



November 5, 2016

Dear friends of Amazon Promise,

Things are stirring in the Amazon! This fall, Amazon Promise has had two specialized global health teams out in the field providing life-saving medical care and installing a rainwater catchment system in remote communities located at the headwaters of the Amazon River.

Our October medical team provided emergency and follow-up care, including intestinal parasite testing and treatment, to areas severely affected by extremely low water levels of the Yarapa River. Our second team, led by Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Central Houston, is working in the village of Payorote with Amazon Promise Director of Special Projects Jose Luis Valles to install a desperately needed rainwater catchment system. They'll be in the field through November 15th. This is the fifth rainwater system to be installed to date, and we're so honored to continue working with our engineering partners to save lives and bring clean water and sanitation to thousands in need. Earlier this year in June, the fourth rainwater system was installed in the village of Nuevo Loreto on the Yarapa River, with our partners at EWB Sonoma. The timing couldn't have been better as the river

reached historically low levels this year, leaving everyone stranded in their villages with only stagnant water to drink. Thankfully, after the Nuevo Loreto installment, all three villages of the Yarapa River have clean water to drink!



AP medical volunteer David Ly, PA, provides urgent care to an elderly man in the village of Vista Alegre.



Left to right: EWB Central Houston team working hard alongside the citizens of Payorote (Oct 2016); the people of Nuevo Loreto are proud of their new rainwater catchment system (June 2016); the Yarapa River just before it dried up completely (end of July 2016)

For more details on how the Nuevo Loreto rainwater catchment system works, click [here](#). The combination of safe drinking water and hygienic sanitation facilities is a precondition for success in the fight against poverty and hunger. The positive impact these programs make is immediate and concrete: something every member of the village can partake in and be proud of.



The Amazon Promise education program, ¡Soy Capaz!, continues its commitment to provide life-saving and life-improving educational activities, important to sustaining the overall health of impoverished Amazon jungle communities. This year, we responded immediately to the threat of the ZIKA virus by developing informational materials and holding designated workshops in addition to our regular preventative topics. We also had a major breakthrough during our May medical clinics in remote Achuar villages of the upper Pastaza River. Elena Deem, Ph.D, Amazon Promise Director of Educational Programs, has been working on the Pastaza since 2009, learning about the very intriguing socio-cultural setup of Achuar tribal life and designing a culturally sensitive HIV-prevention program for the area. She quickly found that unlike in other tribes, sexuality is a prohibited subject-matter in Achuar culture.

Fortunately, our male Achuar promoter of health, Puanch, has been instrumental in helping to develop individual information sessions on HIV-prevention in private, screened-off areas at the clinics. But because the taboos are stricter for Achuar women, we had only been able to reach the men through our efforts so far.

That was until Sylvia, a young woman in the remote village of Huararai, approached Elena after watching her work in the village and asked how she could help the people of her community live healthier lives. Elena spent several hours with her, and we're thrilled to announce that Sylvia has committed to train as an Achuar promoter of health for women.

With Sylvia's help, we can work together towards improving the health of indigenous women of the Amazon so they can lead self-sustainable, healthy lives.



Elena standing with new Achuar women's health promoter, Sylvia

We look forward to keeping you informed on all Amazon Promise activities, including the following new programs and upcoming events 2016/2017:

- The Amazon Promise store at www.ShamansMarket.com will open in December 2016, featuring rare Amazonian Folk art, crafts, and other indigenous works
- Amazon Promise and the Ministry of Health in Loreto, Peru will launch a Family Planning Program in 2017
- A new Nutrition and Parasitemia Program in 2017
- **SAVE THE DATE! May 5, 2017:** Something's Stirring in the Amazon Jungle - An art auction/fundraiser to be held in New York City. Tickets will be available soon!

Your kindness and generosity are what enables us to continue bringing life-saving programs to some of the world's most needy. Amazon Promise is transforming thousands of lives through access to basic medical care, safe water, sanitation, and education. Please join us and [make a donation today](#).

For more information about Amazon Promise and the latest news on upcoming expeditions, please visit our website at www.amazonpromise.org. As always, thank you for your support and friendship!

Best regards,



Patty Webster, Founder and President, Amazon Promise