Bringing the world closer to you, and you closer to the world!

SURVIVING COVID

How do families who live hand-to-mouth survive during covid-imposed shutdowns? They rely on our donors!

Thanks to an outpouring of generosity during this unforeseen crisis, we fed tens of thousands of people/families to get them through, including (among many others):

Sandra’s mining families and street kids in Guatemala received two months of food staples. The miners send their thanks and love. Without our help, they say, they would be starving now!

Thanks to Jwalant, 20,000 Nepalese migrant workers who travelled 4, 5, 6 days in >100 degree heat with no food and almost no water, received meals and water upon arriving at the border to Nepal. Welcome home!

Nora organized food baskets for >2,000 families in Morocco, including struggling artisans whose income collapsed along with tourism. “The process was incredibly emotional... witnessing people’s joy... as well as the heartbreak of grown men crying in relief because they had been so worried about feeding their children.”

Koy distributed a month of staples to garment factory workers, garbage scavengers, and brick factory workers in Cambodia. One man who received food, worked at the brick factory for 12 years before going blind from the heat. As bad as factory conditions are in Cambodia, life is even harder when factories are closed down!
WORKING WITH GANGS (instead of against them) on a GANG-INTERVENTION PROGRAM. HUH???

Working against the gangs in Honduras wasn’t working, so we decided to try something different – partnering with the gangs! The result? A truce between gangs that has lasted more than 4 months, so far! And Jeremias’ reports, “Every day gang members bring new ideas of how to help the children and community...” One of their ideas was to dig a well and install pipes to make clean water accessible to 600 families. With their help, we made it happen! Families no longer need to spend their scare resources purchasing water at stores. Some families have even brought running water into their homes. But all, at least, have access to community faucets.

WARM-WEATHER CROPS HAVE ARRIVED IN THE HIGH ANDES!

Juan’s irrigation project in Peru is finally complete, and the families along the Choquequirao Trail planted avocados, bananas, pumpkins, onions, tomatoes, garlic, passion fruit, cassava, peppers...

They can make the 3,000’ descent to their new agricultural area in just an hour. This allows them to add warm-weather crops to the cold-weather crops they grow up in Marampata and will feed their families until tourists return to Peru.

NO DIAPERS? NO MEDICAL CARE!

In Cameroon, pregnant women are refused medical care if they do not have all the required items (rubbing alcohol, baby blanket, mosquito net, diapers...) A poor woman cannot afford the items, and that is the #1 reason she gives birth at home, putting her life at risk as well as that of her unborn child. Nakinti and her fellow volunteers identify pregnant refugees (IDPs), counsel them, and supply them with the items they need so they can access medical help for the births. Hooray for diapers!
AARUSHI BHARTI
Aarushi is a freshman at Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University, working towards a Bachelor of Science in Technological Entrepreneurship and Management. She has a particular interest in medicine - she is a member of the American Medical Student Association and HonorHealth Medical Explorers Club, and she volunteers at the Banner Gateway Medical Center. She is working with Martin to expand the medical component of his project in India.

MARY JOY
Mary is a senior studying Biological Anthropology at Dartmouth and plans to attend law school for environmental and human rights law. She was awarded for being a Top 10 Regional Mock Trial Attorney in the 2018 tournament, is a Rufus Choate Scholar (awarded to the top 5% of academic performers in Dartmouth’s undergraduate body), and won the Andrew W. Edson Memorial Prize in Government (awarded to the two most promising first-years in the Government department.) She is working on ideas to connect our U.S. family to our international family, including developing volunteer opportunities, a storybook project, and this newsletter. She is also serving as the Project Lead for our work in Nepal.