

Guatemala Literacy Program is impacting poverty

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Carolee and I just returned from Guatemala. We want to thank The Rotary Foundation for being part of our Guatemala Literacy Program (GLP), and also thank the districts, clubs and

Rotarians who participated.

This was Carolee's 7th and my third trip to Guatemala. The goal is to break the cycle of poverty through education. About 40 Rotarians and 10 others from the GLP made a 9-day trip through the Highlands of Guatemala to bring schoolbooks (for grades 7, 8 and 9) to faraway outposts of a culture that was once in some aspects superior to that of the Spaniards who conquered them.

Thanks to The Rotary Foundation and their Matching Grants program that

made this possible, those Rotarians left with feelings of gratitude toward these beautiful Mayan children, their parents and their teachers. Although the outside temperatures were quite low, and the winds were icy, our hearts were warm. We visited 30 schools, presented about 25,000 books and opened several computer labs.

We had wonderful fellowship with Rotarians of a different part of the world. All of this would not be possible without the spirit of Rotary and the contributions of fellow Rotarians via our Foundation.

Muchas Gracias,

Gerrit & Carolee Terpstra

P.S.: For information about this program, check out this website: www.coeduc.org, email coed@fuse.net, or email us to join in next year.