

NEWSLETTER 74

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KENOLI
Ken And Oli Johnstone Foundation

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.KENOLI.ORG/](http://www.kenoli.org/)

Ken, Vera, and Magda visited Kenoli's partners in El Salvador from July 1st to 6th. It was truly amazing to see the families working to improve their lives in the midst of adversity. All the organizations have made progress in implementing each project.

Families harvest water: CESTA



CESTA has been working for three years with the families of San Rafael community in San Marcos, district of San Salvador. In the past dry season, they suffered greatly due to the lack of access to drinking water, the inability to build wells, and the absence of nearby streams. During Kenoli's visit, we observed that the canals on the roofs of Lucía Guillén's house collect rainwater to fill the water tanks. When it does not rain, they have to buy each barrel for \$2.00 to \$3.00. Some families need to purchase up to five to eight barrels a week for washing, cooking, cleaning, and watering plants. CESTA also cares for malnourished children and has an early stimulation program for them. The mothers and the CESTA team organized a welcome for Kenoli at Lila Roque's house, where they made pupusas with green leaves.

One of the positive outcomes is that Carlitos, who is four years old, has become a more sociable child and loves attending the sessions with the other children.

Thank you for the letters prepared for Kenoli with all your love!

Human dignity as a priority: MANGLE

After 13 years of living on borrowed land in a small house with little infrastructure, Esperanza Zepeda, her husband, and their two children managed to get an improved latrine. Although their little house was often filled with mud and water, the latrine remained dry. This was a source of great pride for the family, inspiring them to aim for buying a piece of land to improve their home. We then visited Virginia Vasquez's house, which now has a cement floor. Previously, the rains would turn everything inside into mud. We found a brick on the floor that said Kenoli and MANGLE. Next, we visited family gardens, such as the one belonging to Orbelinda Jacobo, who has successfully harvested vegetables and herbs despite the excess water. MANGLE is now also paying attention to the living conditions of the families, recognizing that during the rainy season, children are often inside amidst the mud.



A house with a cement floor, an improved latrine, and family gardens brings dignity and health to these families!

500 bottles of honey for economic independence: FECORACEN

Las Mesas community is located a few kilometers above Surf City in El Salvador. In this community, there is no health unit and no public transportation. Families have to walk for 2 hours or wait for a single vehicle that leaves for the city of La Libertad at 5:30 am and returns at noon. Doña Margarita and nine other women, both young and old, have specialized in beekeeping. Initially, they were interested in beekeeping but lacked the necessary skills. FECORACEN's technical team conducted a series of training workshops, provided equipment, and has been offering follow-up and technical assistance to them and four other women's groups in the department.



The bees are kept in the silence of the forest, where the women rent space to maintain 24 hives. This year, these hives have produced 500 bottles of honey over two harvests. The honey and the expenses are shared equally within the group. This income provides them with economic independence, and they have even started a small bank to increase their capital. ***Impressive, caring for nature and generating income, for economic independence!***

Communities are not alone, ADES is still there with them



Don Fidel Morales, from the Izcatal community, grows corn and beans on his small plot of land in the hills. After years of working in the fields, fertilizing, and spraying chemicals, his kidneys have suffered, and he now has kidney failure. He waits for Marvin to bring him native seeds and help prepare organic fertilizers and pesticides for his crops.

Narcisa lives further away, at the foot of the mountain, where she grows vegetables and has planted fruit trees in her yard, despite the soil not being very fertile. She has managed to maintain her family garden by covering the most vulnerable plants with blankets during heavy rains to protect their roots from damage. ***The hope is that ADES will reach the most isolated families in the communities of San Isidro, Cabañas.***

CINCAHUIITE in Bajo Lempa, floods impact families once again

June 2024 experienced unusually heavy and unexpected rainfall. As a result, Kenoli was unable to visit families in their homes because five communities in the project area were flooded. Some mothers managed to come to the organization's offices for the early childhood stimulation session, but three children had fever and were crying a lot. During the session with Delmy and Balvina from Kenoli, José Ismael, the president, took a mother and her baby to the health unit due to a dengue epidemic. Puerto Parada is a high-risk area where families often face the challenges of nature alone. ***Despite the obstacles posed by climate change, CINCAHUIITE continues to work through all seasons!***



Country meeting in El Salvador, July 5



Representatives from ADES, CESTA, CDC, Cincahuite, Asociación Mangle, ACIDES/ACOMANZANA, and FECORACEN participated in an exchange of experiences at CESTA's premises. During this meeting, participants shared valuable insights and lessons in the areas of agroecology, nutrition, and early childhood development. This event enriched the knowledge and practices of all attendees and strengthened collaboration to continue working for sustainable development and the well-being of Salvadoran communities.

At the end, seeds, fruits, vegetables, products, literature, and other working materials were exchanged.