

FOOD SECURITY PROJECT

JANUARY 2024

Distributing food to families in Nasacara, the Province Pacajes

By Monica Gladys Quispe, a young adult Friend volunteer



Monica Gladys is the girl with black jacket along with other volunteers

The reality of life for many families in Bolivia is very hard, and it is getting worse because of the effects of climate change. In particular, they don't have what they need to survive in the rural areas of the Bolivian Highlands. In fact, now these families live with limited resources such as drinking water or shelters and the harvest is poor.

By the mercy of God, Friends gave donations to raise funds for the Food Security Project. Through this project as a Friends community we were able to help with some food products for a *family basket* to the families in Nasacara, in the Province Pacajes, on February 24, 2024.

A week before the day of food distribution in this community we purchased products such as 25 pounds of sugar, 25 pounds of rice and 5 liters of oil for each family. On Saturday, February 24 we uploaded all the food products on two mini-buses at 7:00 AM. Then we departed to the community of Nasacara at 8:30AM. After two hours of traveling, our seven volunteers arrived at the community Nasacara. Most of us didn't know that place but we were told we were near the border of the neighboring country of Peru. We saw a river shared by Bolivia and Peru. Above all, we enjoyed seeing the families with their children who showed up suddenly and joyfully helped us offload all the food.

We gathered with the families in a Nazarene church because of the rain. We started introducing ourselves and read our letter describing how the local authorities and Friends International Bilingual Center organized this whole process to distribute food for families. Also, we sang some songs and sister Emma read the Bible and I prayed for the families. After that some local people said words of gratitude for this kind of help. Next, we were invited to have lunch together. Everybody brought some potatoes to share and the local authorities brought a roasted lamb for the lunch. It was an unusual meal for us because it was a typical lunch of the region. And most of these families were young couples with younger children. These children made the lunch time nicer because their happiness and kindness shone as they interacted with us. When lunch time was over, we started to distribute rice, sugar and oil to 33 families. Each family consists of four or five members, so we gave food for 160 local people that day. It was really a blessing to see each family getting these food items. I think this type of support with a family food basket is very helpful for the families in need. I was moved by the gratitude of the families. For me it is worth working as a volunteer in order to bring a little of love and joy to these families.

Like most of the volunteers Jose Huanca felt very grateful to be part of this trip to the community Nasacara, too. And he shared the following Bible passage to encourage us to continue doing all this work: *“In everything I did, I showed you that by this hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ “* (Acts 20:35.) Thus, taking into account this Bible text, we felt that we were treasuring these words in our heart.



The volunteer Lizeth helping to distribute the food items



A mother getting 25 pounds of sugar, 25 pounds of rice and a 5 liters of oil

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