

FIBC Food Security Project 2024 - Report 4

79 FAMILIES RECEIVING FOOD ITEMS IN THE TOWN OF GUANAY

By Aramis Y. Ticona, a young adult Friend volunteer



Families in Guanay during the gratitude worship service

I am Aramis Ticonca Mendieta. I am 23 years old. And I am studying to be a lawyer. First of all, I would like to thank God for allowing me to help the families from the town of Guanay. This town was terribly flooded due to floods last summer. The town is tropical so the weather is rainy, humid and warm. Second, the experience of this three-day service trip from August 30 to September 1st, 2024 was unique and beautiful. We departed from the city of La Paz to the town of Guanay by bus on Friday afternoon. The food items were uploaded on the big truck early in the morning on Friday so that it could arrive on Saturday morning in Guanay. As we were traveling by bus for many hours I felt peace in my heart because I was finally fulfilling a dream I had as a child, by helping the families in need.



One of the volunteers talking about the Food Security Project



Each family receiving 25 pounds of rice, 25 pounds of sugar and 5 liters of oil

We got to the town of Guanay almost at midnight. We went to bed soon because the next day we had a lot of work to do to distribute the food items such as rice, oil and sugar. On Saturday morning it was very interesting to see how the local leaders and families unloaded joyfully the food items from the big truck. I also discovered that I can be patient with things that can stress me out. It was rewarding to learn this during the service work that day.

Seeing the smiles and joy of the people who received the food items made me want to continue helping others. At that moment my heart filled with happiness as I realized I was useful to my neighbors.

At times I felt judged by the other volunteers in my team because I have tattoos. I felt out of my comfort zone because of that. Many people believe that people with tattoos are bad people who make bad decisions. I think that is not my case. Anyway, that day I forgot about the judging glances, and I focused on my service work.

By the end of the day, I felt joy, a lot of happiness, satisfaction, and tired. When I remembered certain faces of the families who benefited from the food security project, the fatigue was secondary. On Sunday, when we left that town to come back to the city of La Paz, I felt helpful and happy. For me, it was one of the best experiences I have ever had in my life. I have always wanted to do this type of service work to help others. So I am grateful that I was invited to travel along with the volunteers to a beautiful, distant place in the jungle.

I think that volunteering is the most satisfying thing a person can do. It is valuable work for both the people who receive the support and the people who provide.

By doing these activities, one achieves personal growth. It is a challenge to organize and be patient to accomplish each task to distribute the food items. Although there were some inconveniences, I felt very grateful to God for giving me the opportunity to do this service work, and for allowing me to live this wonderful experience. And I thank the Friends Center (FIBC) for letting me go as a volunteer by taking care of my expenses for the trip to the town of Guanay. I hope that another opportunity like that comes along. Once again, I am grateful to God for fulfilling a dream that seemed quite far away!



The beneficiaries of this food support were 237 people most in need in the town of Guanay

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