water before drinking it. But this is expensive, because everyone cooks with wood. But now, many villagers have an alternative: "Agua Pura" or filtered potable water.

Since 2011, Xela AID has been providing locally-made water filters and installing them at homes across the community. Surveys of pre- and post-water filter use have been collected, which are helping Xela AID evaluate how effective the filters are in preventing enteric diseases and contamination. It is one small but critical step in the achievement of a healthy standard for families in the community.

Training on the use of the filters and its benefits is being accomplished through the efforts of local youth, Xela AID's **Leaders of the Future** group, and several woman leaders in the community, who monitor the filter's use, solve problems, and maintain steady messaging about the importance of clean water for health.

Our plans include an assessment and clean-up of all sources of water that come to the homes, with the intention of providing potable water directly from the taps. Eventually, we also want to create small, forested protected areas around the areas where the best springs are located. This will guarantee a supply of clean, natural spring water to the communities into the future.

Water is life, in the truest sense of the world. And clean water is part of a sustainable, healthy life. With your support, Xela AID will continue to provide clear, "pure" water to families and entire communities. It is an essential step in the achievement of Xela AID's goals for sustainable community development.

See Xela AID's [Water Project at Work PHOTO ALBUM](#)

***Thank you for your interest and support.
- The Xela AID Board of Directors***



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