



Humana People to People Belize

Year Report 2015





Table of Contents:

TABLE OF CONTENT

- Greeting from the board 5
- About Humana People to People Belize7

FIGHTING POVERTY

- Income and Food Security 9
- Health10
- Education13
- Environment14

SALE OF SECOND HAND CLOTHES

- Mitigating Climate Change18
- The Humana shops19

ANOTHER KIND OF SCHOOL & HUMANA PEOPLE TO PEOPLE WORLDWIDE

- The Development Instructor Program20
- Frontline Institute21
- The Humana People to People Movement22

SUPPORTNG LETTERS

*“It is about fostering new
generations with golden hearts and
heads and hands,
well-educated and with
a personal ethic of such
proportions,
that humanized relationships
of all sizes can serve as
substitutes for all sorts of
dehumanized phenomena”*

From the
Humana People to People Charter

Greeting from the board:

Dear Friends and Partners in Development

2015 has been yet another fantastic year for HUMANA People to People Belize, or more precisely, for the people who make the HUMANA projects what they are on a daily basis.

Our staff and families in the Child Aid project continues the fight to combat poverty, diseases and illiteracy. Through our collaborated efforts we identify needs, and shoulder to shoulder we dig and hammer and mix and we build playgrounds, firewood saving stoves or latrines, we plant and irrigate and produce food and trees, we present, listen, see, try and we learn, we clean communities for their beauty and to prevent malaria, we discuss about climate change and global warming and work on solutions, we meet, we take care of the children, we campaign, and much more.

When people are involved and play an active role, as they do in all Child Aid activities, they learn and grow.

From HUMANA People to People Belize and on behalf of all the people in our projects, we would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to our main sponsors, Planet Aid USA and Fundación Pueblo para Pueblo.

We also thank the local business community and several local government departments for their support; and not least all the thousands of customers who month after month return to a HUMANA SHOP to buy clothes well aware that all surplus goes to the operation of the Child Aid project.

Together we make the projects a success.

We would like to thank the project leaders, program officers and the shop staff, and the international and local volunteers of HUMANA People to People Belize for their passion and dedication to the objectives of the organization and its work. You are the backbone of the projects and thereby the organization.

We, HUMANA People to People Belize, will continue to place ourselves in solidarity with The Poor and fight together with them to combat poverty and to create a better nation – and a better world. We hope that many more of you will support us in this fight.

With these few words we invite you to visit our projects both through this report and in person, and to contribute generously.



*Sincerely,
Board of Directors
Humana People to People Belize*



About Humana People to People Belize

Humana People to People Belize is a development organization founded in June 2007 and registered as a Non-Governmental organization and is a non-political, non-religious organization.

Humana People to People Belize's mission is to create development in the broadest sense. Specifically, this will be achieved through the establishment and implementation of projects that transfer knowledge, skills and capacity to individuals and communities that need assistance to break free from poverty and dehumanizing conditions.

Humana People to People Belize works with the people as partners to find solutions and to create the necessary conditions to improve their living standards and to achieve their aspiration for a just and humanized life for themselves, their families and their communities.

It is further Humana People to People Belize's mission to promote the humanization of man, and to protect the weak and the outcast, and to go against all forms of discrimination, oppression and exploitation.

Humana People to People Belize is registered as a Non-Governmental organization and is a non-political, non-religious organization.

Humana People to People Belize currently implements its Child Aid project and works today in 35 communities in the districts of South Stann Creek and Toledo. The Child Aid Project works with community leaders, schools, youth, children and families within 10 lines of action: Income, Food security, Health, Pre-school, Children in difficult situations, Education, District Development, Environment, Culture, Farmers Clubs.

The need is endless and the more we do, the better.

Humana People to People Belize has its own fundraising through the sale of secondhand clothes and shoes. We believe it is healthy and sustainable for a humanitarian not-for-profit organization, such as Humana People to People Belize, to create a portion of its own funds through income generating activities and not being solely dependent on governments and other organizations.

Humana People to People Belize is a member of the Federation for Associations connected to the International Humana People to People Movement. The vision and ideas of the Federation Humana People to People are expressed in the Charter of 1998, where the Solidarity Humanism is the basics of the work of the movements.

Fighting Poverty



Income and food security



The poverty rate in Belize is 41% of which 14% of the population lives below the poverty line.

The Child Aid program is implemented in the most affected part of the country which is Toledo District where more than 50% of the population lives below the poverty line.

Methods used by the Child Aid project to minimize poverty and increase the income for the family include: establishment of backyard vegetable gardens, pass on loan, training in and establishment of income generating activities, education about and promotion of sustainable farming methods and skill training programs.

In 2015 Humana staff – together with the local Agriculture department, has trained more and 600 families in small business management and a total of 1.600 family back yard gardens have been develop, 144 families have been benefited from the pass on loan activity with local chicken, fish, hens, pigs, and sheep. The activities results in more and better food on the table. Some families have managed to produce enough both to supply themselves and to sell and earn needed cash.



The women groups continue to be active especially in line 1 – they produce art, fruit jam and moringa powder and sell to earn an income which they either share or they use the funds for further investments in developing their group and small business.

The project has 5 model farms – where farmers demonstrate how it is possible to be self-sustainable when it comes to food. The ‘model farmers’ invites other farmers, youth groups and families to learn from these farms.



Health



Children and families in Toledo are those in the country with the highest risk for water-borne diseases because a high number of households rely on unsafe drinking water sources and pit latrines. The area is affected by malaria and dengue fever outbreaks. Over 50% of the population in Toledo cooks on open fire made from wood which increase their risk of respiratory illnesses as well as eye diseases. Poor sanitation and health is a major obstacle for children to learn and for communities to develop. Over 40% of the children in Toledo are malnourished and affected by stunt growth. Ignorance continues to be the response towards HIV-Aids prevention and cases.

Child Aid works to educate children, youth and parents on how to avoid preventable diseases and how to improve nutrition for children and adults – the use of Moringa in food preparation is spearheaded by Child Aid and most families have their own trees. Together with schools and families the project spearhead health campaigns, teach children to wash hands and brush teeth, maintain a clean environment and do other activities to improve sanitation. The community is mobilized to take the necessary measures in order to minimize malaria and dengue. Child Aid put much focus on HIV and Aids awareness.



The project staff works closely with the district Health department and the project staff has together with families and women groups participated in 3 health fairs to promote Moringa and its benefits during 2015.



The project staff has distributed condom, and pamphlets with information about how to prevent HIV/AIDS and encouraged people to do the HIV testing; 4,900 condom have been distributed during the year and 461 people have been tested for HIV/AIDS.

Another achievement for 2015 was when the project partnered with the health department and trained more than 1,000 youth and tested young girls for Pap-Smear in one week. A total of 365 women/girls were tested for Pap-Smear for the year.

Local clinics have played a good role in helping the project staff to deliver messages to the families such like HIV/AIDS prevention awareness and teaching families about good healthy habits.

Mothers and girls are implemented in 5 communities with the idea to teach them about nutrition, sexual productive health, human rights, and how to give a baby its best start on life.

During the year 10 new latrines have been constructed and 28 old latrines have been repaired.

More families are using Moringa leaves which benefit them both as a supplement and also as a medicine.





Education

The percentage of literacy in Belize is just below 80% which is the lowest in Central America.

Although there is a public school system in Belize, there are still substantial costs involved in sending a child to primary school, and especially to high school. In Primary Schools the education itself is "free" however; parents are required to pay for compulsory uniforms, books and supplies, and annual registration fees. These rates increase substantially at the high school level. Often, families do not have the income to provide all their children with even a primary school education, let alone a more expensive high school education. There are a high percentage of children who must repeat classes or drop out.



The project staff reaches out to children on the brink to drop out of school or already dropped out. The project also organize events through the yearly summer program where 1.000 pre-school age children are getting prepared for school.

The project staff has in 2015 organized literacy classes throughout the project where many adult who does not have English as first language have participated.

The project staff has also focused on getting all participating schools involved in the vegetable gardening program resulting in having established hands on learning ground for the children as well as supplement for the school feeding program.

Several of the participating schools have through the Agriculture department gotten a covered structure to produce vegetables which make it possible to produce controlled and year-round – which is a good support for the school feeding program.

Environment



Environmental protection is a key issue for the children's future.

Wasting our natural resources will bring major constraints to future generations. Child Aid encourages soil conservation, garbage selection, tree planting and firewood saving stoves.

6.400 trees were planted together with families in 2015.

The project staff has together with families constructed 17 new and profoundly repaired 16 firewood saving stove. Using firewood saving stoves reduces the need for firewood with 50 – 75% of the normal usage.

Families have been taught on how to make compost to protect and improve the soil and many cleaning action in communities have taken place during the whole year including riverside cleaning with the mobilization of families and youth in the communities.



Sale of second hand clothes



Mitigating Climate Change

Through the Child Aid Project - with staff, families and communities, and through the Humana People to People Belize second hand clothes project many actions are contributing to reduce emission of greenhouse gasses; for example by:

- Planting trees and thereby creating new carbon sinks
- Changing agricultural practices and thereby store carbon in the soil that otherwise would pollute the atmosphere
- Making firewood saving stoves and thereby reducing the need for cutting down trees and ensuring efficient burning of the wood
- Organize and promote reuse and recycling of clothes and textiles and thereby reduce the need for producing new clothes and sparing that clothes from the landfills where it would rotten or burn and in the process pollute the air.

“Climate Change Mitigation” refers to efforts to reduce or prevent emission of greenhouse gases.

Reusing clothing and reducing the need for manufacturing new clothes is an easy way to save resources and mitigate climate change.



Humana People to People Belize has in 2015 recycled 52 tons of clothes.

Approximately 3-4 pounds of CO₂ are saved for every pound of clothing that is spared from disposal. This means that Humana People to People Belize and customers effectively saved 340.000 - 450.000 pounds of CO₂ from entering the atmosphere in 2015.

HUMANA Shops

The primary idea of the second hand clothes project is to earn a surplus from the sale of secondhand clothes and shoes. This surplus in turn creates development through financial support to the Child Aid development project in Belize.

There are, however, other important benefits and beneficiaries derived from the sale of secondhand clothes.

- the many people in Belize who cannot afford to buy new clothes
- the customers who prefer good quality clothes instead of low quality imported from Asia
- the wholesale customers whom with their sale of second hand clothes have created their own income generating activity.
- Through the shops, awareness about global warming, climate change, and the positive impacts that recycling has on the environment is spread.
- The shops give people the possibility to support the HUMANA projects which benefit the families involved in the Child Aid project.

The clothes is sold in a 4 week cycle system starting the month with a new consignment and gradually selling out with bigger and bigger discounts for clearance in the 4th week.

At least 85% of the opened stock is sold, remaining with not many pieces after the closing date. The approx. 5% remaining stock is donated to the Child Project and used in the projects work with women clubs sewing programs or as donations to poor families or as relief aid such as for a family who lost their house and personal belongings due to a fire or due to flooding.

In 2015 Humana People to People Belize had 3 retail shops and two wholesale outlets.

In 2015 the HUMANA shops had 30.000 buying customers.



Development Instructor Program is another kind of school



Development Instructors are international volunteers. They have played an important role in Humana People to People since its start in 1978, where volunteers were the majority of the people carrying out the programs. Humana People to People members have a close cooperation with schools in Europe and the USA in the training of the Development Instructor.

The common structure of the Development Instructor program is three distinct periods:

- A training period of 6 months based at the schools.
- A project period of 6 months “Fighting with The Poor”.
- A journal period of 6 months concluding and producing materials that can bring the Development Instructor’s experience to the public.

Development Instructors have many ideas and give a lot of inspiration to the people, - both to the families in the projects and to the staff and the project leaders with whom they work closely.

While at the project the Development Instructors work shoulder to shoulder with the people. They live in the community, where they work, for the entire 6 months. In that way they get really close to the people and their conditions and thereby also better prepared to fight the relevant, important and necessary fights together with the children and adults in those communities.

In 2015 Humana People to People Belize had Development Instructors, Alessia and Ana living and working in Blue Creek, Toledo targeting families in Blue Creek and surrounding communities and later in the year new Development Instructors, Thomas and Keith living and working in Santa Ana, Toledo.

Frontline Institute Zimbabwe is another kind of school

At Frontline Institute professional key staff from the projects within the Humana People to People movement are trained and equipped with knowledge, skills, ethics and attitudes enabling them to transform their dreams and wishes for a better world into practical action. The participants come from Africa, Latin America and Asia and blend in a fruitful international environment, while training Basic and Advanced Project Management.

Humana People to People Belize aims at sending participants to Frontline Institute on a yearly basis.



Cindy Rodesno, an employee of Humana People to People Belize, received a scholarship and went for the two courses at Frontline Institute in 2015.

Here a resume of her experiences:



“At a personal perspective this one year program has built skills and more understanding about Humana People to People in general throughout the 43 participant countries. I experienced many challenges, but I also learn how to overcome and deal with these challenges that might hinder me from the objectives and goals. I encountered with situations that taught me to be more open minded and critically analyze such. I obtain the skill of leadership - more than what I knew I had, which helped me in building up my positive attitude for challenges faced. I learnt how to deal with people from different social, cultural and traditional backgrounds leading me to understand behaviors and obtaining the ability to become a global citizen.

I believe that it was a great opportunity and experience which has expanded my knowledge about Humana People to People and about the world and strengthened me in this field of work and I think it would be wonderful if every person who is a member of the ‘Humana movement’ can be part of the program offered by Frontline Institute in Zimbabwe.”

The Humana People to People Movement and our approach

Humana People to People is a network of 32 organizations engaged in international solidarity, cooperation and development in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas. Our development work is rooted in a commitment to fight alongside the poor in a collective process that supports people to make changes, improve their lives and solve their problems.

We believe that poverty can be overcome through coordinated, community-wide approaches, which combine education, adult literacy, improved livelihoods, increased production, health, women empowerment and environment protection.

We do not engage in a struggle against an abstract phenomena called poverty. We do engage in the concrete struggle side by side with the people, who are the Poor.

Nature does not, but societal developments of certain sorts do, produce the Poor. To root out the cause of the conditions for the Poor can be done as an action of man. With the base for the struggle being the Poor engaged in changing his own fate, we join forces with the Poor, governments, and progressive forces nationally and internationally in a collective effort to transform and in the long run erase the existence of the conditions of the Poor.

The people can make changes. They can get together and find ways to improve their lives, solve their problems. The people need others to support them, assist, inspire, and give a hand. The most pressing issues facing humankind can better be solved if people in the rich part of the world and people in the poor part of the world are allies.

Development is created in a collective process with broad participation, best with a mindful government in the lead and with contributions from many sides. Humana People to People work with the people and is part of the people, because that is the only way to create development – together.



To: Humana People to people
Bella Vista Village,
Toledo District.

From: Livestock officer
Agriculture Department
Toledo District.

Date: 4th December, 2015

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I WOULD LIKE TO NOTIFY THAT THE REPRESENTATIVES FOR HUMANA PEOPLE TO PEOPLE WORKING IN THE TOLEDO DISTRICT HAS A VERY CLOSE WORKING RELATION WITH THE TOLEDO AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT.

THESE PERSONS HAS A CONCRETE KNOWLEDGE OF SWINE AND SHEEP PRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT. THEY HAVE ATTENDED AND ASSISTED THE LIVESTOCK OFFICER IN TRAININGS BOTH THEORETICALLY AND PRACTICALLY.

I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT HUMANA PEOPLE TO PEOPLE CONTINUE TO ASSIST FAMILIES IN THE RURAL AREA OF TOLEDO AND IF POSSIBLE ADD TO THIER WORKPLAN OTHER NEEDED ACTIVITIES.

FROM AN EXTENSION POINT OF VIEW HUMANA PEOPLE TO PEOPLE CONNECTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT MADE REACHING OUT TO FARMERS 20 % MORE EFFECTIVE.

HUMANA PEOPLE TO PEOPLE HAVE CERTAINLY MADE AN IMPACT IN THE LIVES OF THE FAMILIES IN THE RURAL COMMUNITIES. MAY HUMANA PEOPLE TO PEOPLE CONTINUE THEIR EXCELLENT WORK AND BE EFFECTIVE.


LIVESTOCK OFFICER

DENSORD MANGAR

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT TOLEDO.





December 1, 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

Ya'axché Conservation Trust is a Belizean organisation which aims to maintain a healthy environment with empowered communities by fostering sustainable livelihoods, protected area management, biodiversity conservation and environmental education within the Maya Golden Landscape.

We have been working alongside Humana People to People Belize mainly through the Toledo Agriculture Development Alliance which is composed of a mozaic of different organizations promoting best agricultural practices in southern Belize. The network is used as a means to share information and to partner with organizations working in buffering communities. Humana People to People have also partnered with Ya'axche in its Education and Outreach Program. Like Ya'axche and 3 more organizations, Humana is a part of the Southern Environmental Education Alliance. They have participated in several awareness campaign launched in the past.

Although the partnership has just began, we hope that the collaboration grows given that we share similar goals and objectives. We look forward to a fruitful partnership in 2016.

Sincerely Yours,

Christina Garcia
Executive Director
Ya'axche Conservation Trust
christina.garcia@yaaxche.org

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Aquacate Village
Toledo District.
16-06-2015.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am Mrs. Rosa Kuk. I have 6 children
my husband is a farmer

Since 2013 we got involved / participated
in the Sheep program / Pass on loan.

We got 1 Female sheep () and now we
are proud to say that we have a total of
9 sheep (5 Female and Four males).

and it has benefited our Family deeply
as we used in our home for (Food) meat.

I can say that Humana project is doing its
best in our community and for our Family
and in the Future I would appreciate if
the Humana Project would look into another
breed (goat) as we would like to Expand
in our sheep and also look more deep into
the Fencing wire as it is a cost.

Nevertheless God bless Humana and its
Staff for their continuous support
community and Families as we work
hand in hand.

Sincerely,

Rosa Kuk

