

## Guatemala Stove Project Meeting December 15/06 – Minutes

1) Welcome and introductions, Jim Wallace chairs the meeting  
Present: Jim Wallace, Regan Lee, Al Teflissi, Celina Clarke, Rita Redner, Samantha Evans, Emily Upham-Mills, Amanda Brady, Phil Laflamme, Steev Morgan, Brett McBirnie, Sam Clarke, Tom Clarke, Nancy Arnot, Joe Wallace

2) Secretary – Celina Clarke

3) Reviewed agenda, added items

4) Minutes of last meeting reviewed and approved.

5) Trip to Guatemala – Tom gave an overview of what volunteers can expect to encounter in Guatemala. The main motive of the trip is to inspire volunteers to continue working with the GSP on their return to Canada by sharing their experience with others here.

A sample itinerary was presented;

Day 1 – travel to Guatemala City, transport from airport to Antigua by minivan (40 min.), get settled

Day 2 – travel from Antigua to Quetzaltenango (Xela) 3-4 hours, get settled

Day 3, 4, 5, 6 - Stove Building in communities within 45 min of Xela

Day 7, 8, - possibilities; visit micro economic projects funded by GSP, visit hot springs, Chichicastenango market, sightseeing

Day 9, 10, 11, 12 - Stove building

Day 13 - travel to Antigua

Day 14 - Depart Guatemala

Accommodation – 2 possibilities were presented; Casa Argentina close to restaurants and internet cafes, other travelers, cheap (\$4/day).

COFFA – very clean provides meals and lunches to take with us, requires taxi ride to downtown area, about \$10/ night extra for meals. Volunteers decided to split their time between the 2 places.

Flight info – volunteers were polled on who did not want to travel through the US, (6 people). Tickets are \$800-900 US, Toronto – El Salvador- Guatemala (TACA airlines) or Ottawa – US city – Guatemala (various airlines). Details to follow.

Reviewed checklist – please print off your own copy. Suggestions of things to bring to give away; toothbrushes, toothpaste, bouncy balls, pencils, pens, stickers, Please NO candy!

Vaccinations are recommended, please talk to your doctor.

Al will contact Eco Perth and Rotary about collecting items for Guatemala.

Emily will contact St. Paul's Church about donations of items to take to Guatemala.

Stove Building workshop – there was interest in holding a workshop to familiarize the volunteers with the material and how the stove is constructed. Tom will investigate possible locations in the Perth area. Jan 14<sup>th</sup> was the date set for the workshop. Phil may be able to get used 6 inch blocks.

Al to have stove drawing for next meeting.

Emily and Celina to propose article for Perth Courier.

6) Presentations; Holy Trinity Merrickville November 26, St. Francis Smiths Falls Jan. 6 & 7

7) Samantha reported on the success of the Ottawa dance (\$4000) and talked about the meeting she and Jim had with the Guatemalan ambassador – a good network has been established with the Guatemalan Assoc. of Ottawa-Gatineau

Tom reported on the success of the Perth dance (almost \$5000) and how having a 'young' band brought young people to the dance.

Dressdown day at St John HS brought in \$1000 (thanks Jeff!).

Al reported on fundraiser that Dave McGahey organized at Notre Dame HS in Carleton Place – they raised \$1700.

Upcoming dance in Toronto January 26<sup>th</sup> , Tom has tickets,

8) Next Meeting Dates: Friday January 12, and Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup>.