



I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1. **The overall goal of the Learning Basket program** that was proposed to the Spencer Family, CAF America, Hopkins Family, Packard Family and other contributors; was to support actions to improve the quality of life of boys and girls 0 to 5 years of age in rural Guatemala; by delivering tools for parents to be the first teachers of their children. This is to be complemented with a program of family gardens in the villages of El Chorro, San Antonio La Paz, El Progreso of the Ladino area, village of Actzumbal / La Pista, Nebaj, of the Ixil Area, and village of Capucal Centro, La Unión, Zacapa of the Chortí area.

1.2. **Spected Results:**

- a. Awareness and tools have been provided for 20 parents or caregivers of 5 year old boys and girls from the village El Chorro, Ladino area, 20 parents of families from Actzumbal / La Pista of the Ixil Area, and 20 parents of Capucal, La Union, Chortí area.
- b. Technical assistance has been provided and 20 mini orchards have been created in El Chorro village.
- c. Ten persons have been trained in group management with ToP® technology, from the Ixil area, the Chortí area, and the ladino area of El Progreso and Guatemala.
- d. Ten people have been trained as Practitioners / Facilitators in the Learning Basket program, from the Ixil area, the Chortí area, and the Ladino area of El Progreso and Guatemala.
- e. One event to socialize/promote the results achieved, aimed at villages surrounding El Chorro, San Antonio La Paz.

II. DELIVERY OF THE PROGRAM

a. **Results obtained**

In each of the locations, most beneficiaries honored their commitment to attend the required number of sessions (8 sessions in two locations, 10 sessions in one location), and to participate and respect the variety of opinions.

- a. The program began at the **El Chorro village**, with a **pre-socialization** event to present the program of family gardens and the Learning Basket sessions for parents, consisting of 10 sessions for 22 mothers of children and youngsters from La Telesecundaria (remote secondary schooling) and 22 youngsters who attended 6 primary sessions.

Five special sessions were given to a group of 18 mothers of kindergarten children.

Benefits were provided for 28 children, 0-to-5-year-old, directly through their mothers, and for an additional 40 children of families and neighbors. Overall, benefits were provided for 40 mothers, 22 youngsters, 13 to 15 years old, and 68 boys and girls.



Subjects taught: The Development of the Brain, The Five Senses, The Development Stages of Children 0-5 years old, First Aid with municipal Firefighters, Discipline and Limits with Love, Nutrition -mainly in the habits of eating fruit and vegetables, a nutritious dish called enchilada was cooked, based on vegetables, eggs, a bit of cheese and some chicken. For the closing, there was another vegetable-based dish with chicken, called Chow mein. Most mothers did crochet balls in the 3 primary colors, blue, yellow and red. They also created little felt faces. From September 2016 to November 2017.

- b. In the village of **Capucal Centro**, 22 mothers participated, 2 fathers in some sessions. Other sessions, besides the Learning Basket, were REDES (networks), with the participation of Municipal Office for Women of La Union and SOSEP, headquartered in Zacapa, Office of Social Work of the President's Wife, First Aid with municipal Firemen, and the manufacture of Toys. Direct beneficiaries were 20 boys and girls 5-12 years old, who attended classes with their mothers, 15 boys and girls 0-5 years old. From February to November 2017
- c. In the village of **Actzumbal**, 20 mothers participated in the **Learning Basket** sessions, for the direct benefit of 16 boys and girls of 0-5 years, and more than 3 relatives and neighbors. Additional subjects to Brain Development, 5 Senses, Discipline and Limits with Love, were First Aid with the local nurse and manufacturing of Toys. From September 2016 to December 2017.
- d. Training of 10 facilitators from Actzumbal La Pista de Nebaj; Capucal Center of La Union, El Chorro of San Antonio La Paz, six from Guatemala City, with the **Course Group Facilitation Methods 2016**. They also attended the **Course Practitioners/Facilitators of the Learning Basket 2017**. The latter course was also attended by one Chilean and one Peruvian participant.
- e. **Socialization Event**, of the experience of El Chorro with representatives and COCODES (Community Development Councils) from two neighboring villages of El Chorro and authorities of San Antonio La Paz. The interesting part is that this event was organized as an Action Plan by the Telesecundaria youth and their parents. The mothers were in charge of the food with a commission of the young people, the youngsters were in charge of an exhibition on nutrients of good food and a lottery of vitamins and minerals, as well as sociodramas on the Development of a Baby's Brain. Also, the beneficiaries of the family gardens exhibited their products and experience in their orchards. A total group of 75 participants.
- f. **Family Vegetable Gardens in el Chorro**, 18 participants completed the project, planted crops such as onions, beets, cucumbers, tomatoes, radishes, eggplant, chili peppers. In total, the number of direct beneficiaries were 80 people, including adults and children of the participating families and, indirectly, the other inhabitants of El Chorro.
- g. **Delivery of a cloth bag with materials** to each of the 66 parents; a book *Play to Learn, Learning to Play*, by Dr. K. Elise Packard, a book of Stories, a set of little faces with flannel material, a set of colored balls, one crocheted, red, blue and yellow.
- h. **Delivery of a special folder** to each head of family, with reading material on the Development of Children and Guides for Parents, the Stages of Development, recommendations on Listening to Music. In addition, a Diploma of Participation in the Program.
- i. **Delivery of materials to make two types of toys**; threads and needles to crochet colored balls and felt to make the little faces.
- j. **Delivery of processes, pipes and cotton** to build home-made grey-water filters, for watering vegetables.



- k. **Delivery of know-how and seeds to grow vegetables**, such as tomatoes, onions, red beets, coriander, eggplant, celery.
- l. **Coordination with different government institutions**: With the Corporation and Municipal Office of Women of La Union, Zacapa and SOSEP (Office of Social Works of the Wife of the President) of Zacapa, with the Municipal Corporation of San Antonio La Paz, with the Community Development Councils and with the Volunteer Firefighters.
- m. **International contributions**: On behalf of Mary and Don Hopkins to pay lodging and food for the facilitators of Peru and Chile, Coordination fees, lodging for a facilitator and demonstration sessions of the program. On behalf of George and Elise Packard, air tickets for the trainers Angélica Rodríguez and Raúl Jorquera, from Phoenix, Arizona to Guatemala and from Guatemala to Phoenix Arizona, as well as support in the methodology part of the program. On behalf of the trainers and local staff, part of the fees that were counterpart to the proposal.

In addition, the preliminary preparation by Dr. K. Elise Packard, Angelica and Raúl.

- n. **Local contributions**, described at the end of this report.

SUMMARY OF BENEFICIARIES

LOCATION	CATEGORY	NUMBER
El Chorro, San Antonio La Paz, El Progreso	Mothers of Telesecundaria youngsters	22
	Youth of Telesecundaria, 13-15-year-olds	22
	Nursery mothers	18
	Boys and girls 0-5 years old, 28 direct and 40 relatives and neighbors	68
	Orchards of mini-family gardens - 18 families and their families	72
	Socialization of the El Chorro Experience with representatives from two villages.	75
Actzumbal-La Pista, Nebaj, El Quiché	Parents of boys and girls aged 0-5	20
	16 participants' boys and girls and 3 children of neighbors and relatives of the participants	19
Capucal Centro, La Unión	Parents	22
	20 Children aged 5-12 years and 15 children aged 0-5 years, attended classes with their mothers	35
Guatemala City	12 participants of the Course Group Facilitation Methods 2016 and of the Course for Facilitators of the Learning Basket 2017	12
TOTAL		385

Indirectly, the inhabitants of the 3 communities.



b. Implications for the future and benefits:

1. Regarding vegetable gardens in El Chorro village, there was an immediate interest from other neighbors and another neighboring community to start the family orchards. Los Planes and El Soyate
2. Identification of two villages in Nebaj Municipality: Visivac Bitz and El Janlay.
3. Identification of two villages in La Unión, Zacapa: Buenos Aires and Campanario.

c. Learning from the Institution:

1. It is necessary to sign a written agreement with the beneficiaries so that the schedule for the start of the sessions is met. They had been set at a convenient time, from 8:30 to 10:30, or from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is because sometimes the ladies arrived late.
2. The sociodramas are key for learning and sending messages, as well as the games, dynamics and doing practical things. The evaluations must be done either individually in writing, or first within each group and later shared in the plenary.
3. It is not convenient to hold the sessions with parents between November 20 and January 31. This is harvesting time for coffee, corn and beans. It may even last through February.
4. Some parents are able to learn how to make materials for their children. Those who aren't, can be helped to prepare toys. More preparation is needed.
5. The theme of Discipline and Limits with Love is key for parents at these times, as well as making good use of the cell phone.
6. In some villages, mainly in the West of the country, authorities expect the institution to leave resources for a construction project; so we must be very clear about the expectations of the villages and their authorities.

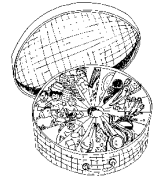
III. WHAT THE PARTICIPANTS SAID DURING THE FINAL EVALUATION

3.1. WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER AND LIKED?

- 3.1.1. Dramatizations, Daniela the "Distracted", a very cruel mother with her baby, who neglected it a lot. Conchita, a very kind and affectionate mother with her baby, taking care of the children to be better.
- 3.1.2. Making the crocheted balls, making the little faces, the stages of growth.
- 3.1.4. The talk given by the firefighters, the different kinds of wounds
- 3.1.5. The five senses, touch, sight, stages of child development
- 3.1.6. The facilitators, Pedro, Roxana, Irene, Brenda and Joaquina.
- 3.1.7. The help in elaborating bread with SOSEP of Zacapa (Office of Social Work of the President's Wife)
- 3.1.8. They taught us how to treat our children and also presented us with the right objects and toys.

3.2. WHAT WAS DIFFICULT?

- 3.2.1. That sometimes we did not participate, we were ashamed, we are shy to express ourselves publicly.
- 3.2.2. Being able to attend the sessions and being punctual. Some had other meetings sometimes at the same time.
- 3.2.3. The dynamics presented by the firefighters
- 3.2.4. How to set limits for children.
- 3.2.5. As young people, preparing the exhibits. The nerves to get up front and talk.
- 3.2.6. Singing.
- 3.2.7. I did not concentrate in some sessions, sometimes I did not understand some words.



3.3. WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

- 3.3.1. How to teach our children to develop their brains.
- 3.3.2. How to take care of our children and not to hit them. Set limits and discipline with love.
- 3.3.3. Talk to children so that they feel loved; learn to be patient with them.
- 3.3.4. I learned how to make crochet balls in primary colors, and little felt faces, as toys for the children.
- 3.3.5. Now our children have our attention, and not like before, when we did not care about the growth and learning of the children.
- 3.3.6. I learned how to behave with my girls and how to treat them. I also expanded my knowledge about the stages of a baby's development.
- 3.3.7. We learned to sing, for example the little spider.
- 3.3.8. Educate children, make toys. I learned new things, we have to eat more fruits and vegetables.

3.4. HOW ARE YOU DIFFERENT NOW?

- 3.4.1. Today I play with my son, teach him the ages, the colors, to talk, look himself in the mirror.
- 3.4.2. The relationship; not talking to them with bad words, not to hit them.
- 3.4.3. To share with the others.
- 3.4.4. A lot; like how to do it when my little brother throws himself on the floor.
- 3.4.5. We stopped being very shy and we learned to be punctual.
- 3.4.6. More responsibility when playing with my little brothers.
- 3.4.7. Freedom to speak and more confidence.

3.5. HOW WILL YOU USE THE LEARNINGS?

- 3.5.1. Play with the children, take them out for a walk.
- 3.5.2. Put it into practice with children and grandchildren.
- 3.5.3. Consider the influence of my children in the activities of our home, since that way they will develop their brains better.
- 3.5.4. Sing with the boys and the girls.
- 3.5.5. Give lectures to people who did not attend the meetings and to young people who do not study.
- 3.5.6. Share knowledge with more children.
- 3.5.7. Like having more patience with my little brothers.

3.6. WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO THE SPONSORS?

- 3.6.1. That it is very good, that we learned how to educate our children.
- 3.6.2. Thank you for supporting our families, with the training that has opened our minds and now we are changing our life.
- 3.6.3. I thank you for the support you have given us, I learned many things and may God bless you.
- 3.6.4. It was a very nice experience because, through it, I learned how to interact and how to support my daughters in their development. I also learned how to knit.
- 3.6.5. That it was very important for us women, and to thank for the meetings they gave us, to learn how to treat and feed our children.
- 3.6.6. I thank you for the effort to come here with us, and I hope you keep doing it. Communicate this to the mothers who start having their babies.



IV. TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS

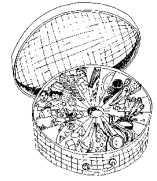
The Spencer family have donated US\$15,000 toward the program. As follow some items and proximally expenses;

4.1. Costs per item

- a. Materials /toys /didactic /books and manuals for participants in 2 training courses, and for families benefited in 3 villages. USA\$. 1,972
- b. Food for 2 facilitator courses. Beneficiaries and 6 facilitators for 8 and 10 sessions, parents in 3 villages in 3 regions. USA\$.2,078
- c. Fees for 6 facilitators for sessions with parents and 1 technician of family orchards in 3 villages. And 4 trainers of 2 facilitators course USA\$ 5,511
- d. Lodging of 12 participants from 4 regions to 2 training courses.
- e. USA\$.1,185
- f. Transportation for 10 participants to the courses. 6 facilitators and 1 orchard technician. From 3 country regions USA\$.1,157.
- g. Seeds and supplies for the 18 family gardens in El Chorro village USA\$. 244.60
- h. Account system, plus honorarium fee and material to be paid USA\$584.
- i. Need to execute another USA\$2,220 For Evaluation and training, and another 5 session of the Program.

4.3. LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- 4.3.1. **Classrooms:** The 3 communities contributed with a communal hall or classrooms in the educational centers, or with hallways of the houses of neighbors when community spaces were occupied. Quality space was also made available in El Chorro, for the pre and post socialization assemblies.
- 4.3.2. **Lodging** for Facilitator/Trainer: The communities provided lodging, in neighbors' houses or in a church room. Lodging for **a neighbor of Actzumbal/La Pista Nebaj:** 4 nights and 4 nights in a church room. **Capucal Chaguiton** (neighbors of Capucal Centro): 10 nights lodging (sometimes the facilitator/trainer had to stay two nights). **El Chorro, San Antonio la Paz:** 12 nights lodging for the pre and post socialization, as well as housing for other facilitators for the post socialization event.
- 4.3.3. **Food/Snack:** Facilitators from the village prepared snacks such as milk-rice, milk and cereals, fresh fruit such as oranges, or bread and beans. Sometimes they contributed some items for the snacks. They also prepared the food for the facilitator/trainer.
- 4.3.4. **Local invitations:** Local facilitators did much of that work, as well as some local leaders. Since the internet signal did not reach all villages well, when done from the city.
- 4.3.5. **Participants' contribution to the training courses (Registration):** Q.400 for the first course in 2016 and Q.350 for the second course in 2017.
- 4.3.6. **Contribution of a room for the course in 2016,** by a member of the administrative board.
- 4.3.7. **Contribution of a room** at the housing of participants and trainers, for the second course in 2017
- 4.3.8. **Contribution of Facilitation by a psychologist** (Licenciada Ligia Villagran) from the Administrative Board of the Institute on the subject of Discipline with Love at El Chorro.



- 4.3.9. **Contribution of animation for the Socialization Event**, by Lisseth Lorenzo from the Administrative Board of the Institute: Pedro de León of the Ixil area and Brenda Escalante of the Chorti area, facilitators of the Learning Basket, and Ligia Isabel Villagrán with the reinforcement of the theme of Discipline with Love.
- 4.3.10 **Contribution of part of the snacks for the Socialization event**, by Professor Dora del Cid, member of the Council of the Municipality of San Antonio La Paz, and **contribution of chairs** by the Municipality of San Antonio La Paz.
- 4.3.11 **Contribution with First Aid instruction**, by firefighters of La Union, Zacapa and San Antonio La Paz, El Progreso.
- 4.3.12 **International contributions**: On behalf of Mary and Don Hopkins, for payment of lodging and food for the facilitators from Peru and Chile, fees for Coordination, lodging for a facilitator and demonstration sessions of the program. On behalf of George and Elise Packard, air tickets for the trainers Angélica Rodríguez and Raúl Jorquera from Phoenix, Arizona to Guatemala and from Guatemala to Phoenix Arizona, as well as support for the methodology part of the program. On behalf of the trainers Angélica Rodríguez and Raúl Jorquera, and Dr. Elise Packard, for a significant part of their time and expertise.