



W. 505 St. Thomas More Way
Spokane, WA 99208

FAMILY-TO-FAMILY

NEWSLETTER

CRAFTS WITH KIDS | GIFTS THAT GIVE | MARKET AT XE'UL

Crafts with Kids

Thirteen children in New Ixtahuacan and fourteen children in Old Ixtahuacan have been participating in arts and crafts courses offered by regional manager Adela Tambriz's new assistant, Marcela Ambrocio.



The kids, aged seven through fourteen, are given space, instruction, and materials for drawing, painting, and crafting. In addition to the items they make during class, each child receives a bag of supplies such as crayons, pencils, scissors, and rulers so that they may continue creative works at home.

We are thrilled to welcome Marcela to Family-to-Family. Marcela completed her training as a middle school teacher prior to working alongside Adela. Marcela is learning all aspects of the program, visiting families, feeding fish, cleaning the community centers, and providing Adela with much needed support. Without an assistant throughout the pandemic until now, Adela has been making heroic efforts to reach families in remote areas and improve community opportunities.



Gifts that Give

Our alternative gift-giving opportunity has thus far resulted in twenty-nine beds, five stoves, eight sinks, three hutches, eight tables, and eighteen chairs for families in need. Those particular gifts have not yet been delivered; however, several families in the program received other gifts that give, thanks to generous self-help donations. The photos below show the joy present during two such deliveries, one of a sheep and the other a cow.



We hope to offer holiday gift giving opportunities again next year, with an improved process to minimize postal delays. However you support Family-to-Family, thank you for helping us spread hope, comfort, and opportunity this holiday season and always.

New Year's Day Market at Xe'ul

The recreational space at Xe'ul continues to attract hundreds of visitors and provide various amenities for the community. Christmas Day brought more than 400 people and about \$260 in entrance fees. Families gathered to celebrate, purchase trout, cook, picnic, exercise, play, and relax.

On New Year's Day, 534 visitors (not including those under age five) arrived at the park. Family-to-Family participants, past and present, were invited to sell their products in an open market.



The Family-to-Family sales booth is visible in this New Year's Day photo. Many products, such as the coffee displayed on the table, were available for purchase. Trout raised on site continues to be particularly popular, with forty-eight pounds sold that day alone.

The photo on the right provides an overhead view of the Xe'ul community center. The pig pen and chicken coop are located at the top of the photo with restrooms just below. The first two fish tanks appear near the middle of the photo next to the third, which is the largest and has been dedicated to become a swimming pool. Four other fish tanks are located near the bottom of the photo. The picnic table in the center of the photo indicates the location of a covered area for eating while the playground and exercise equipment are labeled with a slide and bicycle. To their right, a soccer ball shows the location of a playing field, complete with players visible as dots. The house near the road provides storage, a kitchen, and lodging for workers during their two-day shifts. Across the road there is a parking lot and plant nursery. Additional accommodations are under construction in the form of a house near the middle of the property.



About Family-to-Family: Family-to-Family was founded in 1985 as an economic development program in the Guatemalan Highlands. Its primary mission is to provide income-producing skills training and resources to families and communities working to rise from poverty and become self-sufficient. For further information about the Family-to-Family program or to view our newsletters in color, please visit our website www.familytofamilyguatemala.com. You may also contact us by email at ftfguatemala@gmail.com or by phone at (509) 593-8204. This newsletter was written by local director Julianne Connell Sachs.